

Franklin, Benjamin. "[Benjamin Franklin to George Washington, 4 September 1777.](#)" Benjamin Franklin Papers: Series II, 1726-1818; 1774, June 10-1777, Sept. 4 (vol. 18). Library of Congress.

Sir

Passy, near Paris, Sept. 4. 1777.

*The Gentleman who will have the Honour of waiting upon you with this Letter is the Baron de Steuben, lately a Lieutenant General in the King of Prussia's Service, whom he attended in all his Campaigns, being his Aide Camp, Quartermaster General, &c. He goes to America with a true Zeal for our Cause, and a View of engaging in it and rendering it all the Service in his Power. He is recommended to us by two of the best Judges of military Merit in this Country, M. de Vergennes and M. de St. Germain who have long been personally acquainted with him, and interest themselves in promoting his Voyage, from a full Persuasion that the Knowledge and Experience he has acquir'd by 20 Years Study and Practice in the Prussian School may be of great Use in our Armies. I therefore cannot but wish that our Service may be made agreeable to him. I have the Honour to be*

*His Excellency Gen. Washington*

Washington, George. *Letter from George Washington to Friedrich Wilhelm, Baron von Steuben, December 23, 1783.* [[Page 1](#); [Page 2](#)] *George Washington Papers, Series 3, Varick Transcripts, 1775–1785, Subseries 3B, Continental and State Military Personnel, Letterbook 16.* Library of Congress.

*Annapolis, December 23rd, 1783*

*My dear Baron,*

*Although I have taken frequent opportunities, both in public & private, of acknowledging your great zeal, attention & abilities in performing the duties of your Office; yet I wish to make use of this last moment of my public life, to signify in the strongest terms my entire approbation of your conduct, and to express my sense of the obligations the public is under to you, for your faithful & meritorious Services.*

*I beg you will be convinced, My dear Sir, that I should rejoice if it could ever be in my power to serve you more essentially than by expressions of regard & affection—but in the meantime, I am persuaded you will not be displeas'd with this farewell token of my Sincere friendship & esteem for you.*

*This is the last Letter I shall ever write while I continue in the service of my Country—the hour of my resignation is fix'd at twelve this day—after which I shall become a private Citizen on the Banks of the Potomack, where I shall be glad to embrace you, and testify the great esteem and consideration with which I am—My dear Baron Your most Obedient & Affectionate Servant*

*George Washington*