

The Meaning of Gettysburg
The Attack on The Lincoln Memorial and its meaning to the World
By Brother John Bates, July 2013

It is now over 150 years since The Nation's Crucible was formed and defined by The Battle at Gettysburg. As this important event is now something for us all to keep fresh in our national memory, we must look beyond the obvious, and think deeper about the true message and meaning of not just the fighting, but what was defined and won by the result. The Nation that we are today is and has been greatly shaped and guided in its evolution by the many events in our History, including the events of July 1,2,and 3rd 1863 in Gettysburg.

If you listened to or watched The National Media this past few weeks, there was a small amount of coverage by them about the anniversary of the event, but little of true substance or lasting meaning, with a couple of exceptions. One was National Public Radio which interviewed several Noted Civil War Scholars. They presented a trail from that time to ours and tried to tie a Lasting meaning, at least something that the average citizen could grasp and think about. The Freedom and Liberty that we all enjoy today, while certainly not tied exclusively to this battle, or the War for that matter, none the less was instrumental into how we define these ideals and why we have them. After all, The History of our Nation is filled with events that are significant in their own right, but The world we have today should learn that our Democratic Republic is what we made it, not the least by these Civil War Memories.

Last week, on Friday, July 26, 2013 a Homeless woman desecrated The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Apparently, she threw (sprayed) green paint on the lower part of the famous sculpture, including parts of President Lincoln's coat and legs. While the Physical Damage will probably be limited and or completely removable, it is none the less a very disturbing situation.

In the 91 year History of This American Icon, I believe it is the very first time anyone has tried to damage this National Treasure. The attack on this monument should send a signal to all who care about our History, that this is something that cannot and will not be tolerated. If this (or any) individual is tried and convicted, the punishment should be swift and severe. The Message must be that anyone who decides that they want to damage our Heritage will pay a substantial price. The True meaning of The Marble Monument to President Lincoln is not the sculpture itself, but who it pays honor and homage to. The Spirit of Abraham Lincoln, and what he accomplished is something that can NEVER be changed or erased by any vandalism or intent of damage, physical or otherwise.

It is always our duty and Honor as descendants of The Boys in Blue to be ever vigilant, not only for Monuments, but more importantly for the ideals and Freedom they represent to and for us all.

LEST WE FORGET!