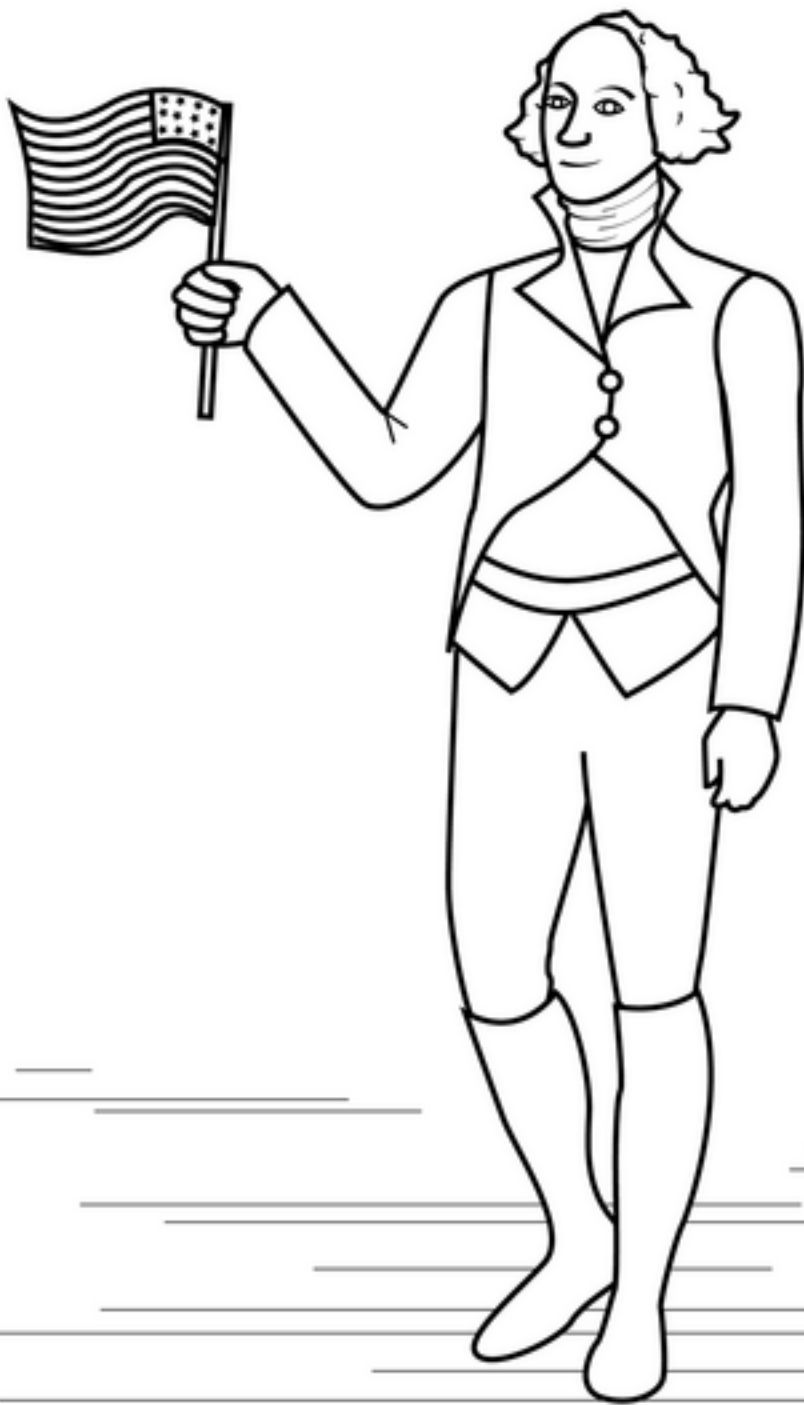
