

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission
Virginia General Assembly**

Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III, Chairman, and the Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, Vice Chairwoman, of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, today announced that the Commission and its Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Subcommittee will meet and visit historic sites in Lincoln, Virginia on Friday, July 31, 2009. Lincoln, Virginia is the second place in the nation that was named in honor of President Abraham Lincoln during his lifetime.

"In 1861, residents of the village of Goose Creek settled by Quakers and notable for their active role in abolitionism and the Underground Railroad, sought their own post office to avoid having to travel through unfriendly territory to pick up their mail two miles away in Purcellville. President Lincoln, a former postmaster in Salem, Illinois, granted their request. The residents changed the name of the village to Lincoln in honor of the 16th President and purposed to live up to his legacy of freedom and equality."

The commemoration of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial in Virginia is being led by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission's *Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Subcommittee*, which is chaired by Dr. Robert C. Vaughan, III, President of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, and a member of the Commission. Other Subcommittee members include current and former members of the King Commission, eminent historians and Lincoln scholars, and representatives of the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, the Lincoln Society of Virginia, Department of Education, public schools, institutions of higher education, business and industry, local elected officials, and other interested persons.

The Commission and Lincoln Bicentennial Subcommittee will convene at the Goose Creek Meeting House, 18204 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, VA, prior to visiting various historical sites related to the history of the village and its connection to Abraham Lincoln. Other commemorative site visits have been planned, including the Lincoln Family Homestead in Rockingham County and retracing Lincoln's visits to Richmond and Petersburg.

For further information concerning this meeting and the Commission's other Lincoln Bicentennial activities in Virginia, please contact Mrs. Brenda H. Edwards, Division of Legislative Services, at (804) 786-3591 or by email at bedwards@dls.virginia.gov.

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