

TRANSCRIPTION

Commission to George Washington as Commander in Chief, June 19, 1775

IN CONGRESS*

THE delegates of the United Colonies of New-hampshire, Massachusetts bay, Rhode-island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, New Castle Kent & Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina & South Carolina

TO GEORGE WASHINGTON Esquire

WE reposing especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, conduct and fidelity Do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be GENERAL AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF of the army of the United Colonies and of all the forces raised or to be raised by them and of all others who shall voluntarily offer their service and join the said army for the defence of American Liberty and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof. And you are hereby vested with full power and authority to act as you shall think for the good and Welfare of the service.

AND we do hereby strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers under your command to be obedient to your orders & diligent in the exercise of their several dut[ies.] AND we do also enjoin and require you to be careful in executing the great trust reposed in you, by causing strict discipline and order to be observed in th[e] army and that the soldiers are duly exercised an[d] provided with all convenient necessaries.

AND you are to regulate your conduct in every respect by the rules and discipline of war (as herewith given you) and punctually to observe and foll[ow] such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the said United Colonies or a committee of Congress for that purpose appointed.

This Commission to continue inforce until revoked by this or a future Congress.

By order of the Congress JOHN HANCOCK President

Dated Philadelphia June 19th 1775.

Attest CHAS THOMSON Secy.

* The writer of this document used the long or leading *s*, a character that looks similar to an "f" but is used as an "s."

Citation: Continental Congress to George Washington, June 19, 1775, Commission as Commander in Chief. George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741–1799: Series 8b, Manuscript Division. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.