Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (March 7, 1850 - September 14, 1937) was a Czechoslovak philosopher, sociologist, and statesman. One of three founding fathers of Czechoslovakia, he signed the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence from the Austro-Hungary Empire in October 1918 and served as the first president until 1935.

Trained as an academic and involved in politics since 1891, Masaryk established the Czech Realist Party in 1900. World War I afforded the opportunity to advocate for independence, gaining the support of United States President Woodrow Wilson.

On October 18, 1918, he, along with Milan Rastislav Štefánik and Edvard Beneš, signed the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence, also known as the “Washington Declaration” formally uniting the Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovakian people and lands.

Masaryk was elected as the first President and served from November 1918 until December 1935. He was succeeded by Edvard Beneš.

Masaryk's death made headlines and his impact and importance has been remembered throughout the United States as well as within his own country.