

Famous Americans on the Civics Test

Portraits and Flash Cards

Introduction

Twelve Americans are highlighted on the civics test for naturalization. To introduce their roles and historical contributions, display these 8.5" x 11" portraits in your classroom. Try the following strategies to help your students understand how these Americans influenced the course of our history as well as our lives today. Use the corresponding flash cards for games and activities to reinforce content from your lesson.

Additional Resources

For USCIS lesson plans and activities highlighting these Americans, visit www.uscis.gov/lessons.

To supplement your lesson, have your students explore “Famous Citizens” and other themes in the online interactive series, *Preparing for the Oath*, found at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship>. The theme provides classroom materials and teaching suggestions at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/teachers.html#FamousCitizens>.

Suggestions for Classroom Use

Make connections to everyday life:

- Bring in coins, paper money, and U.S. stamps (or pictures of them) with images of these Americans. Have the students examine their own pocket money and identify them.
- As you introduce each famous American, have the students brainstorm streets, schools, parks, hospitals, and other places that are named after this person.

Create a “Famous American” poster:

- Place the portrait of a famous American in the middle of a large sheet of poster paper or in a designated section of the bulletin board in your classroom.
- Collect pictures of statues, monuments, memorials, presidential libraries, historic homes and birthplaces, paintings, and photographs of the famous American. Include the pictures on the poster to add interest and give context to the topic of your lessons.
- Have the students work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to explore the Internet and collect interesting facts about that person. Have the students report their findings to the class.
- Have the students write their “interesting facts” on separate index cards and place them around the portrait of the famous American. Review the sentences together.
- Have intermediate level students survey people outside of class about a specific famous American, asking questions such as: “What do you think of when you hear George Washington’s name?” or “In your opinion, what was Benjamin Franklin’s greatest contribution?” Then have the students report back to class.



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

Display a giant classroom timeline:

- Create a large, unlabeled timeline of American history to display in your classroom. Have the students name the centuries covered in the civics test and label those periods on the timeline.
- Place the portraits in the appropriate time period. As you teach the different periods, add more details (with keywords and pictures) about relevant historical events to the timeline along with the people who made contributions.

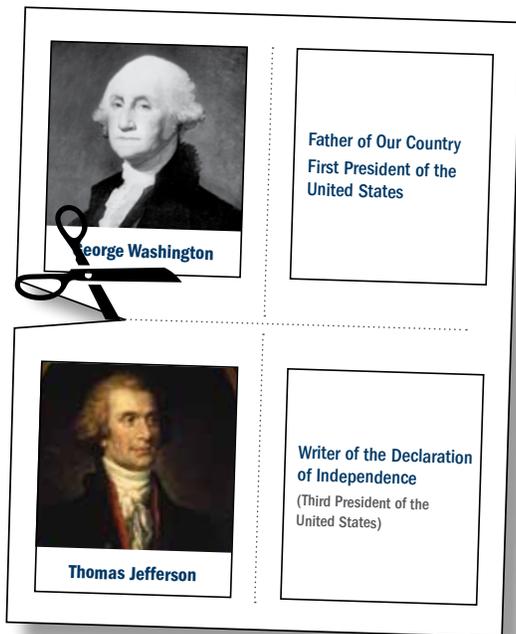
Play games with flash cards:

- Prepare sets of flash cards from the following reproducible master. The flash cards portray the famous Americans and their significant contribution.

Important note: The information in parenthesis is not required for the civics test but is interesting for the students to know.

- Have the students use the flash cards to play matching games, concentration, or mixers.

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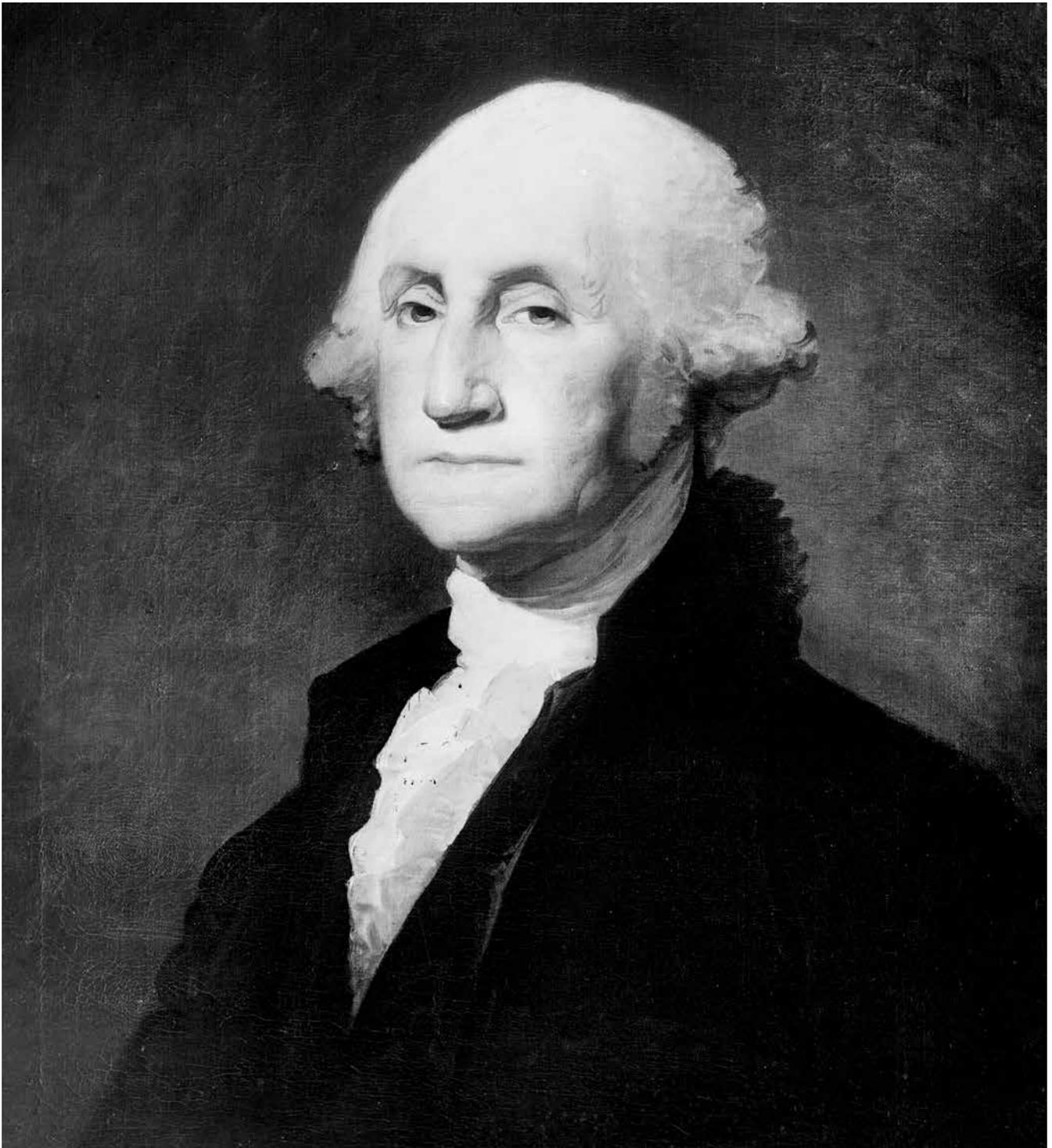
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Index of Civics Test Items

