Rededication of the Lincoln Memorial

MAY 30, 2009
THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Abraham Lincoln
“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, I somehow believe that all of us, black and white, both North and South, are going to strive on to finish the work which he so nobly began to make America an example for the world of equal justice and equal opportunity for all who strive and are willing to serve under the flag that makes men free.”

—Robert R. Moton, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, May 30, 1922
Welcome to the Lincoln Memorial Rededication.

On this same date in 1922, Chief Justice William Taft presented the newly built Lincoln Memorial to President Warren G. Harding, who accepted it on behalf of the American people. An estimated 50,000 men, women, and children gathered on the National Mall to witness the memorial's dedication.

Four score and seven years later, the National Park Service (NPS)—in cooperation with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and the Military District of Washington—rededicates the Lincoln Memorial. This special event is part our nation’s tribute to Abraham Lincoln in the bicentennial year of his birth.

Of all the NPS sites dedicated to Lincoln, the Lincoln Memorial remains a favorite destination for visitors. The men and women of the NPS carefully maintain and tend to the memorial, where America and the world come to connect to, reflect upon, honor, and celebrate Lincoln's legacy. As a testament to Lincoln's belief that the Union would endure and grow, the memorial was built with stone gathered from Massachusetts, Georgia, Indiana, Tennessee, and Colorado. Lincoln's legacy is firmly enshrined here.

On Easter Sunday, 1939, African-American opera great Marian Anderson sang to the nation from the steps of the memorial and heralded the beginnings of the modern civil rights movement. In 1963, more than 200,000 people gathered for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where they heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. These events, along with the many others that have taken place here over the years, have added to the memorial's symbolic significance for American public life. Today, the Lincoln Memorial continues to bring Americans together in struggles for freedom and equality.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION AND FOUNDATION
Congress established the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC) to recommend appropriate ways to commemorate the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln in 2009. The Commission works to engage the broadest range of individuals and groups in the commemoration. Through education programs, public forums, and the arts, the Commission provides an opportunity to re-examine Lincoln’s legacy in our 21st century democracy. Its members, who were appointed by the President and congressional leaders, include political leaders, jurists, historians, and collectors.

The Commission is predicated on the premise that it will function as a public-private partnership. To support this partnership, and insure that Lincoln activities continue into the future, the Commission established the ALBC Foundation [a 501(c)3 based in Washington D.C.] in 2007.

MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
The United States Army Military District of Washington (MDW) traces its origin to 1921, when the War Department created the District of Washington, an organizational headquarters comprised of Fort Washington, Fort Hunt, and Fort Myer. Today it serves as the Army Forces Component and Core Staff Element of the Joint Forces Headquarters-National Capital Region to conduct operations that deter, prevent, and respond to threats aimed at the National Capital Region. MDW is responsible for all joint ceremonies in support of the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES
On April 15, 1865, as word of President Abraham Lincoln’s death spread throughout the country, three Union Army officers met in Philadelphia to discuss the news. Rumors from Washington of a conspiracy to destroy the federal government by assassinating its leaders prompted the three friends to form an organization that could help thwart future threats to the national government.

Since its inception, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) membership has included nearly 12,000 Civil War officers. At its zenith, MOLLUS counted practically every prominent officer among its ranks, including Generals Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman.

In 1922, President Warren G. Harding charged MOLLUS with arranging and executing the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial on May 30. The majority of the Lincoln Memorial Commission, under former president and Supreme Court Chief Justice William Howard Taft, were members of MOLLUS. Each year thereafter, MOLLUS has renewed the ceremonies on February 12 in honor of Abraham Lincoln.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
The National Park Service (NPS) preserves and protects over 400 places that reflect the cultural and natural treasures of the United States. The American people have set aside these treasures in order to preserve, protect, and share the legacies of the nation. Within this framework, the men and women of the NPS provide stewardship over several sites that help us to consider the life, work, and legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

The site before you, the Lincoln Memorial, is a reflection of the entire scope of Lincoln’s accomplishments during the Civil War. On March 4, 1911—fifty years to the date that Lincoln first took the oath of office—the Lincoln Commission first met to begin conceptualizing a memorial to Lincoln’s life and legacy. Just three years later, on Lincoln’s birthday, memorial construction began with an official groundbreaking ceremony. The memorial ultimately was dedicated on May 30, 1922, and is meant to reflect the themes of union and freedom that we so often associate with Lincoln. Within the past year, more than four million visitors have visited the memorial’s chambers to reflect on the artistic works of architect Henry Bacon, sculptor Daniel Chester French, and artist Jules Guerin.
The Ceremony

RETROSPECTIVE

Prelude
United States Marine Band
Colonel Michael J. Colburn, Director

“FREISCHUTZ QUICKSTEP”
Claudio S. Grafulla
Arranged by Tommy J. Fry

“ECHOES OF THE 1860S”
Arranged by Donald Hunsberger

“MARCH, THE LOYAL LEGION”
John Philip Sousa

Welcome
Harold Holzer
Co-Chairman, Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

Remarks
Gordon Bury
Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

Music
United States Marine Band
“NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM”
Randol Alan Bass
GySgt Kevin Bennear, narrator

Remarks
Peggy O’Dell
National Capital Region Director

Music
United States Marine Band
“WE ARE COMING, FATHER ABRAHAM, 300,000 MORE”
Stephen Foster
Lyrics by James Sloan Gibbons
Transcribed by MSgt Stephen Bulla
GySgt Kevin Bennear, soloist
REDEDICATION

