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*Washingtonia*

*Palmae*

[*Areaceae*]

*Washingtonia* commemorates American tobacco planter, farmer, soldier and the first President of the United States of America, George Washington (1732-1799), who was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America. In 1775, and again in 1798, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. (Posthumously he was made General of the Armies of the United States, effectively from 1776.) On the first occasion he led the Army against British forces in the ultimately successful American War of Independence (1775-1783) and the second in title only (war with France had appeared inevitable but was then averted). He was President from 1789-1797 and was influential in establishing the new state institutions, and foreign and domestic policy. By the end of his second term in office (he rejected a third) there were 16 stars (each one a State) on the American flag and his *Farewell Address*, much quoted from even today, he warned of divisiveness of party political enthusiasm and against 'permanent alliances' with any foreign power, suggested that national morality and religious principle are inseparable, and advised that friendship and commerce with other nations are desirable. He retired to manage his Mount Vernon estate and he also built a large whiskey distillery which was up and running before he died, reportedly from laryngitis and pneumonia. In 1795 Washington posed for the portrait by the American artist, Gilbert Charles Stuart (1755-1928) that appears on the face of the one dollar bill or buck (the oldest design of all American currency).