Prayer For George Washington, First President Of The United States

The following prayer was composed by Congregation Beth Shalome in Richmond, Virginia in 1789. The original of this prayer is currently on display at the Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Please note the acrostic portion of the prayer in which the initial letters of the succeeding lines form the name: Washington.

Translation:  When we call upon You, O righteous Lord, answer us,  
Listen to the sound of our cries and have mercy upon us,  
Comfort us and hearken to our prayers,  
For You are the supreme Master, You have distanced troubles from me.

G-d of mercy, You have rescued us from all our enemies,  
From those who rose up against us, You have saved us,  
You provided us with strength to crush the conceit of our foes,  
In humiliation and in shame, they fell before our feet.

G-d of the Heavenly Hosts, You have provided peace and quiet for the heart of our government;  
You have placed the President of the United States to act as our leader;  
Through prayer we humble ourselves before You,  
To our supplications lend an ear and rescue us.
Lehabim At haTefila

Common sense, knowledge and insight, bestow upon the head of our state,
May be act justly towards us, gladden and bring joy to our hearts,
May be lead us along an honorable path,
Until his old age may he continue to act as leader and judge among us.

The VP, Senators, Representatives of the US
May those who govern over us do so with purity of heart and with honor,
G-d, our Lord, listen to our voices and our calls,
As we lay out our prayers before our G-d and our Redeemer,
May G-d protect and shield the Vice President, Senators and Representatives of the United States.

May G-d provide wisdom and sense to all who lead our court system,
May the hearts of our leaders be just and trustworthy,
May G-d provide success and bless all of our nation,
And from the hands of foreigners, may G-d protect us.

May our sons resemble young saplings that grow into strong trees,
May our daughters develop like olive trees,
May our land produce an abundance of food,
By the thousands and by the tens of thousands, in our fields,
May our livestock work hard; may they encounter no difficulties and may none be stolen from our streets.

All those who love our country and its leaders, may they bless G-d,
May they extend honor to G-d, our G-d,
May Judea be saved and Israel dwell in safety, and may the Redeemer come to Zion,
And let us say: “Amen”.

2. This line is taken from: Ci, ‘cnw mildz: dgev oi`e z`vei oi`e uxt oi` milaqn epitel`

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Memorial Prayer For Abraham Lincoln

An acrostic poem that was authored just after President Lincoln’s death by Isaac Goldstein, the Levite. Little is known about the author. Some believe that he may have lived in Philadelphia. An original copy of this poem is currently on display at the Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A copy of the original prayer is attached hereto.

My heart is moved. I would like to pay tribute to a King. Exalted are you Lincoln. Who is like you! You were highly respected among Kings and Princes. All that you accomplished you did with a humble spirit. You are singular and cannot be compared to anyone else. Who among the great are like Lincoln? Who can be praised like you?

You have earned a name among the Great. Your right hand exhibited its prowess. Against your enemies, you extended a sword of death; Your bow you directed night and day. You declared that Our Father in Heaven created all men equally. Therefore you and your followers fought for freedom in your land. Through your efforts the African American People were led to freedom. They will praise and bless your name forever.

Who among princes is equal to you, Lincoln, and who can be praised like you?

Isaac Goldstein the Levite.