# SCAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE WASHINGTON, LINCOLN, ROOSEVELT, CHURCHILL: SUCCESSFULLY LEADING & MANAGING THROUGH CRISIS

THE IMPORTANCE OF VISION, COMMUNICATION, VISIBILITY, COLLABORATION & PRE-PLANNING

# First job: Surveyor of Culpeper County





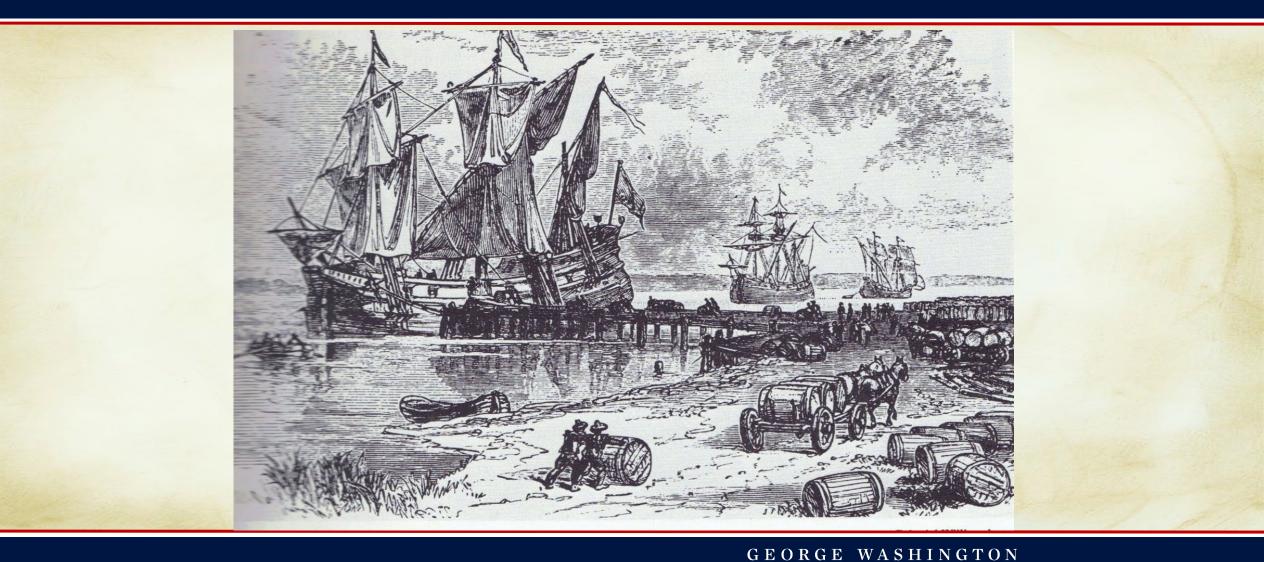
# Washington the Farmer



GEORGE WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP \* INSTITUTE

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### As President-Emphasized the Importance of Infrastructure and Roads



LEADERSHIP **\*** INSTITUTE

### WASHINGTON THE ENTREPRENEUR AND BUSINESSMAN



### WASHINGTON: GREAT FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL SENSE

#### To Alexander Hamilton

Sir,

Philadelphia Feby 16th 1791

"An act to incorporate the Subscribers to the Bank of the United States" is now before me for consideration.<sup>1</sup>

The constitutionality of it is objected to. It therefore becomes more particularly my duty to examine the ground on wc. the objection is built. As a mean of investigation I have called upon the Attorney General of the United States, in whose line it seemed more particularly to be, for his official examination and opinion. His report is, that the Constitution does not warrant the Act. I then applied to the Secretary of State for his sentiments on this subject. These coincide with the Attorney General's; and the reasons for their opinions having been submitted in writing, I now require, in like manner, yours on the validity & propriety of the above recited Act: and that you may know the points on which the Secretary of State and the Attorney General dispute the constitutionality of the Act; and that I may be fully possessed of the Arguments *for* and *against* the measure before I express any opinion of my own, I give you an opportunity of examining & answering the objections contained in the enclosed papers. I require the return of them when your own sentiments are handed to me (which I wish may be as soon as is convenient); and further, that no copies of them be taken, as it is for my own satisfaction they have been called for.<sup>2</sup>

Go: Washington

#### ALS, CtHi; LB, DLC:GW.

For the background to this document, see Edmund Randolph to GW, 12 Feb. 1791, and Thomas Jefferson to GW, 15 Feb. 1791.

