

## Letter to General Ulysses S. Grant

*In this remarkable letter, President Abraham Lincoln congratulates General Grant for an important victory -- the capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi, on July 4, 1863. Lincoln differed with Grant about how to handle the campaign, but when Grant pursued his own strategy successfully, Lincoln frankly admitted that Grant was right.*

Executive Mansion,  
Washington, July 13, 1863.

Major General Grant  
My dear General

I do not remember that you and I ever met personally. I write this now as a grateful acknowledgment for the almost inestimable service you have done the country. I wish to say a word further. When you first reached the vicinity of Vicksburg, I thought you should do, what you finally did -- march the troops across the neck, run the batteries with the transports, and thus go below; and I never had any faith, except a general hope that you knew better than I, that the Yazoo Pass expedition, and the like, could succeed. When you got below, and took Port-Gibson, Grand Gulf, and vicinity, I thought you should go down the river and join Gen. Banks; and when you turned Northward East of the Big Black, I feared it was a mistake. I now wish to make the personal acknowledgment that you were right, and I was wrong.

Yours very truly  
A. Lincoln

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Source: Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Roy P. Basler.

<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/grant.htm>