

\*\*\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

**Gordon Bury of Marshallville Ohio is Guest Speaker at the  
Lincoln Memorial Rededication, May 30, 2009**

The Lincoln Memorial Rededication was held on Saturday, May 30, 2009. It was a joint ceremony by the National Mall and Memorial Parks of the National Parks Service, in collaboration with the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and the Military District of Washington, presented a Lincoln Memorial Rededication Retrospective on May 30, 2009. As part of the yearlong Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration, the memorial built in honor of Abraham Lincoln was rededicated.

Some visitors had already spread out blankets and chairs beneath shady trees. A steady stream of visitors climbed the gleaming steps of the memorial that is visited by millions each year. During the ceremony, many visitors of all ages and nationalities dangled legs from marble ledges and steps to watch the rededication ceremony with backdrop views of the tidal pool, George Washington Memorial and Capitol.

The program, which began at 2:25 p.m. at the Lincoln Memorial, featured special guest speakers that delivered remarks about how Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Memorial remained entwined as beacons of freedom. The program also featured performances by the United States Marine Band and by William Farley, winner of Poetry Out Loud, who read a poem by well-known Abraham Lincoln biographer Carl Sandburg.

Speakers included:

Harold Holzer, Co-Chairman, ALBC

Gordon R. Bury, Past Commander-in-Chief, MOLLUS (*Presentation Attached*)

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar

Ernie Quintana, Acting Deputy Director, National Park Service

Peggy O'Dell, Regional Director, National Capital Region National Park Service

Dr. Benjamin F. Payton, President, Tuskegee University

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

William Farley, the 2009 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Champion

A retrospective portion of the ceremony included remarks by Harold Holzer, Co-Chairman of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; Gordon R. Bury, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States; and Peggy O'Dell, National Capital Region Director. They quoted Lincoln's words and shared how their organizations continue his legacy.

The Military Oder of the Loyal Legion of the United States was represented by its 54th Commander-in-Chief, Gordon R. Bury. Gordon 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 the Zimmerman-Bury Octagon House Marshallville, Ohio.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES was organized 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.



**Presentation of Colors, Lincoln Memorial Rededication, May 30, 2009**

**Lincoln Memorial Rededication**  
**The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States**  
**Delivered 30 May 2009 by**  
**Past Commander-in-Chief Gordon R. Bury**

From the Official Records of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and the 1972 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program of the Dedication of the Lincoln Memorial, I bring you this bit of history on the Loyal Legion, its members, and their involvement in the planning and Dedication of this great edifice, the Lincoln Memorial.

The Loyal Legion was formed amid the shooting of our 16<sup>th</sup> President Abraham Lincoln on the evening of April 14<sup>th</sup>. Rumors of a conspiracy to destroy the Federal government by the assassination of its leaders prompted the Union Army Officers to form an organization that could help thwart future threats to the national government.

Dr Charles Augustus Leale, an Army Physician who was in attendance at Ford's Theatre for the performance of "Our American Cousin", was the first doctor to reach President Lincoln. The President was taken to the Peterson House across from Ford's Theater. Dr. Leale stayed with the dying President until Lincoln "passed unto the ages" about 7:00 AM on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Leale would later be an original and active member of the Loyal Legion.

A mass meeting of Philadelphia veterans was held on April 20, 1865 to pledge renewed allegiance to the Union and to plan for participation in the funeral arrangements for the President. These Military Officers, who served as an honor guard for President Lincoln's funeral cortege, met again after the funeral was over to establish a permanent organization of officers and former officers "In honor of his illustrious memory and of that great cause for which we fought; in recognition of the affectionate friendships which had been inspired among the officers of the Army then about to disband". That organization was patterned after the Society of Cincinnati established after the Revolutionary War. The name they chose, the *Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States*, first appeared in a notice calling a meeting on May 31, 1865 at Independence Hall.