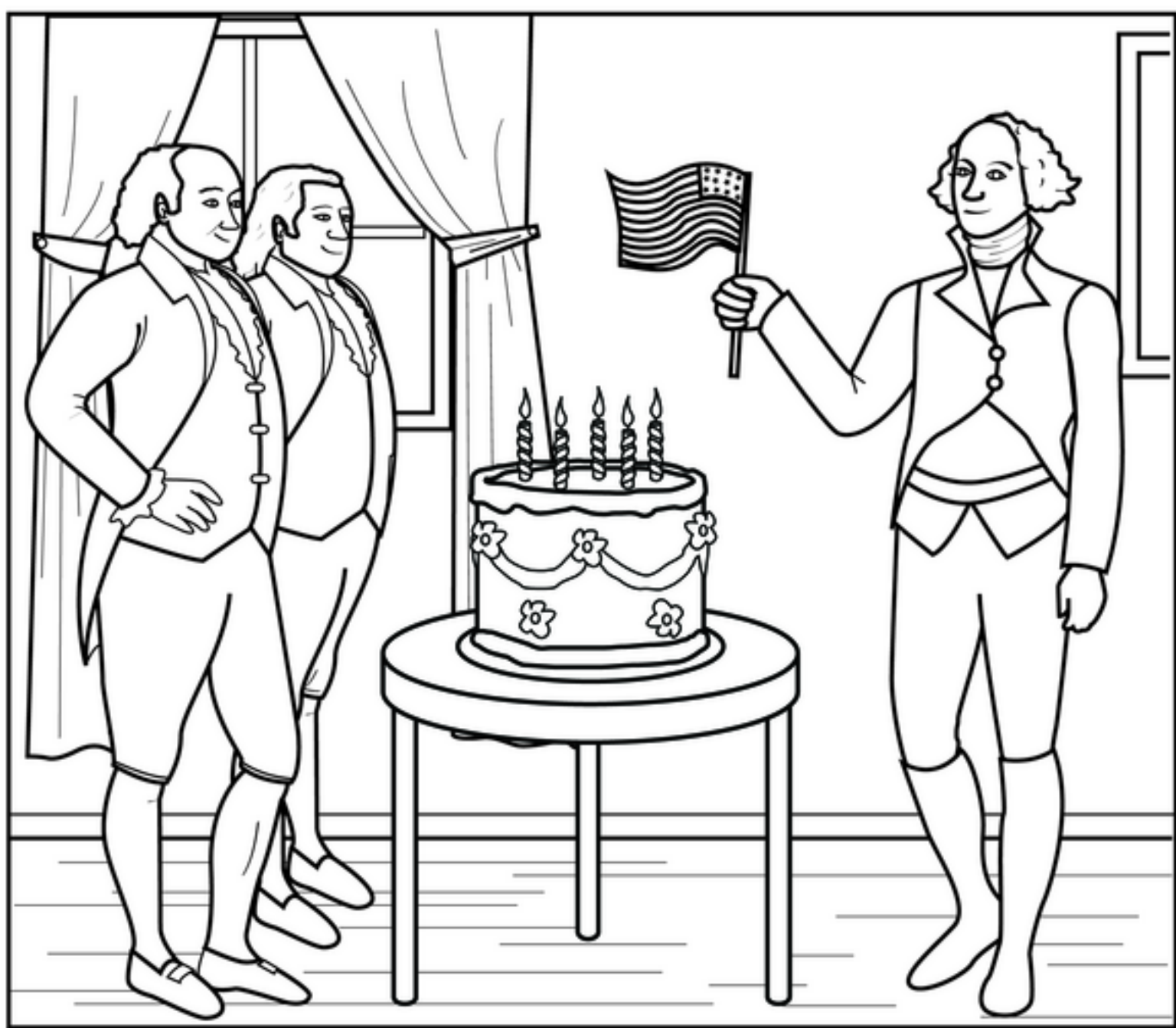


