

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1819

A RESOLUTION commemorating the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth.

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky, to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, in a one-room log cabin, making him the first president born outside the original Thirteen Colonies; in 1816, the Lincoln family was forced to move due to economic hardship to Perry County, Indiana, where his mother died when he was nine years old; in 1830, after more economic difficulties, the family settled on public land in Macon County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln began his political career in 1832, at age 23, with an unsuccessful campaign for the Illinois House of Representatives, as a member of the Whig Party; in 1834, he won election to the Illinois House, where he served four consecutive terms and was admitted to the bar in 1836; two years later, he made his first protest against slavery, stating that the institution was "founded on both injustice and bad policy." On November 4, 1842, Lincoln married Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois, and they had four sons, only one of which, Robert Todd Lincoln, survived into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, In 1846, Lincoln was elected to one term in the U.S. House of Representatives after which he returned to Springfield to resume his law practice, which involved extensive travel on horseback from county to county. As a lawyer, he earned the nickname "Honest Abe" because he refused cases he could not conscientiously defend. Opposed to the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act, Lincoln's re-entry into public life came when he gave a speech to a crowd in Peoria, Illinois, outlining his moral, political and economic arguments against slavery that he would continue to uphold throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, In the 1856 election, Lincoln was instrumental in forming the new Republican Party and, in 1858, he accepted the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate and delivered his famous speech, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." His opponent was Illinois Democrat Stephen A. Douglas and the campaign featured the Lincoln-Douglas debates; while Lincoln lost the election, his speeches in these debates transformed him into a national political figure; and

WHEREAS, In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was nominated as the Republican Party's candidate for President and on November 6, 1860, he defeated his rival Douglas, among others, and was elected 16th President of the United States and the first President elected from Illinois. On February 22, 1861, President-elect Lincoln, visiting Independence Hall in Philadelphia en route to his inauguration, raised a new American flag containing 34 stars after the admission of Kansas as the 34th state less than one month before, on January 29, 1861; and

WHEREAS, On December 20, 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union and was followed by ten other southern states; the eleven states declared themselves to be a new nation, the Confederate States of America. At Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861, a sizeable garrison of federal troops was present, ready to protect the capital from Confederate invasion; and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln's tenure in office was occupied primarily with the defeat of the Confederate States of America in the nation's Civil War and he closely supervised the war effort, especially the selection of top generals. He was also successful in uniting the factions of the Republican Party, bringing leaders of each faction into his cabinet and forcing them to cooperate. He introduced measures that resulted in the abolition of slavery, issuing his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and promoting the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which passed Congress before his death and was ratified by the states later in 1865; and

WHEREAS, The Battle of Gettysburg was a Union victory, it was also the bloodiest battle of the Civil War causing massive casualties to the Union Army. On November 19, 1863, at Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Lincoln delivered brief remarks not only to dedicate the grounds of the cemetery, but also to consecrate the living in the struggle "that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth;" and

WHEREAS, In 1864, the National Union Convention nominated Lincoln for President and Andrew Johnson, a Democrat from Tennessee, for Vice President in order to broaden the war coalition. They ran on the Union Party ticket, uniting Republicans and pro-Union Democrats, and easily won the 1864 election in a landslide. In his second inaugural address on March 4, 1864, President Lincoln said, "Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away;" and

WHEREAS, On April 9, 1865, after four years of Civil War, an estimated 630,000 deaths and over 1 million casualties, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant, in the town of Appomattox Court House, Virginia. President Lincoln gave instructions to "Let them down easy;" and

WHEREAS, On April 14, 1865, while attending the play *Our American Cousin* at Washington's Ford Theater, President Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth and never regained consciousness. He died on April 15, 1865. At Lincoln's death, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton remarked, "Now he belongs to the ages. There lies the most perfect ruler of men the world has ever seen." Lincoln was the first President to be assassinated or to lie in state and his body was carried by train in a grand funeral procession through several states on its way home to Illinois, which later adopted as its state nickname *Land of Lincoln*; and

WHEREAS, Historians have ranked Abraham Lincoln one of the greatest Presidents in our nation's history. Inscribed on the Lincoln Memorial are the words: "In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever." Beneath these words, the 16th President—the Great Emancipator and preserver of the nation during its greatest crisis—sits immortalized in marble: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we commemorate February 12, 2009, as the bicentennial of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Lincoln Illinois Bicentennial Commission c/o the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, 112 North Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

Senate Resolution No. 1819 was sponsored by Senators Hensley, Abrams, Apple, Barnett, Brownlee, Bruce, Brungardt, Colyer, Donovan, Emler, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley, Holland, Huelskamp, Kelly, Kelsey, Kultala, Lee, Lynn, Marshall, Masterson, McGinn, Morris, Ostmeyer, Owens, Petersen, Pilcher-Cook, Pyle, Reitz, D. Schmidt, V. Schmidt, Schodorf, Steineger, Taddiken, Teichman, Umbarger, Vratil, Wagle and Wysong.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*