<sup>1</sup> "An Act to Incorporate the Subscribers to the Bank of the United States" was agreed to by the House of Representatives by a recorded vote of 39–20 on 8 Feb. 1791. It was signed by the speaker of the house and the vicepresident on 12 Feb. 1791 and presented to GW for his signature on 14 Feb. 1791 (<u>DHFC</u>, 4:173).

<sup>2</sup> For Hamilton's response, see Hamilton to GW, 23 Feb. 1791, editorial note. While waiting for Hamilton to reply, GW asked James Madison to draft a veto message on the act. See Madison to GW, 21 Feb. 1791.

Cite as: The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition, ed. Theodore J. Crackel. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda, 2008.

Canonic URL: http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/GEWN-05-07-02-0211 [accessed 23 May 2016] Original source: Presidential Series (24 September 1788–31 March 1795), Volume 7 (1 December 1790–21 March 1791)

#### From Alexander Hamilton

#### [Philadelphia, 23 February 1791]

The Secretary of the Treasury presents his respects to the President and sends him the opinion required which occupied him the greatest part of last night. $^1$ 

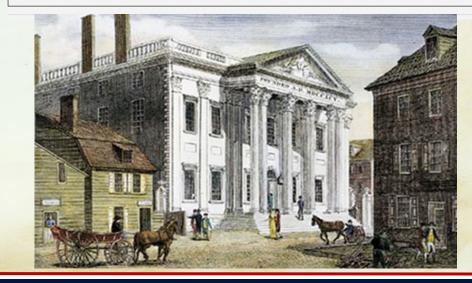
The Bill for extending the time of opening subscriptions passed yesterday unanimously to an order for engrossing.<sup>2</sup>

LB, DLC:GW.

See GW to Hamilton, 16 Feb. 1791.
See Journal of the House, 1:386.

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Canonic URL: http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/GEWN-05-07-02-0245-0001 [accessed 23 May 2016] Original source: Presidential Series (24 September 1788–31 March 1795), Volume 7 (1 December 1790–21 March 1791)



## EVEN WASHINGTON FACED BAD PRESS

*"Will this monarchical farce never end..."* 

Aurora newspaper
February 1793

"The patron of fraud – an imposter..."

- Thomas Paine, 1798

# WASHINGTON'S FOCUS ON CIVILITY

110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior Copied by George Washington as a child. *Jesuits 1595* 

### Farewell address 1796

"The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism."

### Personal letter 1795

"Such is the turbulence of human passions and party disputes; when victory is more important than truth."

### Farewell address 1796

"However combinations or associations are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people."

# WASHINGTON, EARLY AMERICA, AND ASSOCIATIONS

George Washington, 1785 – Letter to William Brown

"As nothing is of more importance than the education of youth, so consequently nothing can be more laudably beneficial than <u>the association which is formed</u> <u>in Alexandria."</u>

Alexis de Tocqueville, 1835 – Democracy in America

"Everywhere that, at the head of a new undertaking...count on it that you will perceive an association in the United States."



