



Embassy of the United States of America

Rome

January 21, 2015

Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr.
Chairman
George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom
50 Broad Street, Suite 1137
New York, New York 10004

Dear Ambassador Loeb,

Thank you for the excellent suggestion to highlight, on the occasion of Presidents' Day, George Washington's historic defense of religious freedom. Our first President's stated commitment to religious tolerance is a message indeed worth disseminating throughout our country and the world. Italians, who are rightly proud of their own strong tradition of religious freedom, surely will be inspired by this message,

Unfortunately I will not be able to put together an event in time for President Washington's birthday, but we would like to feature the letter on Mission Italy's social media sites, both the Embassy and our Consulates. I have also asked my staff to keep your proposal in mind for future engagement with Italian religious and community leaders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "P".

John R. Phillips
Ambassador