

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United States Mint to release new Indiana Penny honoring President Lincoln's Indiana Boyhood Home

New coin goes into circulation May 14 during event at Lincoln State Park

LINCOLN CITY, Ind. – A new one cent coin (penny) depicting Abraham Lincoln during his youth in Indiana will be introduced at 10 a.m. CDT (11 a.m. EDT), May 14 at the Lincoln Amphitheatre, near the homestead where Lincoln grew up.

The new Indiana penny, designed by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Charles Vickers, depicts a young Lincoln educating himself while working as a rail splitter in Indiana. The scene offers a fitting memorial to Lincoln's youth in Indiana and to the former president's love of books and belief in the value of education.

The design, which is on the "tails side" of the penny, is among four that will be released this year as part of a national celebration of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth and 100th anniversary of the Lincoln penny. Each of the new designs represents a period of Lincoln's life. The first design was released in February in Kentucky, where Lincoln was born.

Abraham Lincoln and his family moved to Indiana in 1816, when Lincoln was 7. He lived in Southern Indiana until he was 21. "We reached our new home about the time the State came into the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up," the former president wrote about his Indiana childhood home.

During the May 14 ceremony hundreds of shiny, new one-cent coins will be distributed to children ages 18 and under in attendance. Rolls of never-circulated pennies featuring the new design will be exchanged after the ceremony (for dollar bills only). Visitors may purchase a minimum of two rolls or a maximum of six rolls, with the maximum roll limit subject to change.

The penny unveiling is just one of the celebrations taking place at Lincoln State Park this year. Among the most anticipated events is the June 12 world premiere of LINCOLN, which will be performed in the 1,500-seat Lincoln Amphitheatre. The live, multimedia performance provides insight into the life of the man whose legacy continues to inspire Americans. Tickets for the premiere and the summer shows will be on sale during the penny release, and also are available online at www.lincolnamphitheatre.com. In addition, on June 12, a public dedication event for the new Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza will take place near the entrance of Lincoln State Park.

About the Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

The Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission was formed in 2006, by the Indiana General Assembly, to commemorate America's greatest president and showcase his Hoosier roots. To learn more about Indiana's Lincoln sites and statewide bicentennial efforts, visit www.IndianasLincoln.org.

About the 2009 Lincoln Bicentennial One Cent Program

The United States Mint is introducing four redesigns of the penny, symbolic of different periods in Lincoln's life: his birth and early years in Kentucky; his formative years in Indiana; his professional life in Illinois; and his presidency in Washington, D.C.

The obverse (heads) of the redesigned Lincoln penny will continue to bear sculptor Victor David Brenner's likeness of President Lincoln, introduced in 1909. Inscriptions on the obverse are IN GOD WE TRUST, LIBERTY and 2009.

The United States Mint also will issue numismatic versions of the four redesigned pennies with exactly the same metallic content as the 1909 coin (95 percent copper, five percent tin and zinc). These coins will be minted in proof and uncirculated condition, and will be included in the United States Mint's annual product offerings.

The Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-145) authorized the United States Mint to issue four different pennies throughout 2009 to recognize the bicentennial anniversary of President Lincoln's birth and the 100th anniversary of the production of the Lincoln penny.

The coins are being issued in approximately three-month intervals. At the conclusion of the 2009 Lincoln Bicentennial One-Cent Coin Program, the one-cent coin will feature a reverse design emblematic of President Lincoln's preservation of the United States of America.

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