

LINCOLN BIRTHDAY BICENTENNIAL

The year 2009 marks the 200th birthday of our nation's 16th president. Abraham Lincoln has long been revered as a man who fought for freedom, equality and the preservation of the Union. Lincoln dedicated himself and his administration to the nation's unfinished work of healing the deep wounds caused by slavery, violence and secession.

Perhaps his most celebrated achievement is the Emancipation Proclamation, an endeavor he firmly believed was the proper course of action for a nation built upon the self-evident truths of equality and the right to liberty espoused by the Declaration of Independence. Lincoln also fought for passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution to guarantee that these ideals would be employed to provide a permanent end to slavery. And when the tenets embodied in these pursuits led the South to wage a Civil War, Lincoln fought to ensure that our nation would remain a unified bastion of hope and freedom for future generations.

As we celebrate the Lincoln Bicentennial, we honor Lincoln's special connection to Illinois, a state he loved. We are committed to sharing the history, beliefs and vision of Abraham Lincoln, and continuing the legacy of a man who brought tremendous positive change to our state and nation. It is our challenge to sustain those principles and values in our ongoing search for freedom, equality and opportunity.