Opening Remarks
Ernest Quintana
Acting Deputy Director of the National Park Service

Invocation
Reverend Dr. Roger J. Gench
Senior Pastor, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Presentation Of Colors
Military District of Washington

Music
United States Marine Band
"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"
Lyrics by Francis Scott Key
GySgt Kevin Bennear, soloist

Principal Address
Dr. Benjamin F. Payton
President, Tuskegee University

Music
United States Marine Band
"AMERICA"
Lyrics by Samuel Francis Smith
Arranged by MSgt Stephen Bulla
GySgt Kevin Bennear, soloist

Poem
William Farley
Winner, 2009 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest
Music
United States Marine Band
“BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC”
Lyrics by Julia Ward Howe
Transcribed by William C. Schoenfeld
Arranged by Roy Ringwald
GySgt Kevin Bennear, soloist

Presentation of the Lincoln Memorial
Ernest Quintana
Deputy Director of the National Park Service

Acceptance of the Lincoln Memorial
Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior

Benediction
Reverend Dr. Roger J. Gench

Postlude
United States Marine Band
“STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER”
John Philip Sousa

“GOD BLESS AMERICA”
Irving Berlin
Arranged by Erik Leidzén
Speakers and Special Guests

GORDON R. BURY has been working in the banking industry for over 35 years and has served in leadership positions for many organizations and hereditary societies. He is president of the OH-PA Landowners Association, and was the 54th Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and the 100th Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. His wife, Lynne, was the National President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic and is President of the Ohio Dames of the Loyal Legion. The Burys live in Marshallville, Ohio.

WILLIAM FARLEY is a senior at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Virginia. Last month he received the title of National Champion at the 2009 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, an arts education program and poetry competition sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. He advanced from a competitive field of nearly 300,000 students who participated across the country. In the fall he will attend Bucknell University.

REVEREND DR. ROGER J. GENCH is the senior pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. He has served Presbyterian parishes in Baltimore, MD, and Camp Hill, PA. He is also an elected member of the national General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church.

HAROLD HOLZER is one of the country’s leading authorities on Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. Among his 34 books, he is best known for Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech that Made Abraham Lincoln President (2004), which won a 2005 Lincoln Prize. His most recent works are Lincoln President-Elect, The Lincoln Anthology, and In Lincoln’s Hand. He is the senior vice president for external affairs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

PEGGY O’DELL was selected on October 22, 2008 as the Regional Director for the National Capital Region, to manage over 87,000 acres of federal parkland in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. Prior to serving as Regional Director, O’Dell served as the Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C. where she led a large park staff and partner organizations who serve over twenty-five million visitors a year. Areas within this park provide visitors with ample opportunities to commemorate presidential legacies, honor the courage and sacrifice of war veterans, and celebrate the United States commitment to freedom and equality.
DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PAYTON has served as the fifth president of Tuskegee University since 1981. Payton is a nationally recognized higher education leader/speaker, scholar/ethicist, and public intellectual. He received the B.A. with honors from South Carolina State University in 1955; the B.D. from Harvard University in 1958; the M.A. from Columbia University in 1960; and the Ph.D. in Social Ethics from Yale University in 1963. During his tenure he has expanded and transformed Tuskegee from Institute to University status and launched Tuskegee University’s first Ph.D. programs.

ERNEST “ERNIE” QUINTANA, the Acting Deputy Director of the National Park Service, was born in Arizona and raised in California. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969–71 and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with a “V” device for valor for his service in the Vietnam conflict. He graduated from Northern Arizona University with a B.S. degree. He is the recipient of the 1997 Stephen Tyng Mather Award for Conservation; the 1999 Director’s Wilderness Management and Stewardship Award; and the 2005 Office of Civil Rights Manuel Lujan, Jr., Champion’s Award.

THE HONORABLE KEN SALAZAR, a fifth-generation Coloradan, was confirmed as the 50th Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior on January 20, 2009, in a unanimous vote by the U.S. Senate. Prior to his confirmation, Salazar served as Colorado’s 35th United States senator, winning election in November, 2004. In that position, he served on the Finance Committee, which oversees the nation’s tax, trade, social security, and health care systems. He also served on the Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources, Ethics, Veterans Affairs, and Aging Committees.

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND, also known as “The President’s Own,” was established by an Act of Congress in 1798, making it America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Its primary mission is unique—to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandment of the Marine Corps. In its third century, the Marine Band continues a tradition of excellence. Whether in White House performances, public concerts, or national tours, the music of the Marine Band is the music of America.
Acknowledgements

THE POETRY FOUNDATION
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS
LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION
THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND
UNITED STATES PARK POLICE
THE UNITED STATES VOLUNTEERS, INC.
WENDY ALLEN AND THE “HAPPY BIRTHDAY PRESIDENT LINCOLN, FROM THE PEOPLE” PROJECT

“Happy Birthday President Lincoln, From the People”

BE A PART OF HISTORY!
Please take a moment to sign a giant birthday card to President Lincoln at a tent located near the Korean War Memorial. Painted by Lincoln portrait artist Wendy Allen, this giant birthday card has traveled to over a dozen cities across the United States and has signatures from over 15,000 people. Be a part of history and add your signature and well wishes today!

www.happybirthdayalincoln.com
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*Deceased
To learn more about other national Lincoln Bicentennial events happening throughout the country, please visit www.abrahamlincoln200.org.

To learn more about the Lincoln Memorial please visit www.nps.gov/linc.