Famous Americans (in order of the poster series)

69. Who is the “Father of Our Country”?
(George) Washington
70. Who was the first President?
(George) Washington
62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
(Thomas) Jefferson
68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
- U.S. diplomat
 - oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
 - first Postmaster General of the United States
 - writer of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”
 - started the first free libraries
67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
- (James) Madison
 - (Alexander) Hamilton
 - (John) Jay
 - Publius
75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?
- freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
 - saved (or preserved) the Union
 - led the United States during the Civil War
77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?
- fought for women’s rights
 - fought for civil rights
79. Who was President during World War I?
(Woodrow) Wilson
80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
(Franklin) Roosevelt
82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
World War II
85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?
- fought for civil rights
 - worked for equality for all Americans



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-det-4a26164.

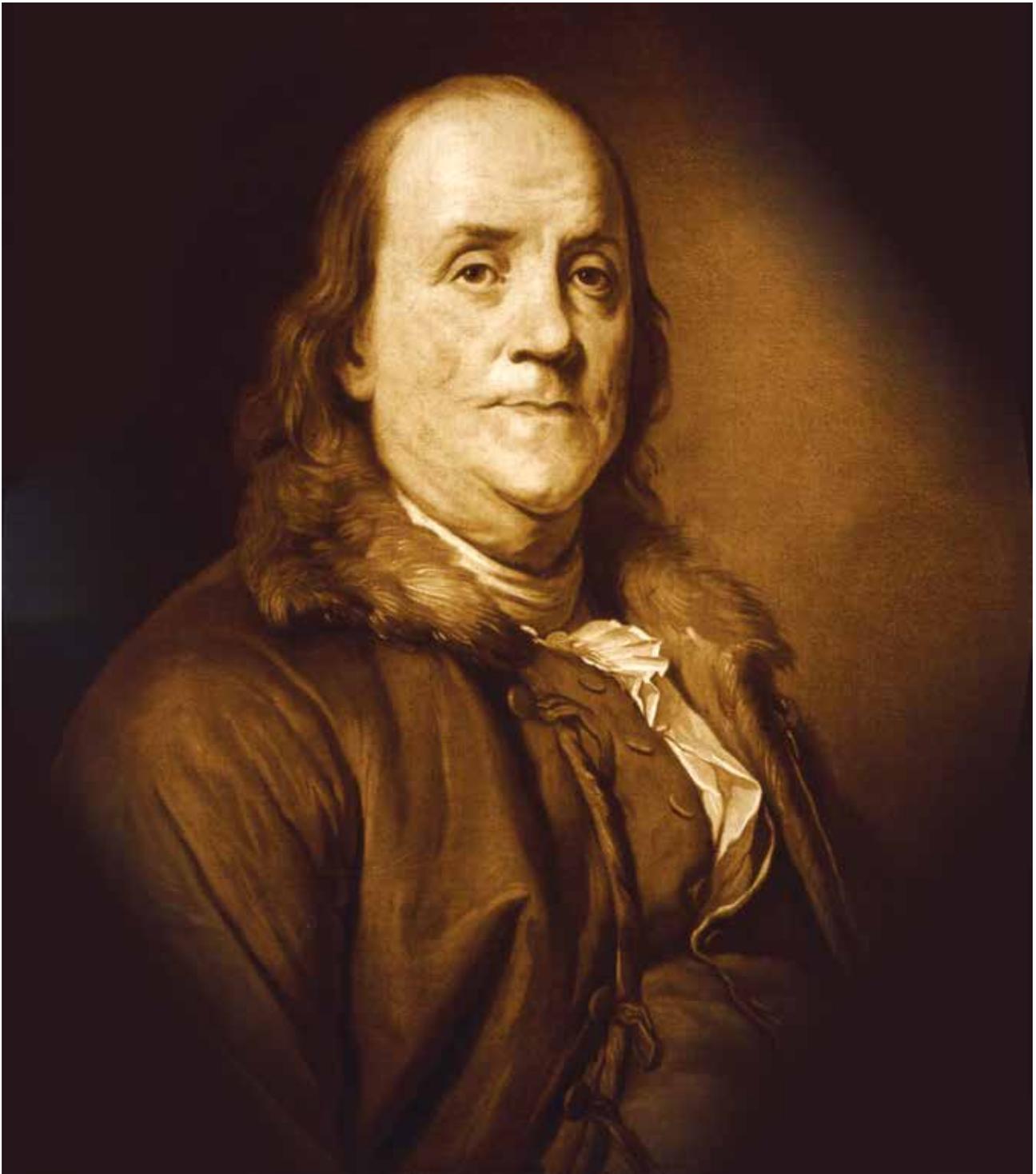
George Washington
1732–1799
Father of Our Country
First President of the United States



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-H8-CT-C01-104-A.

