

Introductions for Hamilton and Bidlack

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

I am here to introduce Alexander Hamilton. General Hamilton is a man whom some scholars have called the most brilliant of the founding fathers, and the architect of our nation's greatness. Others, however, have called him a monarchist and a militarist.

General Hamilton was a self-made man in an era when the term meant much more. He rose from poverty and an ignoble birth to become a general, a leader, and the founder of our economic and legal systems.

Perhaps most impressive is the breadth of his service. He served nobly in three arenas: in uniform, in office, and with the quill. After serving as Washington's closest Aide, General Hamilton earned a combat command where led his troops from the front, and was the first man over the walls during the climactic Battle of Yorktown. He was this nation's first Secretary of Treasury, at the age of 32. There he created the foundations of our fiscal system, putting us on the path to economic greatness. He was the principal author of the *Federalist Papers*, one of the greatest writing on American political thought ever crafted.

In his later years, the French politician Talleyrand concluded that the three greatest men he had ever met were England's William Pitt, France's Napoleon Bonaparte, and America's Alexander Hamilton. When pressed to rank them further, Talleyrand stated he would have place Hamilton first.

John Marshall once said that when he compared himself to Hamilton, he felt as a candle beside the sun at noonday. His great adversary, Thomas Jefferson, called him "the Colossus." John Adams called him far nastier things. Tonight we are happy to call him our guest.

General Hamilton will speak for several minutes, and then invites your questions on any subject from his era or our own.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome General Alexander Hamilton...

And now I am pleased to introduce the scholar behind the character...

Hal Bidlack is a retired career military officer. During his years in the military, he served as Deputy Director of the Air Force Institute for National Security Studies, was posted to the United States Department of State in Washington, and was as an ICBM launch officer and instructor. He also served at the White House, as Director of Global Environmental Affairs for the National Security Council. He spent much of his career teaching Political Science at the United States Air Force Academy. Following his retirement, he served on the staff of a United States Senator and as a senior research fellow at DC-based think tanks.

He holds academic degrees from the University of Michigan, including a doctorate in Political Science. He regularly portrays General Hamilton around the country. His work as Hamilton has been seen on both national and local television. His performances have been seen in auditoriums, libraries, and museums around the country. He has performed Hamilton for a wide array of audiences, including federal judges, school children, and historians.

Please welcome Hal Bidlack.