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Gentlemen

The bearer Mr. Thomas Coale being desirous to enter into the service of this Country in the capacity of a Lieutenant - I take the liberty of recommending him to you as a young Gentleman of character & family, who from the first commencing Hostilities has manifested a disposition worthy an American, and am fully convinced if you favor him with an appointment, that he will discharge his duty with fidelity - I am Gentleman

Your most Obt. Servt.

Ephraim Howard Jr.

Febr. 2nd 2: 1777

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