

A House He Never Lived In

The White House serves as the official residence and workplace for each president of the United States.

This majestic structure stands on 18 acres along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Its history is rich in that all but one U.S. president has lived there. Can you name the one commander-in-chief who dwelt elsewhere?

It was none other than George Washington. Our nation's first president was never able to enjoy the fruits of his own vision. It was he who chose the site and the architect for the White House, but he was never able to live there.

Washington's leadership played an important role in the birth and establishment of this country. His methods and demeanor made him a popular man because he consistently demonstrated servant leadership. His hand in the construction of the White House helps convey this truth.

Although he knew he would never live in the White House, he took great pains to make certain it was a dwelling that befit the United States presidency. It is, indeed, a rare man who undertakes a project that will not bring benefit to himself.



The historical fact that every president except Washington has enjoyed the elegance of this unique home is a tribute to servant leadership. All great leaders must look beyond personal benefits and gain to see the much larger picture – that of having concern for those who will walk into the future.

What about you?

Are you investing in young men and women who will one day follow in your footsteps in health care and hospitality? Because of your vision and your experience, will you prepare them for accomplishing even greater things than you have achieved?

Will you build your facility's reputation throughout the company, the community and the state so that those who come after you can reap the benefits of incredible service you foresee but may not personally attain?

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A servant leader does that.

Jesus defined servant leadership: *Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant* (Matthew 20:26 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter

