



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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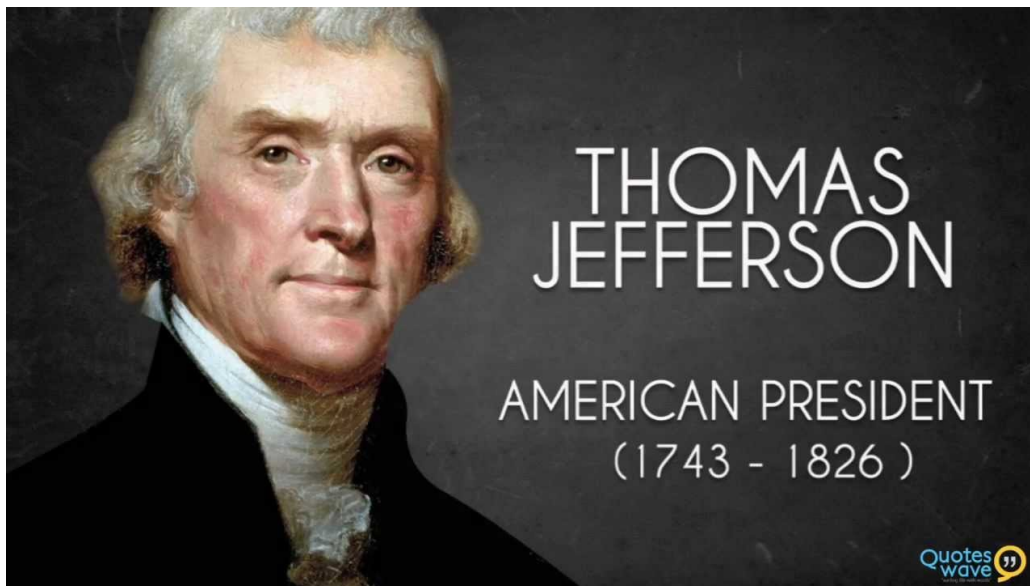
March 2020

Welcome to the March 2020 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to respond to the question, “*Who is your favorite President with a disability?*” This topic allowed members to share their thought on the President with a disability and why they like them. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this edition of *The Noodle*!

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President Thomas Jefferson

After thinking about it for a little while, doing some research and discovering several past Presidents had a disability, I decided to write about Thomas Jefferson. He was the 3rd President of the United States from 1801 - 1809. You may or may not know that he had various learning disabilities. He was the author of the Declaration of Independence. That alone, shows that he did not let his learning disabilities hold him back and he strived to do a lot of good, which ultimately led him all the way to the White House. He was remembered as a great President, a diplomat, political thinker, and the founder of the Democratic Party. Long after he had served his time as President, he continued to do some amazing things, despite his learning disabilities. How many people with learning disabilities have founded a University? Thomas Jefferson did! He founded the University of Virginia, I bet you didn't know that! As a side note and just due to my ties and love for it, his grandson also founded a university - Florida State University! Despite his learning disabilities, he went on to have a very successful life. He didn't allow it to hold him back, he is an excellent example that you can do anything you want, even if you have a disability; even become the President of the United States! As a matter of fact, while researching, I found several past Presidents that had various disabilities throughout our history.

By Derek Carraway

George Washington's Disability

This month's noodle is about a President with a disability and I picked George Washington. George Washington struggled with grammar, spelling more specifically. He struggled with dyslexia, which is a specific disability in reading, writing words, sounding out words and understanding what someone reads. Often these difficulties are first noticed at school. However, George managed to overcome these struggles and achieve amazing success.

Furthermore, he was an American political leader, military general, statesman and the country's Founding Father who was the first president of the United States from 1789 to 1797. Mr. Washington played a major factor in adopting and ratifying the constitution while being elected President twice from the Electoral College. Mr. Washington also implemented a strong and well-financed national government. For example, George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789 and he took the oath at the Federal Hall in New York City. Mr. Washington wished to serve the presidency without pay, but the Congress absolutely insisted and provided \$25,000 a year to help the costs of presidency. Washington's legacy is one of the most influential

