

Marquis de Lafayette to James Monroe, May 10, 1824.

Paris May 10<sup>th</sup> 1824

Sir

The High honors conferred upon me by the Representatives of the people of the United States, the testimonies of public-benevolence contained in their Resolutions have filled my Heart with feelings of Respectful, affectionate, and patriotic gratitude which I want adequate words to express. No answer can I find more congenial to these feelings than to embark as soon as possible for the blessed shores I have for so many years longed to revisit. Nor can I fear, impelled as I am with a proud sense of the Honor to be on Board a National Ship, that it will appear improper on my part when I beg leave her to avail myself of the flattering offer which, in their extreme kindness, Congress have digned to bestow. The summer will not be over before I enjoy the delight to find myself under an American flag, on my way to the ~~beloved~~ land of which it has been my happy lot to become an early soldier and an adopted son.

Be pleased, Sir, to accept my affectionate and grateful respects  
Lafayette

Marquis de Lafayette to James Monroe, May 10, 1824, University of Virginia Special Collections, MSS 5154.

Courtesy of the James Monroe Museum and University of Virginia.

[Transcription]

Paris, May 10, 1824

Sir

The high favour conferred upon me By the Representatives of the people of the United States, the testimonies of public Benevolence Contained in their Resolution Have filled my Heart with feelings of Respectful, Affectionate, and patriotic Gratitude which I want Adequate Words to Express. No Answer Can I find more Congenial to those feelings than to Embark as Soon as possible for the Beloved Shores I Have for so many Years longed to Revisit. Nor Can I fear, impressed as I am With a proud Sense of the Honour to Be on Board a National Ship, that it Will appear insincere on My part When I Beg leave no to Avail myself of the flattering offer which, in their Extreme Kindness, Congress Have deigned to Bestow. The Summer Will not Be over Before I enjoy the delight to find myself, Under an American flag, on my Way to the Beloved land of which it has Been My Happy Lot to Become an early soldier and an Adopted Son.

Be pleased, Sir, to receive my Affectionate and Grateful Respects.

Lafayette