The History of President's Day





There have been many presidents in American history.

Our country honors two of them in the month of February.

George Washington was the first president honored in this way.

In 1796, our nation first celebrated Washington's birthday.

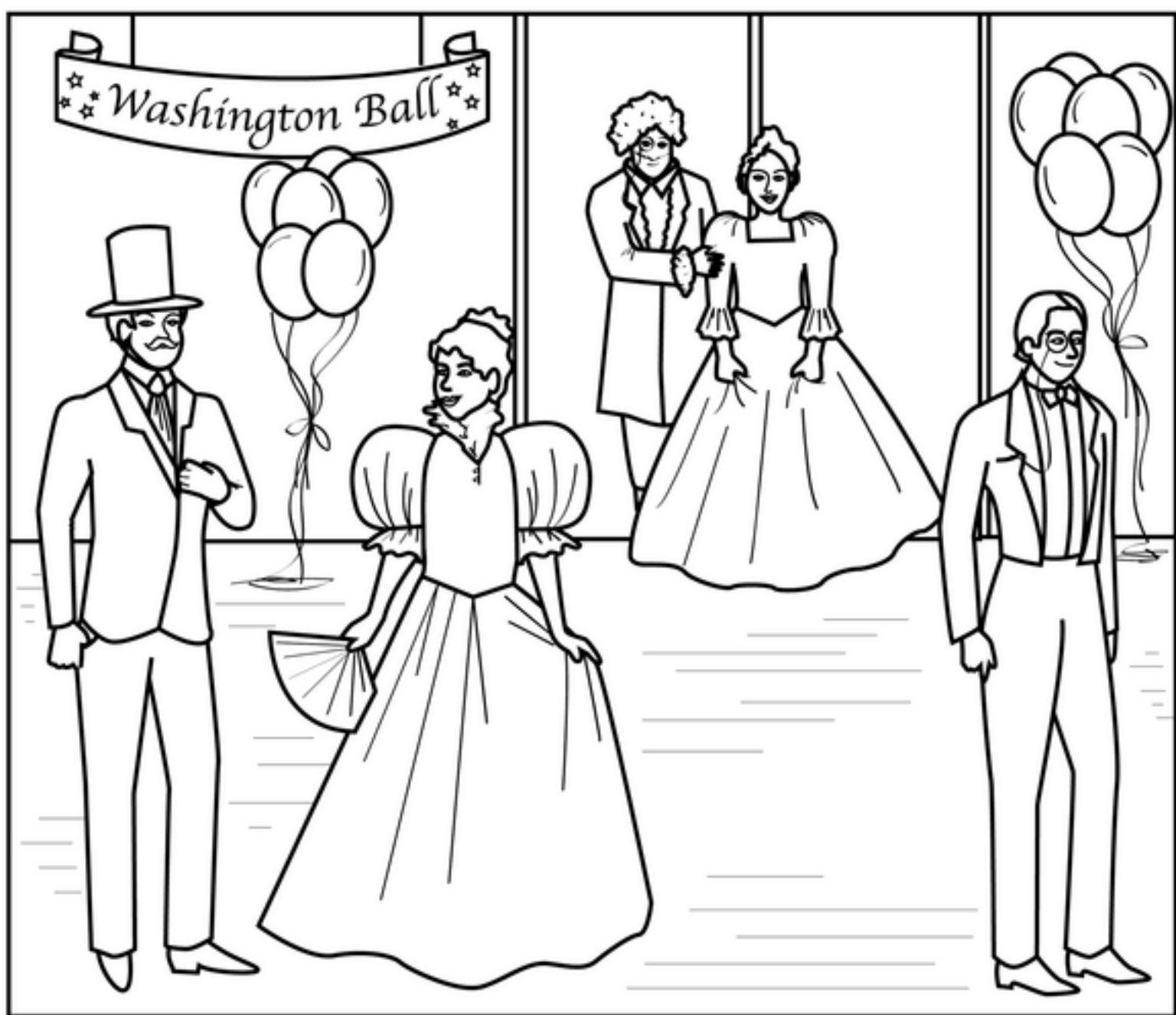


The nation wanted to thank him for the hard work he had done.

His birthday was made a holiday. A new tradition had begun.

This first birthday celebration was held while he was still president.

On February the eleventh they held the first national event.



When a new calendar was introduced, the date had to be changed.

