



NEWS RELEASE

Everyone's invited to Indiana's Lincoln Bicentennial Birthday Bash *Hundreds of students, Commander of USS Abraham Lincoln to attend*

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 22, 2009) – On Feb. 12, 2009, Indiana will join the nation in acknowledging the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth – but, as the state of which Lincoln once said, "There I grew up," Indiana is planning a lot more than cake and a chorus of "Happy Birthday."

Starting at 10 a.m., the Indiana State House Rotunda and North and South Atriums will be fully dedicated to the celebration of America's 16th president, as organizations from across the state offer Lincoln-related exhibits and displays. During a noon program, Hoosier school children will be honored for their Lincoln-related creations, the Commander of the USS Abraham Lincoln will receive a special gift for his ship and crew, and Honest Abe – in the form of Lincoln presenter Dean Dorrel –will speak.

In addition, visitors will be able to learn about the many other Lincoln-related events, activities and sites in Indiana they can visit in the coming year as a part of the ongoing bicentennial celebration.

Lincoln acknowledged that the years he spent in what is now Spencer County, Indiana, from ages 7 to 21, were integral to his development as a man. Not only was it during those years that he learned to swing an axe and push a plow, but he also developed a love of learning and compassion for his fellow man.

During the celebration, Gov. Mitch Daniels will speak and also will present awards to 18 Indiana students who won contests by writing essays, developing PowerPoint presentations or designing stamps honoring Lincoln. A limited number of calendars featuring the students' art and highlighting significant dates from Lincoln's life will be available for free, and special music performances will be presented.

Also, Captain Patrick D. Hall, Commanding Officer of the USS Abraham Lincoln will be on hand to accept the gift of a special quilt created for the Indiana bicentennial celebration. The quilt, which Hall says will be hung in the aircraft carrier's wardroom, includes a depiction of Lincoln as well as reproductions of manuscripts of the Gettysburg Address and the Emancipation Proclamation, and images of three ships that served the Union during the Civil War.

Created by a group of Hoosier quilters known as "The Scrappers Bee," the hanging will join other Lincoln-related items on the ship that already has a replica of a rifle owned by Lincoln's family, a Civil War-era cannonball and an 1851 Colt Navy revolver.

WHAT: Indiana's Lincoln Bicentennial Birthday Bash
WHERE: Indiana State House, North Atrium, Rotunda and South Atrium
WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 12 – festivities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., EST; program at noon EST
COST: Free
INFO: www.IndianasLincoln.org

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Event Exhibitors

Col. Eli Lilly Civil War Museum
Faces of the Civil War exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society
Heritage Hills High School Choir
Indiana State Museum
Indiana Historical Bureau
Indiana Historical Society
Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Indiana Department of Education
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Indiana State Archives
Indiana Supreme Court
Lincoln Amphitheater
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
Lincoln Highway Association
Lincoln's Journey of Remembrance Flatboat Exhibit
Lincoln Legacy Group
Lincoln State Park and Col. Jones Home
Scraper's Bee quilt group, Indianapolis
Spencer County Underground Railroad Quilts
Spencer County Visitors Bureau

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