

LINCOLN
BICENTENNIAL
1809 – 2009

Educational opportunities to honor
our 16th President's 200th birthday



Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in.

- March 9, 1832
New Salem, Illinois

Patriotic greetings!

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission –

On February 12, 2009, our nation will celebrate the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. Since the creation of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC) in 2000 by both the United States Senate and House of Representatives, countless programs and events have been created and/or planned to commemorate Lincoln's 200th birthday. The commission has also put together a wonderful and very informative website to serve as a central location for these events. The website address is:

<http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/>

Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission –

By Executive Order of Governor Jennifer Granholm, the State of Michigan created a commission to work within the state in a manner similar to the national commission. The commission was organized in 2008 and will cease to function on February 12, 2010. The State website is:

<http://main.gvsu.edu/hauenstein/>

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States –

In Grand Rapids, the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) has accepted the responsibility for planning and coordinating a ceremony to honor our 16th President on February 12, 2009. As part of the ceremony, City of Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will deliver a proclamation.

Other participants include the Kent County Veteran's Honor Guard, the Central High School Junior ROTC, and Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic. Floral tributes will be presented as the President is remembered thru his own words.

This ceremony will be conducted at 10 o'clock AM at the Lincoln bust at Lincoln Place, State Street Park, located at the intersection of Jefferson, Washington and State Streets. All are invited to attend.

The Loyal Legion connection –

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States was created in Philadelphia, PA on April 15, 1865, the day Lincoln died with membership limited to former officers of the Union Army. Similar to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in purpose, the principals of MOLLUS are to perpetuate the memory of President Abraham Lincoln and to promote his ideals.

When the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was completed in 1922, President Taft asked the Loyal Legion to conduct a fitting ceremony for the dedication. To this day,

members of MOLLUS meet at the memorial on February 12 and are joined by the Military District of Washington, the National Park Service, and often the President of the United States.

Area students –

The legacy of President Abraham Lincoln speaks volumes to us even today. Often ranked in numerous studies and surveys as our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln grew from simple beginnings to the man who held the Nation together at its greatest hour of need.

It is because so much can be learned in the study of Abraham Lincoln, we believe the educational opportunities have never been greater than now as we honor what would have been his 200th birthday. It is because of this belief, we have assembled this collection of helps, lesson plans, and recommended books, compiled by the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, to assist you in educating area students.

To add some fun and excitement to this learning opportunity, we have created a poster and essay contest open to all Grand Rapids Public School students.

A Community Partnership –

The Michigan Commandery encourages adoption of this opportunity, not only because of the educational value to the students but for the positive reflection such a partnership will present to the community.