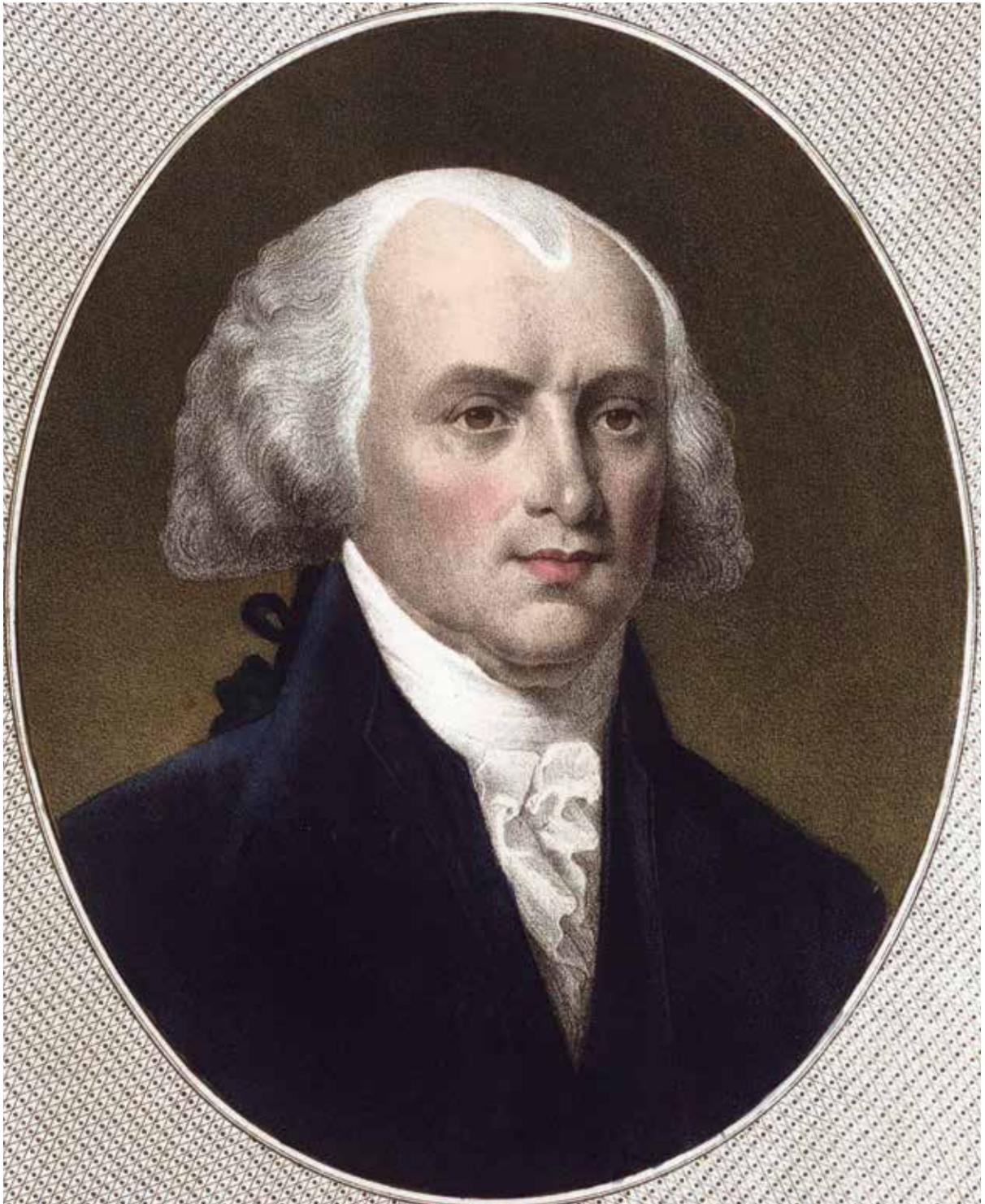
Thomas Jefferson
1743–1826

Writer of the Declaration of Independence
Third President of the United States



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-7214.

Benjamin Franklin
1706–1790
U.S. diplomat
Oldest member of the Constitutional Convention



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-30581.