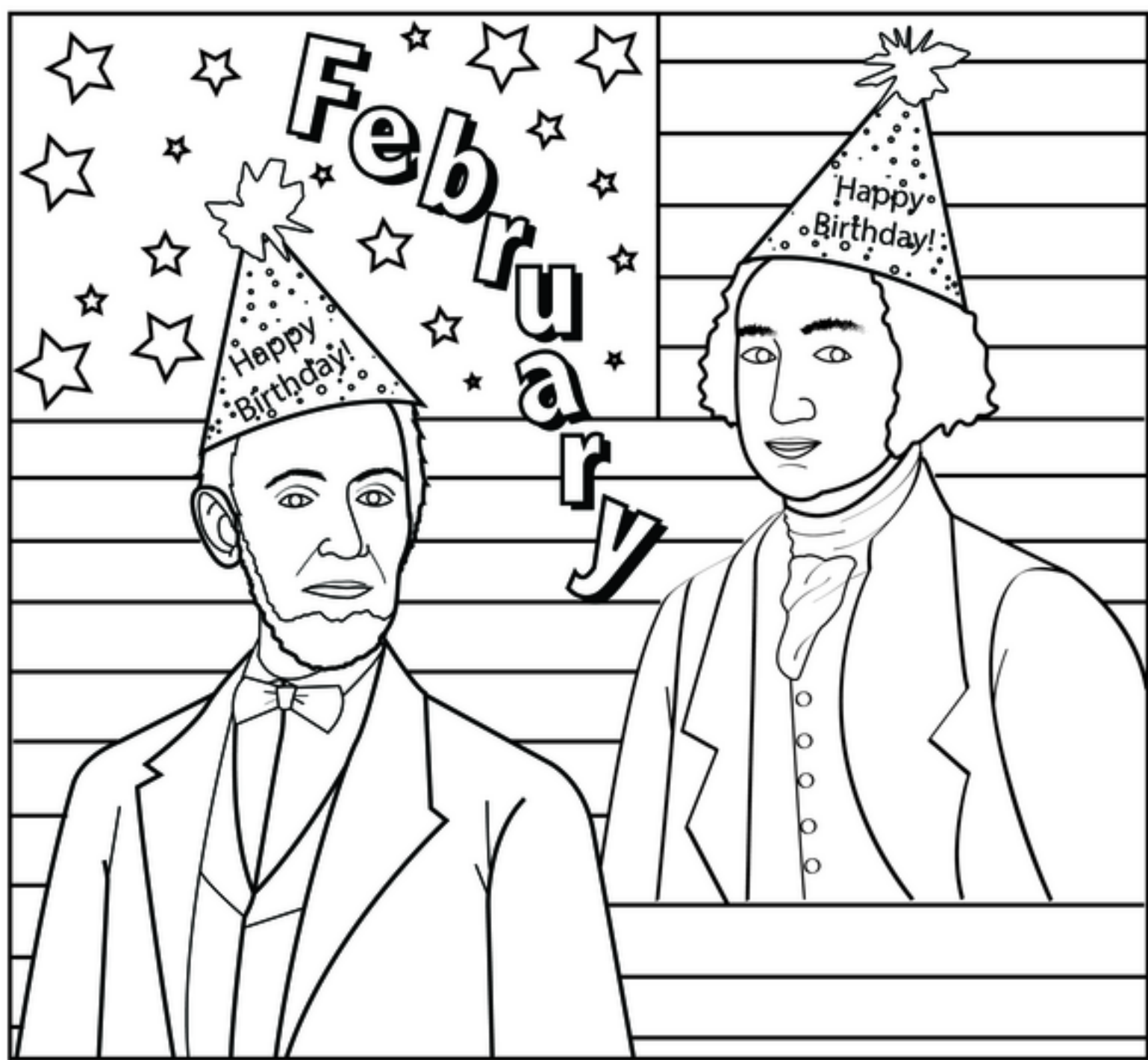
February 22 was now the date, and things were rearranged.

By the early nineteenth century, it was a federal holiday.

There were balls and parties held. People were bright and gay.



