

Daily News-Record

February 7, 2009

Bridgewater College's Stone To Host Lincoln Day Events Nation's 16th President's 200th Birthday Thursday

JENNY JONES, Daily News-Record

HARRISONBURG - Bridgewater College President Phillip Stone will commemorate Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday with two presentations titled "Lincoln, Obama and the Presidency" on Thursday. Stone, founder of The Lincoln Society of Virginia and member of the board of advisers for The Lincoln Forum, will give his first presentation at 11:15 a.m. in the auditorium of Eastern Mennonite High School.

During that presentation, Stone will discuss the accomplishments of Lincoln as an "emancipator, savior of the Union [and] builder of national citizenship" and discuss how Lincoln's integrity was essential to his success.

Then, at 2 p.m., Stone will host the 34th Annual Lincoln Day Ceremony at the Lincoln Cemetery, located on U.S. 42 six miles north of Harrisonburg. The ceremony is part of the official program to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Both events Thursday are free, open to the public and will be held rain or shine.

A Lincoln scholar, Stone will also discuss how Obama's frequent references to Lincoln are bringing the legacy of the 16th president to the fore. In addition, he'll talk about Lincoln's potential influence on the Obama presidency.

"Lincoln and Obama are providing each other a helping hand," said Stone in a statement. "Citing Lincoln as a role model and attempting to develop the same personal attributes will certainly make President Obama a stronger president."

And Obama's "strong endorsement of Lincoln as a personal hero helps restore Lincoln's image among those who have lost regard for him because of revisionist history or political correctness. They make a good team," Stone said.

Contact Jenny Jones at 574-6286 or jjones@dnronline.com