

IN CONGRESS.

The DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, TO

WE, reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valor, Conduct and Fidelity DO, by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be a private in the Army of the United States, raised for the Defense of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge your duty of soldier of the Army of the United States according to the rules and discipline of war, in pursuance of the trust reposed in you.


This commission to continue in force until revoked by this or future Congress.

Dated this day at Philadelphia 1776.

By Order of the Congress

ATTEST.

PRESIDENT.

A highly stylized, cursive signature in black ink, likely representing Benjamin Franklin. The signature is written in a fluid, flowing style with long, sweeping lines.A large, bold, cursive signature in black ink, representing John Hancock. The signature is written in a classic, elegant style with a prominent, sweeping flourish at the end.