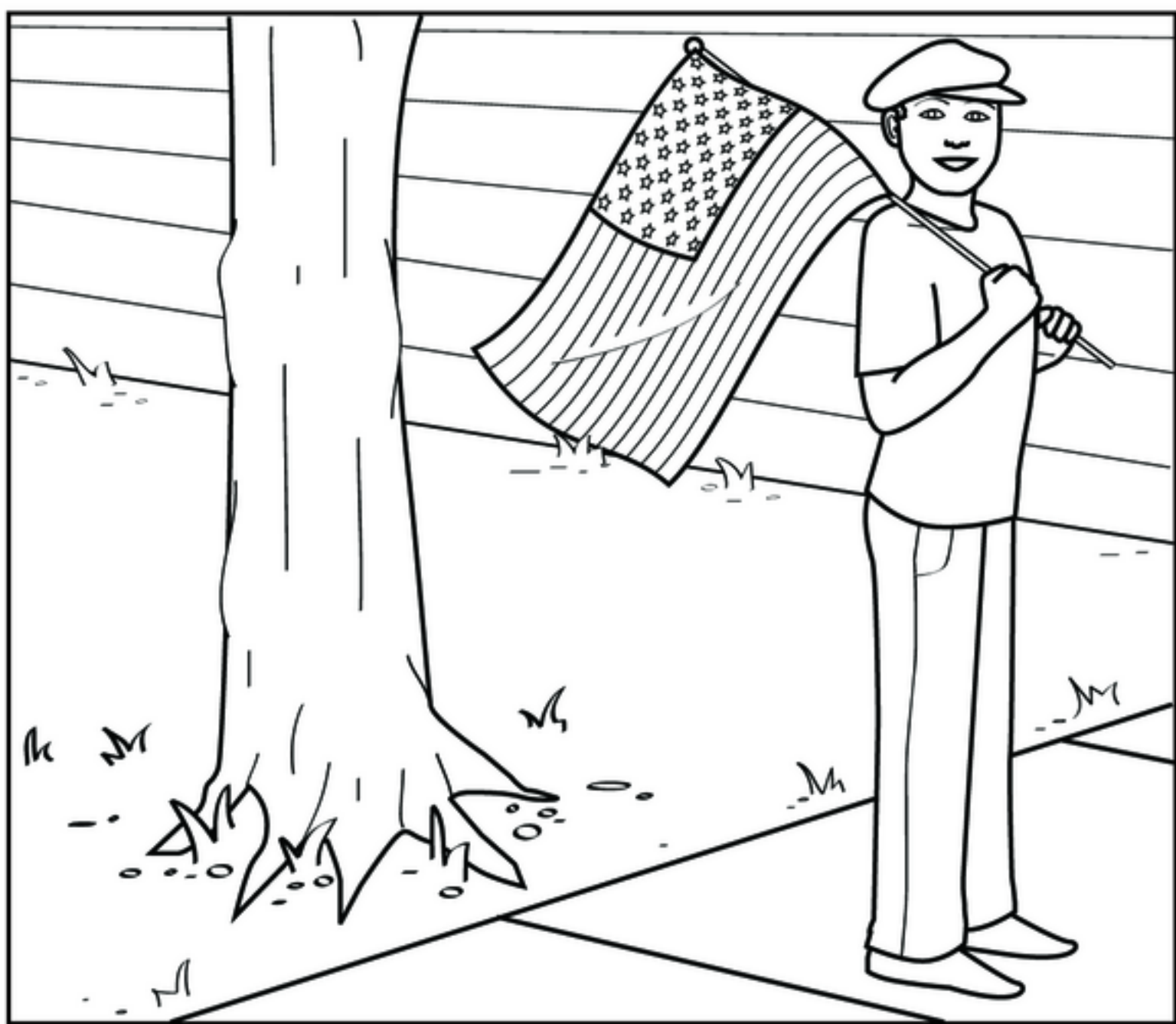
Then in 1864, President Lincoln was shot and killed.
A year later on his birthday, the halls of congress
filled.
Everyone came together to honor this great man.
With his memorial observance, a new tradition
began.



Some states added Lincoln's birthday as a day to celebrate.

But it did not become a legal holiday until 1968. When congress passed the Monday Holidays Act, the date was changed again.

Now, the third Monday in February honors these two men.



Now, we have President's Day. Their birthdays have
been combined,

And we have a three-day weekend, just as it was
designed.

A day to think of all presidents who've made the
sacrifice

Of serving as our president to help make living here
so nice.

1. In what month are two presidents' birthdays celebrated?

- a. January
- b. February
- c. March
- d. April

Answer: _____

2. In what year did our nation first celebrate Washington's birthday?

- a. 1776
- b. 1886
- c. 1796
- d. 1976

Answer: _____

3. On which date was Washington's birthday first celebrated?

- a. February 22
- b. February 11
- c. February 28
- d. February 12

Answer: _____

4. Why was the date changed to February 22?

- a. A new calendar was used.
- b. A mistake had been made.
- c. It was warmer on that date.
- d. The date was postponed.

Answer: _____

5. What other president is honored on President's Day?

- a. Teddy Roosevelt
- b. Ben Franklin
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. Abraham Lincoln

Answer: _____

6. In what year was the Monday Holidays Act passed?

- a. 1998
- b. 1988
- c. 1968
- d. 1958

Answer: _____