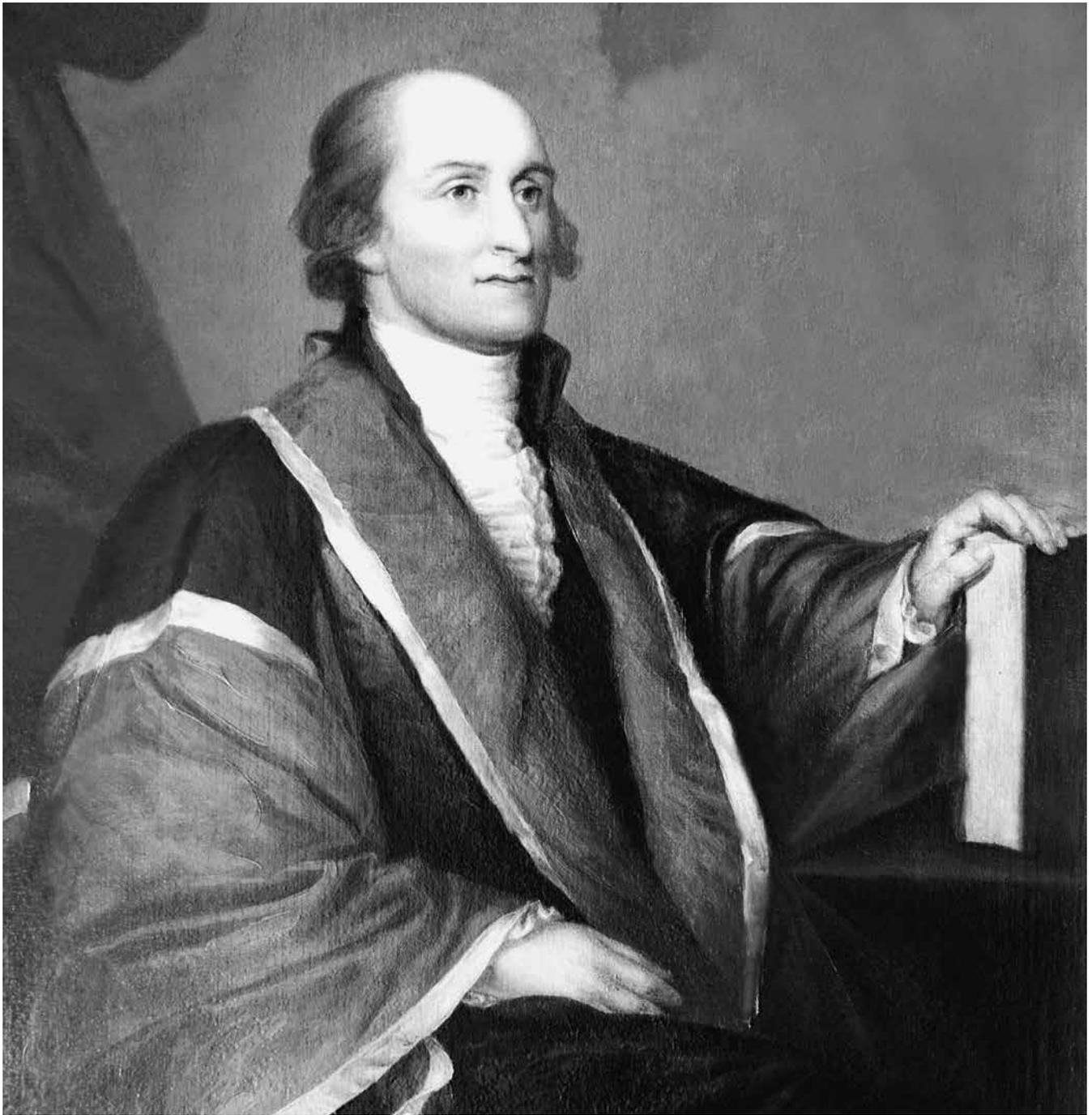
James Madison
1751–1836

One of the writers of the Federalist Papers
Fourth President of the United States



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-det-4a26166.

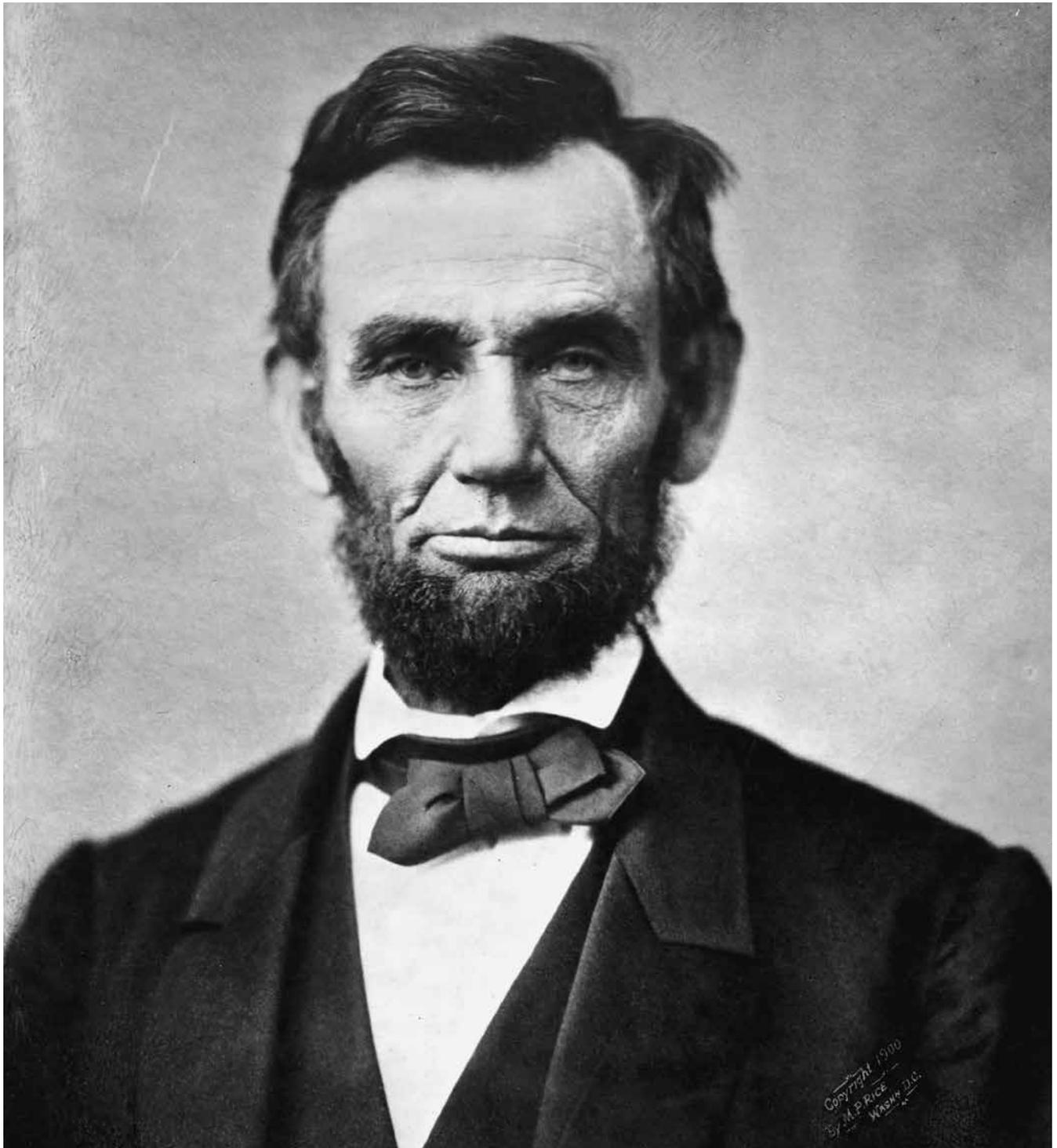
Alexander Hamilton
1757–1804
One of the writers of the Federalist Papers
First Secretary of the Treasury



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-H812-T-P01-068-A.