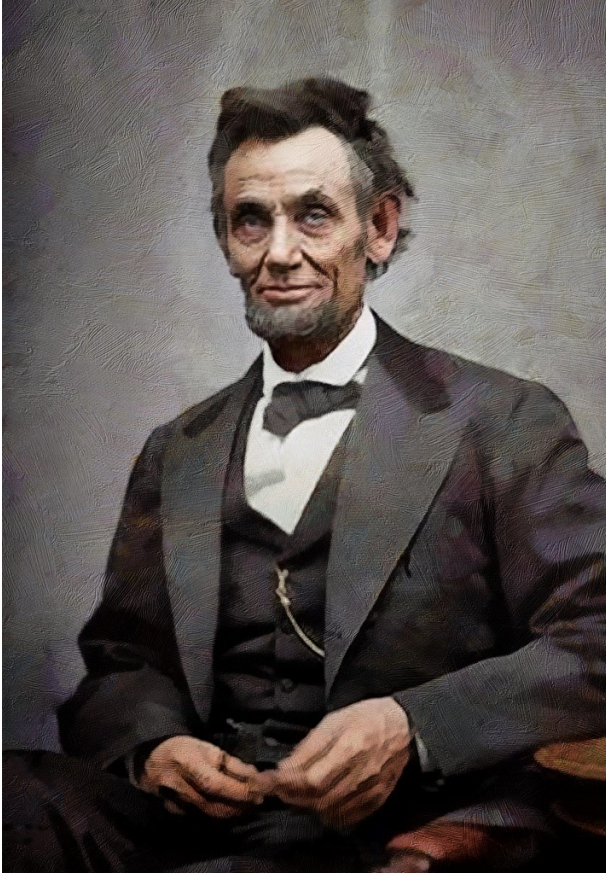


in American history. He served as commander in chief of the Continental Army while being a hero of the Revolution and was the first United States President. It is not surprising that Mr. Washington was the key founder of our country, the Revolutionary War and the Constitutional Convention. Washington's reputation was based on this saying, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." In 1855, Congress proclaimed Mr. Washington's Birthday to be a federal holiday. He became an international symbol of liberation and nationalism as well as the leader of the first successful revolution against a colonial empire. Nonetheless, George Washington's personality overall was reserved but he generally had a strong presence among others. He was noted to not be an orator or debater. In conclusion, Mr. Washington's disabilities did not prevent him from achieving success in his life and therefore you should not either.

By Emma Massey

Amazing Abe

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States who led us through



one of the most difficult times in our history. Although we all remember him for being the president during the Civil War, most people don't realize that he also had disabilities.

Lincoln had a difficult life even as a child. His mother died in 1818, when he was 9 years old and about ten years later his sister, who had been raising him since then, also died. Likely he experienced depression from these losses. Later on, after he was married, he lost his son Edward who was about four years old to tuberculosis. Another son, William died at age 11 when Lincoln was President. His death, in particular, deeply impacted Lincoln, and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln. I can relate to this because I lost my grandparents when I was in sixth grade and it had a huge impact on my life as well.

Other theories about Lincoln are that that he may have suffered from either Marfan's Syndrome, or multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2b (MEN2b). These are only theories because they are based on observation of his physical characteristics. Marfan's Syndrome is a genetic disease of connective tissue. People who have this disease are extremely tall, with long thin arms, legs, fingers and toes. These are obvious characteristics of Abraham Lincoln. Another possible diagnosis for him is MEN2b. This is also a genetic disorder characterized by a marfan-like body, large lips, weak muscles, asymmetry of the face, drooping eyelids, and a large jaw. Also this syndrome can cause depression.

While these theories are not yet verified, it seems likely that he suffered from one of these two illnesses and clearly had depression. In spite of this, Abe Lincoln became one of the greatest presidents in our history.

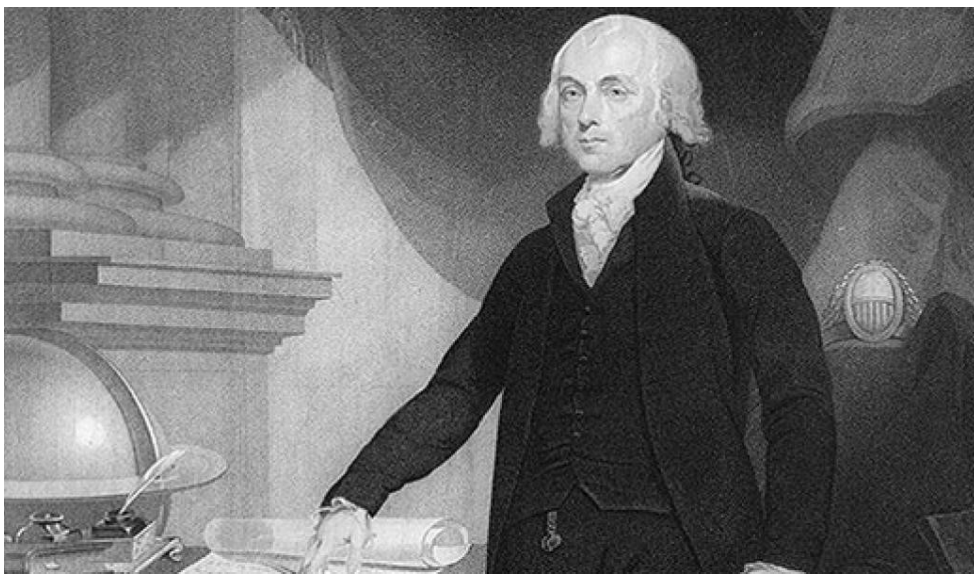
By Serena Wetmore

A War Hero

Like President James Madison I also have epilepsy. James Madison was a war hero of, The War of 1812, President and is considered to be the father of the Constitution. He was also a student of Princeton University. Seizures are not fun, however they can open doors we never imagined. Inside and outside of the political realm, James Madison proved many times that despite having epilepsy you can absolutely be who you want to be.

Science would like to claim to have a cure all for epilepsy but the future of this cure is vague. The types of seizures epilepsy can give to a person is extremely diverse and science really can't have a cure-all treatment that will work, it is not possible.

Just how James Madison had to battle epilepsy his whole life, I have to as well.



Fortunately, modern day science has made it easier to live with this disability. I can only imagine the pain he was in back then, this disability has a track record of ending lives. Every day I wake up, I thank God for another day to be alive.

Like the Father of the Constitution I too have

dreams. He has proven that even a person with epilepsy can become president. I am going to chase my dreams with all I have, even if my future remains vague and I am only able to see today. Well that's more than enough for me for my strength comes from the Lord in heaven above.

God will see me through for he loves me and I am able to try to be like him every day but even when I fall he will keep me strong. He made me weak to show others how mighty he is in my life and all I can say is I am blessed to live in the United States of America may God bless America for generations to come.

By Dakota Smoot



How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self-advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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