George Washington



Alexis de Tocqueville

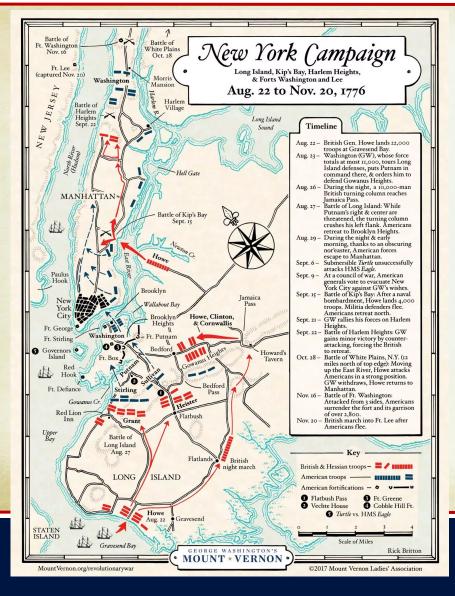
# WASHINGTON: EXPERIENCED IN CRISIS & FAILURE



# July 9, 1755

# Washington salvages the Braddock ambush.

# WASHINGTON: EXPERIENCED IN CRISIS & TROUBLE



# August 1776

British attacked with overwhelming force. Washington forced to conduct a orderly retreat and begin to use time and space as a strategic advantage.

### WASHINGTON: ENCOURAGED & REQUIRED CIVIL PARTICIPATION

"It may be laid down as a primary position, and the basis of our system, that every Citizen who enjoys the protection of a free Government, owes...even his personal services to the defence of it." –Letter to Alexander Hamilton, 1783

- Present crisis demonstrates government can't do it all
- Individuals and all sectors must contribute
- Private sector innovation and responsiveness essential
- Each company/organization can make a difference

"However [political parties]...are likely... to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion." – Washington's Farewell Address

# Washington, Lincoln, Churchill, FDR – Common Elements of Crisis Management/Leadership

- Early effort to control anxiety, fear
- Effective communication: frank but positive
- Visibility, resolve, and determination
- An initial plan demonstrated an early way forward
- Long term plan coupled with persistence
- Pre-planning essential when possible
- Forged collaboration and team work through personal credibility
- Recognized and capitalized on opportunity

# Crisis – Understanding, Controlling, Channeling Anxiety and Fear

- Anxiety and fear must be acknowledged and dealt with
- Armed conflict/disease/natural disasters/financial crash
- All cause initial fear, anxiety, even panic
- Uncontrollable fear and panic can cause chaos
- Fear of the unknown exacerbates the situation

# HEALTH SCARES THEN AND NOW

- Risk/Anxiety/Uncertainty: the inherent denominator of crisis
- Fear of crisis must be dealt with
- What risks/dangers did Americans face during the Revolution?
- What risks/dangers do we face today?





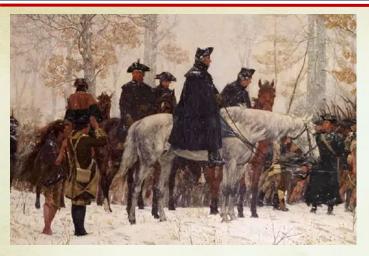
Washington ordered small pox inoculations for Army

COVID-19 changed every day life

# Crisis – Understanding, Controlling, Channeling Anxiety and Fear

- Misinformation spreads rapidly
- Reliable/accurate information essential
- The communicator's credibility and tone are important
- Early proactive action is crucial
- Visible leadership necessary

# Communication and Visibility



Washington at Valley Forge



Roosevelt's Fireside Chats



Lincoln Early in the Civil War



Churchill Addresses Britain

## COMMUNICATION ESSENTIAL TO LEADING/MANAGING CRISES

- **Washington utilized many forms of communication**
- **Highly visible when required out front in battle/Valley Forge**
- Adjusted to his audience and the situation
- Persistent, patient, and respectful with Congress/governors/colleagues
- A great listener heard all sides, created aura of fairness/gravitas
- **Quiet behind the scenes conversations**
- **Over-communicating likely required**

# WASHINGTON: RESOLVE AND DETERMINATION IN CRISIS

#### Whiskey Rebellion:

By 1794, the Whiskey **Rebellion threatened** the stability of the nascent United States. **President Washington** personally led the United States militia westward to stop the rebels.