John Jay
1745–1829

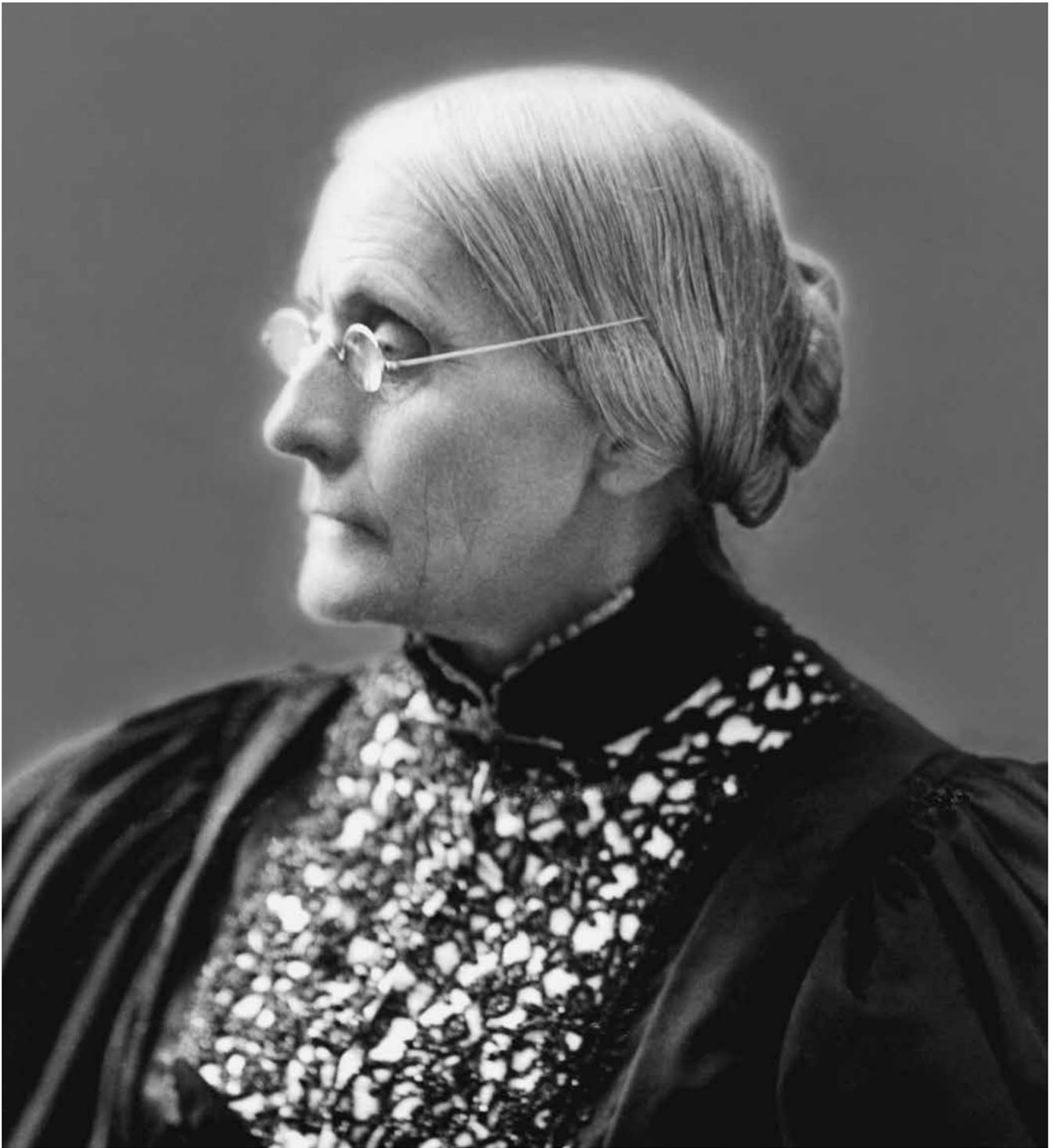
One of the writers of the Federalist Papers
First Chief Justice of the United States



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-13016.

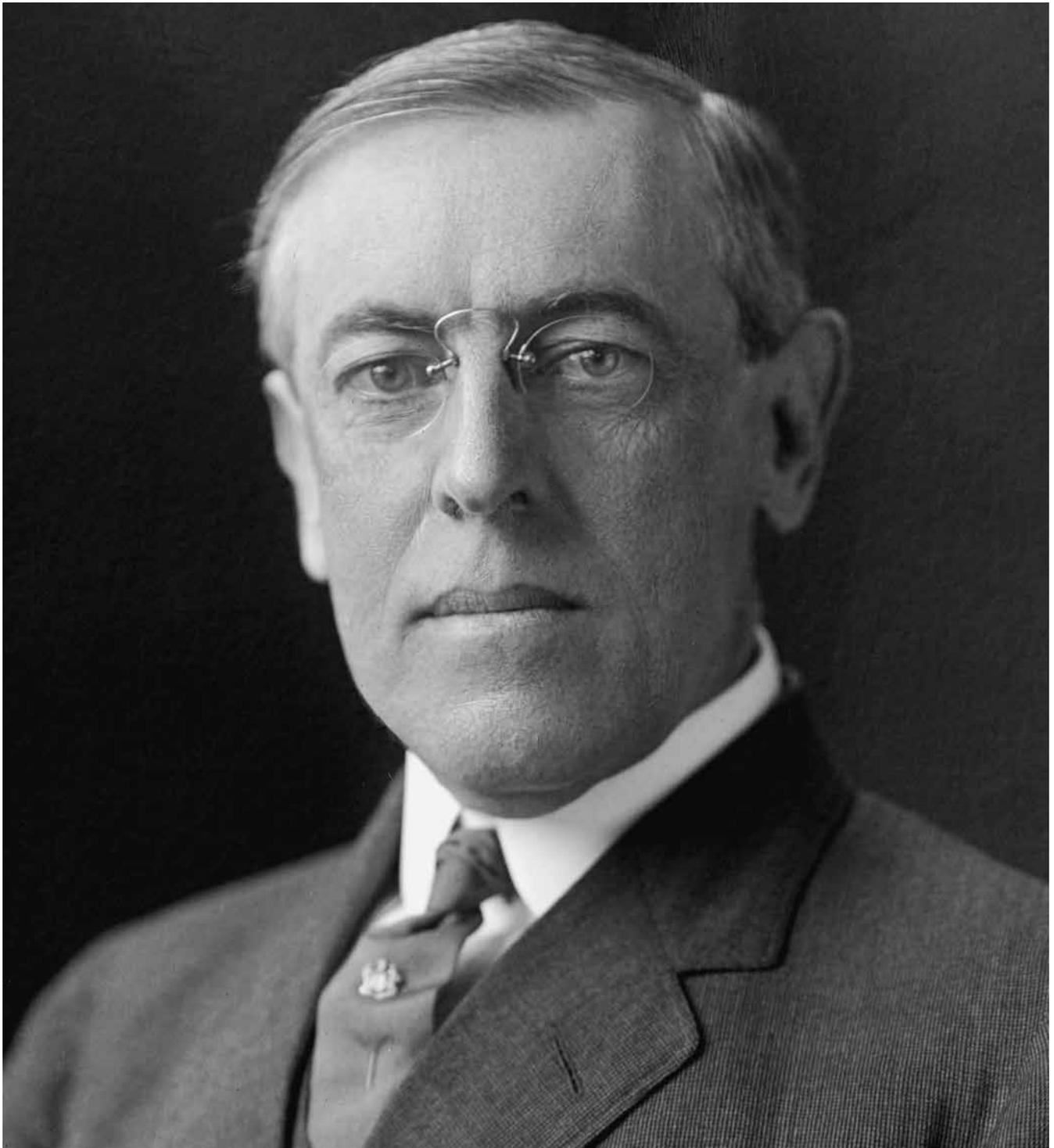
Abraham Lincoln
1809–1865

Led the United States during the Civil War
Sixteenth President of the United States



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-111423.

