

Pushing the Log

The day was cold and bleak. George Washington, starting out from his headquarters, drew on his greatcoat, turned up the collar, and pulled his hat down to shield his face from the biting wind. As he walked down the road to where the soldiers were fortifying a camp, no one would have known that the tall, muffled figure was the Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

As he came near the camp, he stopped to watch a small company of soldiers, under the command of a corporal, building a breastwork of logs. The men were tugging at a heavy log. The corporal, important and superior, stood at one side giving orders.

“Up with it!” he cried. “Now all together! Push. Up with it, I say!” The men gathered new strength. A great push and the log was nearly in its place, but it was too heavy. Just before it reached the top of the pile, it slipped and fell back.

The corporal shouted again, “Up with it! What ails you? Up with it!” The men tugged and strained again. The log nearly reached the top, slipped, and once more rolled back.

“Heave hard!” cried the corporal. “One, two, three – now push!”

Another struggle and then, just as the log was about to roll back for the third time, Washington ran forward, pushed with all his strength, and the log rolled into place on top of the breastwork. The men, panting and perspiring, sought to thank him, but he turned toward the corporal. “Why don’t you help your men with this heavy lifting, when they need another hand?” he asked.

“Why don’t I?” asked the man. “Don’t you see I am a corporal?”

“Indeed,” replied Washington, throwing open his greatcoat and showing his uniform. “I am only the Commander-in-Chief. Next time you have a log too heavy for your men to lift, send for me!”

As a leader in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, take note. There is no job too great – or too small – for you to do. After all, your example sets the tone of commitment and effort for the team you lead.

--Beecher Hunter