Since its inception, the Loyal Legion membership has included nearly 12,000 Civil War officers. At its zenith, the Loyal Legion counted practically every prominent officer among its ranks. Among them were Generals Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman; Lt. Generals Philip H. Sheridan, Nelson A. Miles and John M. Schofield; Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, George B. McClellan, Rutherford B. Hayes, George Armstrong Custer, David McMurtre Gregg, and Grenville M. Dodge, Admiral David G. Farragut and Rear Admirals Bancroft Gherardi and George W. Melville. In addition to Ulysses S. Grant and Rutherford B. Hayes, Original Companions Chester A. Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley served as Presidents of the United States.

Some years later, it was decided to make the Loyal Legion a hereditary society. Eligibility is now based upon descent from a commissioned officer of the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps who took part in the American Civil War.

The ground-breaking ceremonies for the Lincoln Memorial took place on February 12, 1914, the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of President Lincoln, and the cornerstone was laid exactly one year later. Members of the Loyal Legion, which included Robert Lincoln were involved in all the phases of the planning for the Lincoln Memorial and later its dedication.

Recalling the founding of the Loyal Legion on Lincoln's death President Warren G. Harding requested the Loyal Legion to be responsible for the arrangement and coordination of the initial dedication of the building on May 30, 1922. The Commander-in-Chief of the Loyal Legion at that time was Lieut. General Nelson Miles, the first Chief of Staff of the Army. He called upon all Companions (members) of the Loyal Legion to assist. Another Companion, Major Vogel (later Major Gen.) was commandant of the Marine Barracks at that time. Under his command, the Marines furnished all the ushers, the band, and all other

necessary support. The Marines continued this fine service each year until the establishment of the Department of Defense.

The 1922 Ceremony was so impressive that Companions of the Loyal Legion determined to hold an annual ceremony each year to take place on the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, February 12th, to commemorate the life and contribution of our 16<sup>th</sup> President to this country. The Loyal Legion has been a responsible party for the annual commemorative ceremonies ever since. In doing so, the Loyal Legion has had the full cooperation of the Military District of Washington, which is in charge of all ceremonies of a military nature, the National Park Service which is custodian of the Lincoln Memorial, and the Commissioner of the District of Columbia.

I would be amiss if I did not mention two special Companions of the Loyal Legion, that being Fred Drum Hunt who as a boy accompanied his parents to the original Dedication planning meetings. Fred's grandfather was General Hunt who was the commanding artillery Officer at the Battle of Gettysburg. Fred passed away just a few years ago and spent his life assisting with the annual Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Ceremony. Each year now, the Loyal Legion gives a Scholarship in his name to a student at the Severn School of Severn, Maryland.

The other faithful Companion is William Upham Jr. a past Commander-in-Chief whose father was a mere boy when he enlisted in 1861 to fight to preserve the Union. Wounded many times at the first Battle of Bull Run, he was barely alive, laying on the battlefield for days with several dead soldiers on top of him. William Upham Sr. was reported as dead, and the family held a funeral service for him at home. Found barely alive, taken to a hospital with little hope of survival, he struggled with his many wounds, but survived his ordeal! President Lincoln met and befriended this lad who had done so much for his country. When President Lincoln told him if there was ever anything he could do to let him know. Young Bill asked him immediately for a commission to West Point, Bill Upham Graduated Class of 1866. His first assignment was to guard former Confederate President Jefferson Davis. So when we shake the hand of his son Bill Jr. we are reaching back nearly 150 years to Lincoln. Bill's hope is to shake the hand of President Obama before Bill comes home to Arlington National Cemetery.

During the past 50 years, for the Annual February 12<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Birthday Commemorative Ceremonies other patriotic and civic societies have been invited to participate by laying floral tributes. I invite all who are here today to join with us here next February 12th to further celebrate the birthday of our 16<sup>th</sup> President Abraham Lincoln. Let us hope that this recognition of a great President and the traditions of our fine country may continue forever.