# Great Leaders Manifest Resolve and Determination



"We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

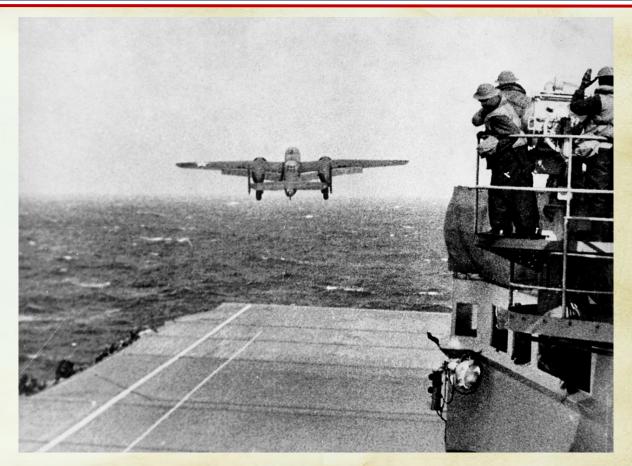


"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

"Adhere to your purpose and you will soon feel as well as you ever did. On the contrary, if you falter, and give up, you will lose the power of keeping any resolution, and will regret it all your life."

# An Initial Plan – Early Action

- Helps to control anxiety and fear
- Brings groups/team together
- Creates a common cause and purpose
- Strengthens leadership and credibility
- Builds momentum



Roosevelt orders early bombing of Japan.

# Long Term Plan – Essential but Harder

- Requires:
  - Accurate date/intelligence (what and how big is the problem?)
  - Strategic vision, planning, patience, and agility
  - Persistence and determination
  - Real collaboration, consensus, and teamwork
  - Constant communication, persuasion, and credibility

# Preparing for Long-Term Response



Ledger of Codes for the Secret Six, Washington's spy ring during the Revolutionary War.



Assembly lines in WWII built planes, ships, and other materials for war.

# Successful Leaders Successfully Sell the Way Forward

"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us."

- Lincoln at Gettysburg

"You have worn yourselves out with fatigues and hardships, but we know not how to spare you. If you will consent to stay one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty, and to your country, which you probably can never do under any other circumstances."

- Washington December 31, 1776, before the Battle of Second Trenton

# COLLABORATION ESSENTIAL TO EFFECTIVE LONG-TERM CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Washington maintained his strategic vision but often adjusted tactical goals to forge collaboration in support of a united effort

#### **Historic Examples of Collaboration and Compromise:**

- Military Collaboration Washington/Rochambeau decision to attack Yorktown
- Legislative Collaboration Constitution/Bill of Rights
- **Political Collaboration** Washington DC/National Bank
- **Quiet Collaboration** Washington's daily dinners during the Constitutional Convention

