

COURAGEOUS FOUNDING FATHERS

THREE OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS HAVE BEEN CELEBRATED PROFUSELY ON THE STAMPS OF OUR COUNTRY. THESE MEN CAME FROM VARIED BACKGROUNDS; ONE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF A FORTUNE IN LAND FROM HIS ANCESTORS, ANOTHER MARRIED INTO A SMALL FORTUNE AND THE THIRD WAS A SELF-MADE MAN FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS WHO BECAME A PRINTER AND INVENTOR OF NOTE.

A FOURTH FOUNDER WAS NOT A PART OF THE VIRGINIA-PENNSYLVANIA ELITE BUT HE WAS A NOTED LAWYER AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE. AFTER THE WAR HE RETIRED TO HIS FARM IN NEW ENGLAND. HE WAS NOT HONORED ON A

STAMP UNTIL ALL THE PRESIDENTS WERE SO HONORED IN 1938!!

THESE MEN SACRIFICED PERSONAL SAFETY AND VALUABLE FORTUNES IN STANDING UP TO A TYRANNICAL KING AND A MUCH LARGER COUNTRY, WITH A HUGE ARMY AND NAVY. THEY CERTAINLY DID NOT HAVE TO DO THIS, BUT DID SO FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF ALL THEIR COUNTRYMEN.

I HAVE READ THE BIOGRAPHIES OF THESE MEN WITH AWE AND INSPIRATION, AND HAVE BUILT A TREMENDOUS RESPECT FOR THEIR ACTIONS. I AM AFRAID THAT OUR YOUNGER GENERATIONS ARE NOT BEING TOLD ABOUT THESE AND OTHER FOUNDING FATHERS AND WILL NOT DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION FOR WHAT WE OWE THEM.

THREE THAT ARE HONORED ON STAMPS ARE GEORGE WASHINGTON, THOMAS JEFFERSON AND BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. WASHINGTON LED OUR RAG-TAGGED

TROUPS TO A HARD FOUGHT VICTORY. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR HE HAD REAL THOUGHTS THAT HE WOULD LOSE AND WAS PREPARED TO LEAD HIS FAITHFUL TO A NEW COUNTRY WEST OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS.

JEFFERSON WITH THE HELP OF JOHN ADAMS DEVELOPED AND PROPOSED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. FRANKLIN AND ADAMS SPENT ALMOST ALL OF THE WAR YEARS IN EUROPE WINNING THE SUPPORT OF OTHER NATIONS, PRIMARLY FRANCE AND HOLLAND.

STAMPS FROM THE FIRST NINETY YEARS, HONORING THESE MEN, ARE SHOWN IN THIS EXHIBIT. BEGINNING WITH THE VERY FIRST STAMPS, ISSUED IN 1847, THE FIVE AND TEN CENT STAMPS PICTURED BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, OUR FIRST POSTMASTER, AND GEORGE WASHINGTON, OUR FIRST PRESIDENT.