



**ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION**

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Dear

“The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. ... they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.”

Abraham Lincoln  
Proclamation of Thanksgiving, October 3, 1863

As we continue to plan Lincoln’s Bicentennial, we have much for which to be grateful. This year we launched our new Web site; held successful public programs in Chicago and Washington; solidified partnerships with many new and old friends; and witnessed state and local efforts develop and mature.

Our goal is a “Lincoln for everyone.” We want to reach all of America and even beyond. In his complexity and diversity, Lincoln speaks to all ages, ethnic and racial groups, as well as new Americans. We want to include Hispanics, African Americans and others forgotten or excluded in centennial and sesquicentennial commemorations. We want new U.S. citizens to understand Lincoln’s vision of freedom, democracy and equal opportunity. We want Lincoln’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday to capture the American imagination and be a catalyst for national cohesion.

That’s our goal, but we can’t do it without your help. When Congress created the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, it expected “the people”—individually and collectively through corporations and foundations—to fund a multi-year celebration worthy of our greatest president.

If we had the resources, there is so much we could do. Schools now devote little time to history and civics, but our youth must still understand what it means to be good citizens. Our plan for a National Teach-In would be a good start. We must “finish the work” on race and equality of opportunity. We plan Town Halls in a dozen cities to renew the dialogue. We want young artists to inspire us anew with music, poetry, sculpture, and film, just as the artists in 1909 and 1959 did.

The Bicentennial gives us a unique opportunity to make a difference in our national civic and cultural life. We cannot produce another Abraham Lincoln, but we can encourage people to take action so his legacy of freedom and democracy is strengthened and shared far and wide. He can be the common thread that again unites us as Americans.

Without your help, we will miss this opportunity. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to support the Bicentennial. A gift in any amount is greatly appreciated. All gifts will support education programs, signature cultural events, and preserve Lincoln historic sites around the nation. Remembering Lincoln this Thanksgiving will allow us to carry forward his vision of an America “with one heart and one voice.”

To make a secure online donation, please go to: [www.abrahamlincoln200.org](http://www.abrahamlincoln200.org) and click “Donate.”

We thank you for your continued support and wish you “the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies.”

Sincerely,

Eileen Mackevich  
Executive Director

*“...a new birth of freedom...”*