

Acknowledgments

This book grows out of a collaboration between the Jepson School of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond and the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, Virginia. Work together began in 2012 under the guidance of Sean Thomas at Mount Vernon. The collaboration seeks to advance our understanding of both leadership and of George Washington through applying leadership theory to better understand Washington, and likewise examining how what we know about the first president of the United States deepens our overall understanding of leadership. The mutual understanding that comes from considering both Washington and leadership theory is well illustrated in the book *George Washington* written by James MacGregor Burns and Susan Dunn, appearing in The American President series, edited by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr, in 2004. At the time that book was written, Professor Burns had long been a major figure in understanding both leadership theory and presidential leadership through his studies of Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Bill Clinton. Some of Burns's major theoretical contributions, such as the concept of transforming leadership, were usefully employed in his volume with Dunn to better understand George Washington.

Because of Burns's groundbreaking work on leadership and his contribution to the study of Washington, Mount Vernon and the Jepson School planned a conference on Burns's theories and their application shortly after Professor Burns's death in July 2014. That conference was held at the Fred W. Smith Library in April 2015. Participants included students and collaborators of Professor Burns, and those whom he influenced personally and professionally—at his *alma mater* and long-time faculty home, Williams College, at the University of Richmond, where he spent time as both Senior Fellow and visiting faculty member, and at the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership, formerly at the University of Maryland and now at Cambridge University in England.

We, the editors, are grateful to those who attended the Mount Vernon conference and to those who contributed chapters for this volume. The intellectual and personal reach of Professor Burns is reflected in the many disciplinary affiliations of the authors here and those at the

conference. Throughout the project, the inspirational and transforming effect of James MacGregor Burns's life and work sustained our enthusiasm and energized our efforts. We are pleased that those efforts have culminated in the current collection.

We owe thanks not only to the contributors to this volume but also to other friends and collaborators of the editors, including presidential scholar Michael Beschloss, who joined Susan Dunn and Edward Larson in an inspiring panel discussion on the influence of Professor Burns's work at our April conference. We are also indebted to Michele Bedsaul, Shannon Best, Pam Khoury, and Dean Sandra Peart at the University of Richmond; Dawn Bonner, Mary Jongema, Michael Kane, Stephan McLeod, Melissa Robertson, and Sean Thomas at Mount Vernon; and Maria Anson, Erin McVicar, Chloe Mitchell, and Francine O'Sullivan at Edward Elgar Publishing. The editing oversight and wisdom of Elizabeth DeBusk-Maslanka has been essential to completing this project in a timely and orderly fashion. We are very grateful for her support. We also wish to thank Joanne Ciulla for encouraging us to consider publishing these chapters in Edward Elgar's series *New Horizons in Leadership Studies*; and Alan Sturmer, Executive Editor at Edward Elgar, for his encouragement and enthusiasm. Finally, we express our gratitude for the support of the Jepson School and the Fred W. Smith Library for making it possible for the two of us to plan together the Mount Vernon conference and to collaborate in editing this volume.

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