Susan B. Anthony
1820–1906
Leader who fought for women's rights



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-hec-16853.

Woodrow Wilson
1856–1924
President during World War I
Twenty-eighth President of the United States



Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-117121.

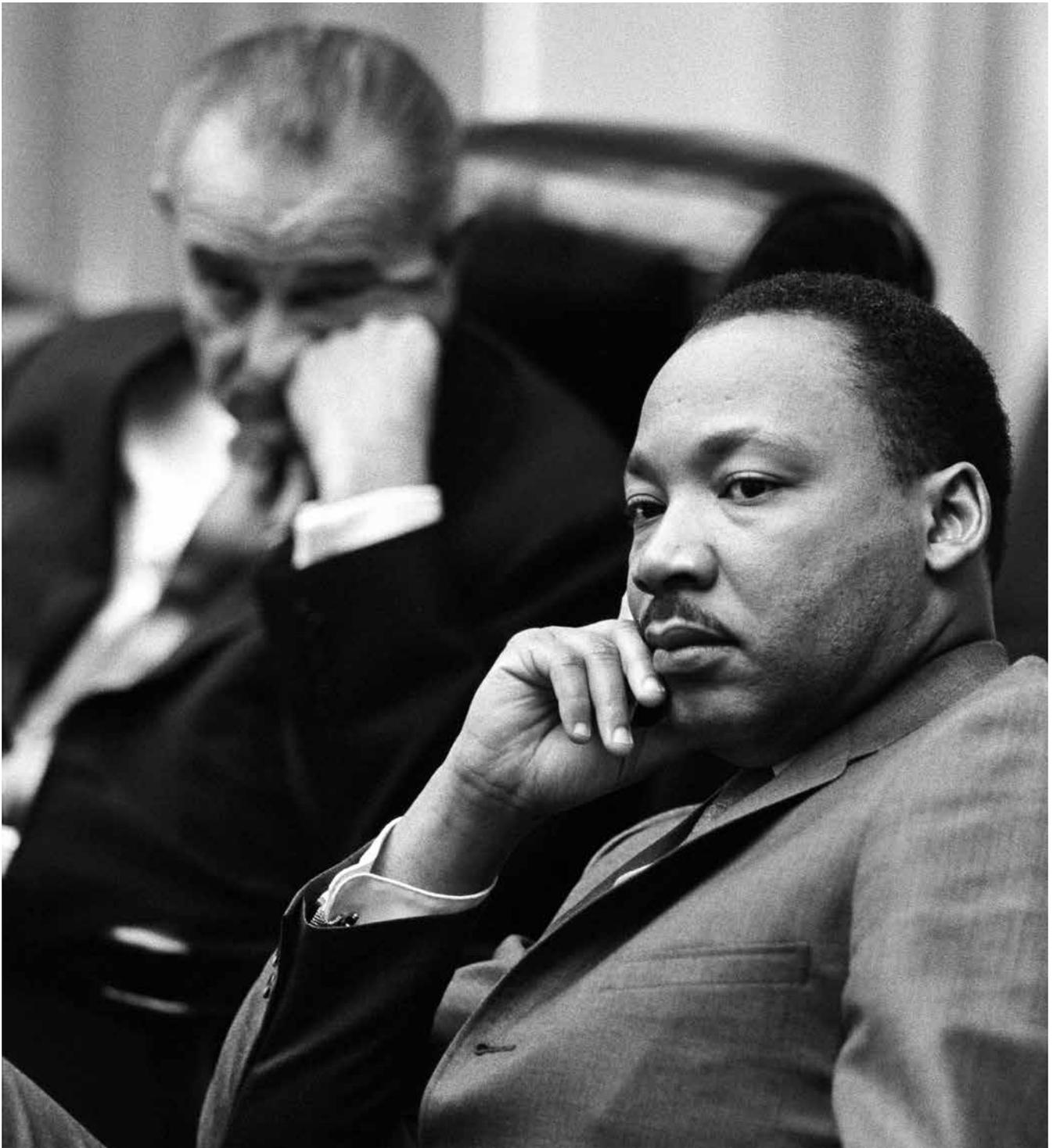
Franklin D. Roosevelt
1882–1945

President during the Great Depression and World War II
Thirty-second President of the United States



Courtesy of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

Dwight D. Eisenhower
1890–1969
General during World War II
Thirty-fourth President of the United States



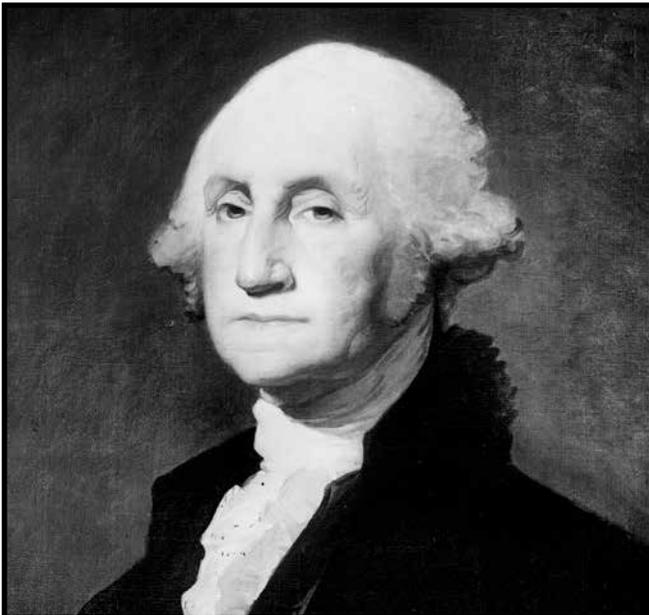
Courtesy of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