### YORKTOWN: COLLABORATION REQUIRES LISTENING AND TRUST

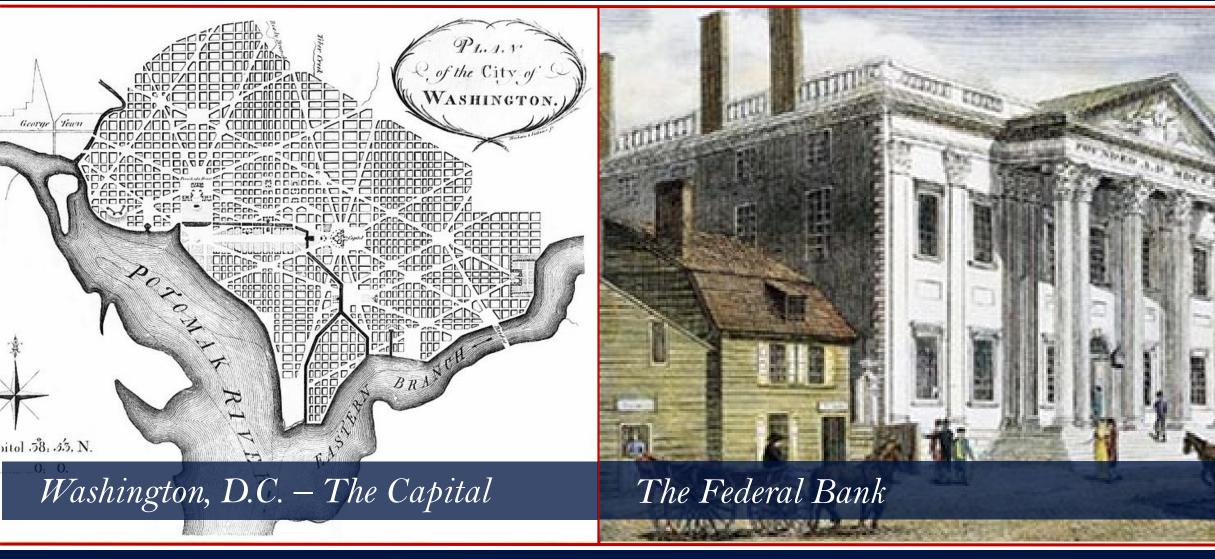
Washington consults with French General Rochambeau – Trust across cultural differences



### COLLABORATION REQUIRES UNDERSTANDING, TRUST, AND ACCURATE PERCEPTION – POLITICAL, CULTURAL, SOCIETAL

Congerests or rue United States, beyon and held at the City of Rev york, on Wednesday is Jourth of March, one thousand soun hundred and eightymene. RESOLVED Bill of Rights

## COLLABORATION OFTEN REQUIRES SPECIFIC COMPROMISE

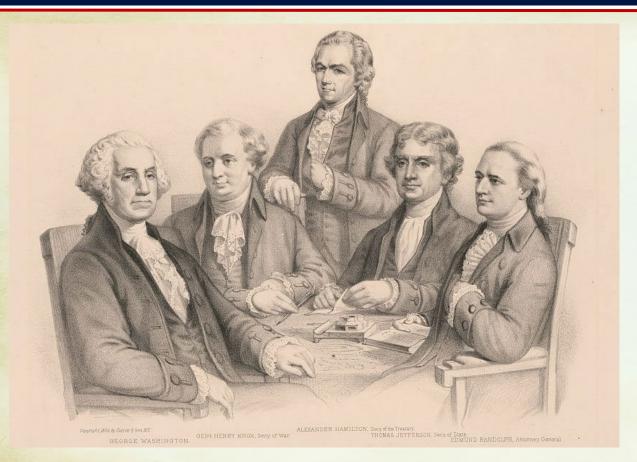


### COLLABORATION REQUIRES PATIENCE & PERSUASION

Washington's Private/Quiet Collaboration at the Constitutional Convention was Persuasive and Essential



# THE LEADER'S CREDIBILITY ESSENTIAL FOR FORGING AND MAINTAINING LONG TERM COLLABORATION





#### Washington's Cabinet

#### Lincoln's Team of Rivals

# STRATEGIC PLANNING SHOULD ADDRESS LIKELY CRISES

- Strategic vision should anticipate potential crisis many examples
- Anticipate likely crises armed conflict, natural disasters, pandemics, etc.
  - Pre-planned hurricane evacuation routes
  - Rapid response oil spill environmental teams
  - Stock piles of supplies, road salt, sand, plows
  - Response to loss of electrical grid/power
- Prepare for both long-term and short-term crisis response

# STRATEGIC PLANNING SHOULD ADDRESS LIKELY CRISES

- Build teams, designate crisis leaders, regularly update
- Conduct drills, be serious about stress tests
- Capture lessons learned from present crisis
  - Practice working remotely
  - Be specific to your industry
  - Consider social issues child care, health care, etc.
  - Consider financial options furloughs, loans, etc.

# DETERMINATION – CHURCHILL – MAY 1940

# "Success is not final Failure is not fatal It is the courage to continue that counts"

Dunkirk Evacuation 1940

# DISCUSSION