



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GSA Inspector General Statement on National Whistleblower Appreciation Day

Today is Whistleblower Appreciation Day, which commemorates passage of America's first whistleblower law by the Continental Congress on July 30, 1778. In the midst of the Revolutionary War, American soldiers reported to the Continental Congress that their supervisor, an American Naval commander, was brutally torturing British soldiers. After the soldiers' report of misconduct, the commander was dismissed. The Continental Congress, responding swiftly, unanimously enacted the first whistleblower legislation in the United States, declaring that it was "the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other inhabitants thereof" to report misconduct or fraud.

While we have seen tremendous change since our nation's founding, one thing that has endured is the recognition that people who come forward with information about waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct perform an important service. As an agency that promotes more accountable, effective, and efficient government, GSA OIG takes this opportunity to recognize whistleblowers. Our work with whistleblowers saves taxpayer dollars, uncovers wrongdoing, and makes our country safer. We will continue to work to protect those who disclose evidence of wrongdoing and hold those who retaliate accountable. Courageous employees deserve our appreciation.

If you have questions about rights and remedies as a federal employee who discloses fraud, waste, or abuse in GSA programs, please visit our website at <https://www.gsaig.gov/content/whistleblower-protection>, or contact Kathleen Kohl, GSA OIG Whistleblower Protection Coordinator, at 202-273-7274. If you would like to report waste, fraud or abuse in a GSA program, you may do so online at <https://www.gsaig.gov/content/report-fraud>.

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