1929–1968

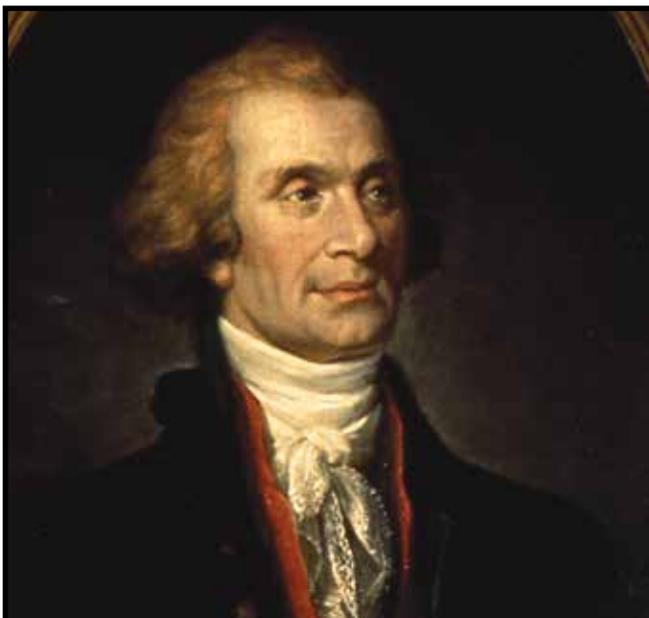
Civil rights leader who worked for equality for all Americans

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize



George Washington

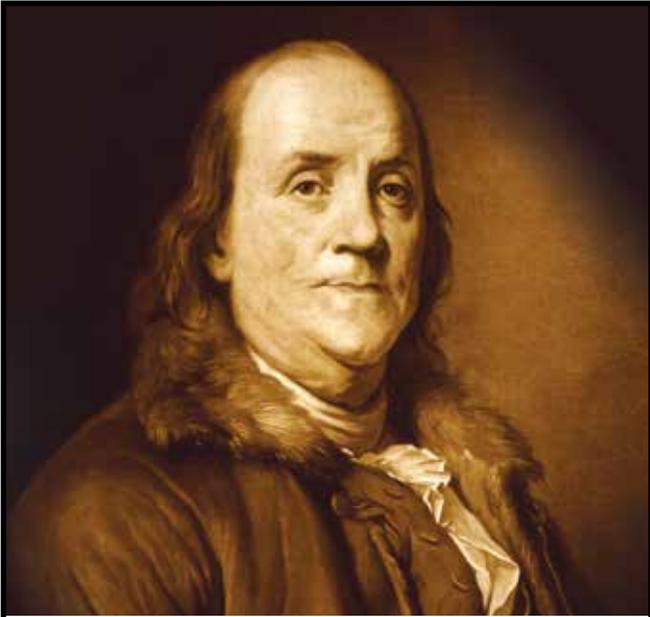
**Father of Our Country
First President of the
United States**



Thomas Jefferson

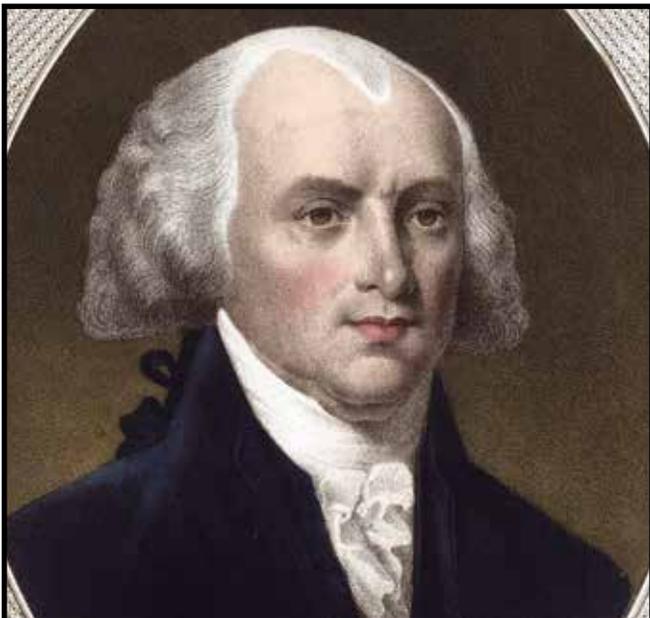
**Writer of the Declaration
of Independence**

(Third President of the
United States)



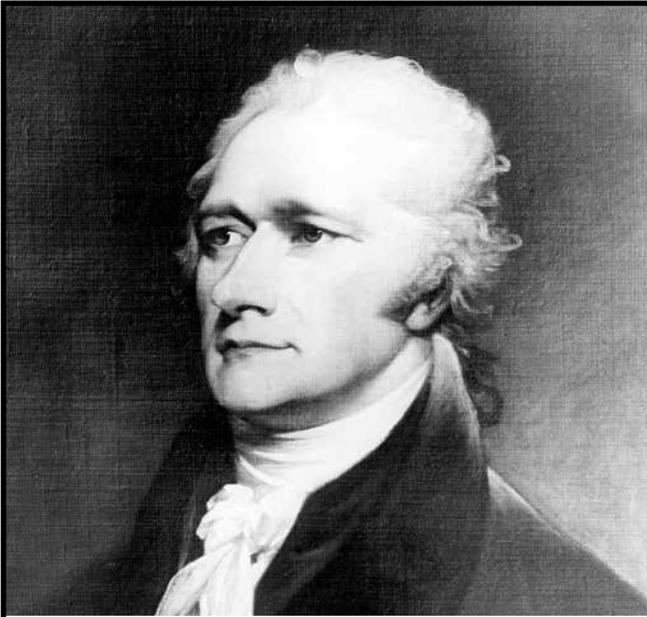
Benjamin Franklin

U.S. diplomat
Oldest member of
the Constitutional
Convention



James Madison

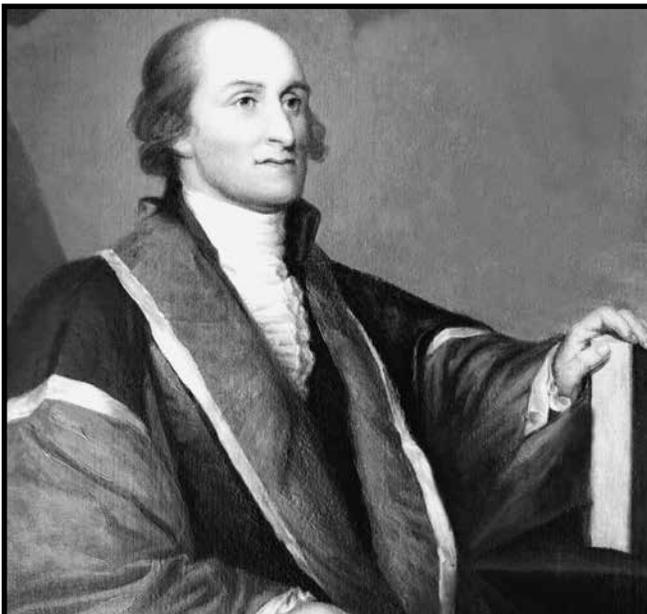
One of the writers of
the Federalist Papers
(Fourth President of the
United States)



