



BENJAMIN C. ADAMS
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

To the Adams Memorial Commissioners:

This document, which is largely based on the work the Adams Memorial Foundation, reflects years of work toward the proposed Adams Memorial as originally envisioned by Congress. We hope the Adams Memorial Commission will find it useful as it continues the work to create a memorial to the Adams Family and its legacy.

As you will see, the Foundation focused on three core ideas that are the foundation of the Adams family legacy:

Character - The Adams family's strong sense of honesty, ethics and civic mindedness inspired generations of political leaders and created one of the most important political families in the nation.

Power of Ideas - The Adamses demonstrated to the world that noble ideas could – through hard work and determination – change the character of an entire nation.

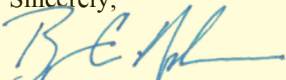
Public Service - The Adams family was committed to a selfless pursuit of the greater national good and was willing to bear significant personal and professional sacrifices to achieve this vision.

Throughout its history, the Adamses set high standards for civic responsibility and devotion to our country. Driven by a belief in judicial fairness and to the detriment of his own legal practice, John Adams's took on the defense of British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre, and he later authored of the Massachusetts Constitution, which is the longest standing constitution in existence anywhere. Similarly, John Quincy Adams was the only former president to return to government after his presidency and spent years opposing the "gag rule," which is described eloquently in John F. Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage*. Later, John Quincy Adams successfully defended the Mendi captive before the U. S, Supreme Court in the famous Amistad Affair, sometimes referred to as the first civil rights case in the nation. Both of these men along with their spouses and descendants set an important example to many future American statesmen and politicians.

By establishing a standard of unwavering commitment to the development and service of the nation through law, the written word, diplomacy, finance and elected office, the Adams family has contributed greatly to our shared national history. They truly belong to these United States, a new nation they loved dearly and for which they fought at great personal peril. Without their leadership our nation would likely not have triumphed as is has for more than two centuries.

The Adams family is most appreciative of your quest to build this great library and legacy.

Sincerely,


Benjamin C. Adams