As America prepares for what promises to be one of the most contentious and expensive presidential campaigns in history, the year’s George Washington Symposium will focus on the first and best president and those who have done a superior job of following in his footsteps.

Michael Beschloss, one of America’s most highly regarded presidential scholars, will begin the symposium by discussing his new book, Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, and reviewing Washington's superior example of leadership as the nation’s first chief executive. Five celebrated authors and scholars will then examine the personalities and character of standout presidents throughout the next two centuries.

What do these six remarkable leaders have in common? A panel of presidential experts will attempt to shed light on the traits that transformed the good into the great. America has been fortunate to find and nurture leaders who rise to the occasion and who also provide inspiring leadership to our nation and the world. How can we best recognize those who have the talents and determination to provide similar leadership in the future?

Friday, November 2

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Keynote Presentation

3:00 p.m. Keynote Presentation

8:00 p.m. Music from the White House

Saturday, November 3

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. The Second Washington

Andrew Jackson and American Democracy

Andrew Jackson was the towering figure of American public life during the first half of the nineteenth century. Following his victory at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815, Jackson was widely hailed as the second George Washington. The first Washington has won independence for the United States at Lexington and Concord — the first blood of the Revolution — and the second Washington has won independence for the American people through his leadership in the Embargo of 1807 and the War of 1812. The symposium’s keynote presentation will be a публичное выступление on the life and legacy of Andrew Jackson.
10:00 a.m.
The Psychological Roots of Lincoln’s
Successful Leadership

Douglas Southall Freeman wrote that during
the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln managed “in some mysterious manner” to infuse his “unconquerable spirit” into the people of the North. That ability, along with the unique power for persuading all the widely disparate factions of his party to cooperate, was the key to Lincoln’s success as president. It was
rooted in the exceptional psychological
maturity and wholeness, which he achieved
only after an excruciating but fruitful mid-life
crisis.

Michael A. Burlingame, Ph.D. is Sadowski Professor of History Emeritus at Connecticut
College. He has devoted his scholarly energies to investigating the life and times of Abraham Lincoln and is the author of six books as the 10th president. His forthcoming biography of Lincoln is due out later this year from the Johns Hopkins University Press.

11:00 a.m. Refreshment Break

11:15 a.m.
The Defining Moment:
Why Presidential Leadership Counts

When Franklin D. Roosevelt came to the office of the Presidency during the depths of the Great Depression in 1933, the United States was on its knees. Many Americans were unsure if capitalism and democracy were at an end. Yet, through his astronomical leadership, FDR renewed the hope and faith of the American people. While Roosevelt was the self-appointed savior, he also served as a self-appointed president, designing a new system to continue on a democratic path. For all of their shortcomings, both Washington and Roosevelt were the perfect match of man and moment.

Jonathan Alter is the author of a widely-acclaimed Newsweek column that examines politics, media and social and global issues. He frequently interviews American presidents and world leaders, producing award-winning, highly-anticipated profiles, and the author of more than 800 magazine articles. He was the Managing Editor of Newsweek and the Triumph of Hope, and published Ebola this year.

12:15 p.m. Lunch at the Mount Vernon Inn

1:00 p.m.
President Reagan:
The Triumph of Imagination

The 40th President was an accomplished
politician, a bold and even reckless leader, a gambler, a man who imagined an American past and an American future — and made them all real. Ronald Reagan was a man who fulfilled a short list of grand ideals which included the destruction of world communism, the diminishment of taxes and government, and a renewal of American patriotism. Reagan was “the man who made America great again” and “made America better.” For better or worse, he was a man who understood that words are so often more important than deeds.

Richard Reeves, Senior Lecturer at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California, is an author and syndicated columnist whose writings have appeared in more than 100 newspapers since 1979. He is the author of President Kennedy: Profile of Power, President Nixon: Alone in the White House, and President Reagan: The Triumph of Imagination.

2:30 p.m. Refreshment Break

2:45 p.m.
Roundtable Discussion

As a conclusion, four Symposium presenters — Jonathan Alter, H. W. Brands, Michael Burlingame, and Richard Reeves — will regroup for a final roundtable discussion. They will be joined by a panel of business journalists, a panel of corporate executives, a panel of corporate communications professionals, and a panel of corporate communications professionals. The meeting will begin with a speech by a panel of corporate executives and a panel of corporate communications professionals. The meeting will be a forum for learning about the state of corporate communications in the United States.

3:45 p.m.
Symposium Adjourns

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Hail to the Chief
A Presidential Hall of Fame

All programs take place in the
Resort Inn and Loireau Smith Auditorium, located at The Mount Vernon Inn Complex.

FEES:
Through the generosity of The Barret Foundation, most expenses for the Symposium have been underwritten. However, Symposium participants are required to pay a $175 ($100 for members) fee for the weekend Symposium to defray catering expenses. Single-day fees are not available.

PARKING:
Please park in the West Visitor Parking Lot.

LODGING:
Several hotels are located in Old Town Alexandria, just minutes from the Mount Vernon Inn. Holiday Inn (703-549-6080), Hyatt Place (703-330-8700) and Mariner Hotel (703-330-8700).

QUESTIONS:
For additional information, please call the Office of the Executive Director at 703-799-1850.

This is a ticketless event. Your name will be on a reservation list at the door.

The George Washington Symposium is supported by a generous grant from the Barret Foundation.

For additional information about Mount Vernon Reservations, please contact 703-799-1850.

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