Alexander Hamilton

**One of the writers of
the Federalist Papers**

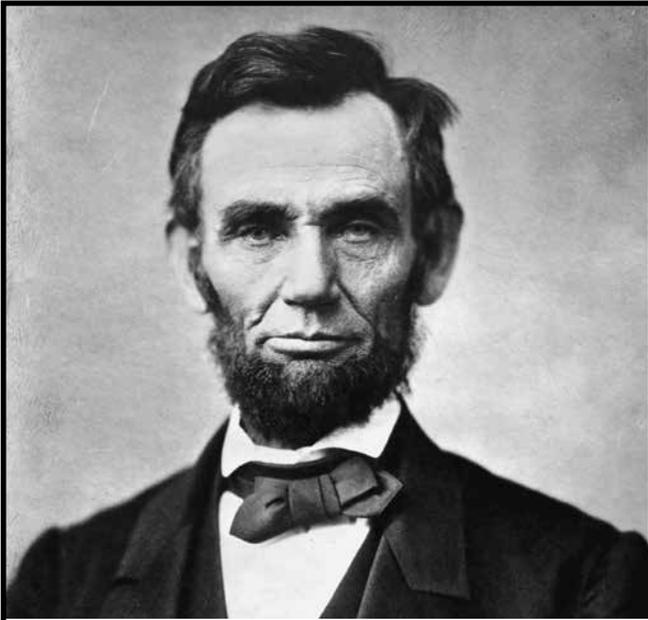
(First Secretary of the
Treasury)



John Jay

**One of the writers of
the Federalist Papers**

(First Chief Justice of the
United States)



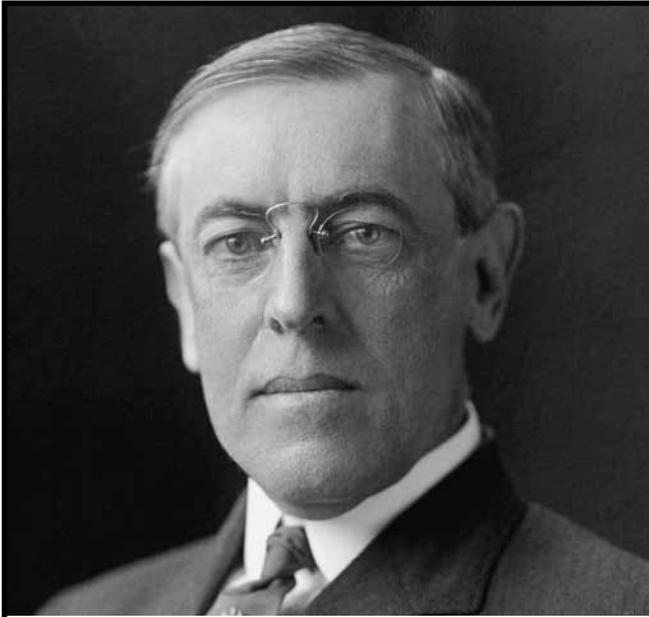
Abraham Lincoln

**Led the United States
during the Civil War**
(Sixteenth President of the
United States)



Susan B. Anthony

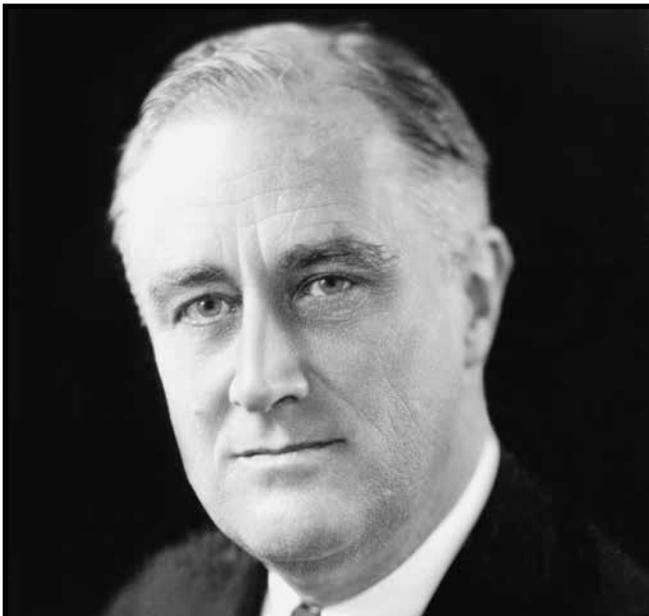
**Leader who fought
for women's rights**



Woodrow Wilson

**President during
World War I**

(Twenty-eighth President of
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Franklin D. Roosevelt

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the Great Depression
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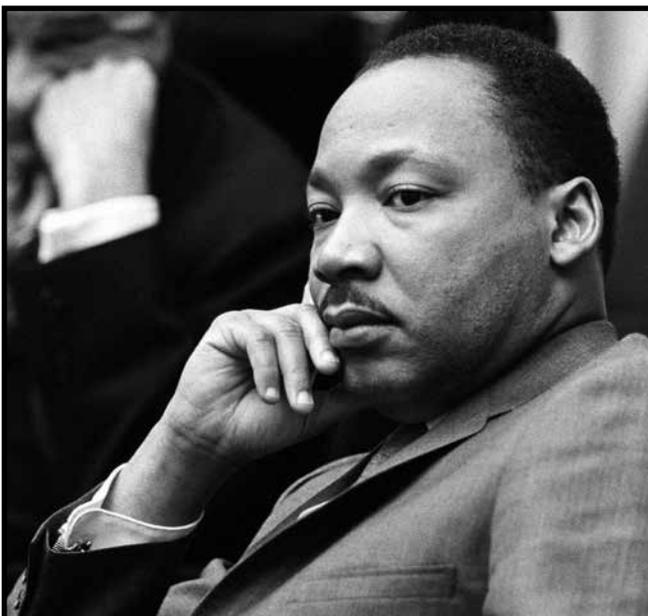
(Thirty-second President
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Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Civil rights leader who
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