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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 the Commission's commemoration of the **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial** commencing with the Annual Lincoln Cemetery Ceremony held by the Lincoln Society of Virginia at the Lincoln Homestead in Rockingham County.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Anniversary Subcommittee 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 Commission, eminent historians and Lincoln scholars, 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, institutions of higher education, business and industry, and local elected officials, and other interested persons.

The Lincoln Society of Virginia was founded in 2004 to commemorate and disseminate information about Lincoln Family connections in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, to acquire, protect, and preserve Lincoln landmarks in the Shenandoah Valley, including the Lincoln Homestead residence and the Lincoln Cemetery in Rockingham County, and to support efforts to interpret Abraham Lincoln, his life, work, and legacy, particularly in Virginia. The Lincoln Society of Virginia promotes research and provides information and educational programs about President Abraham Lincoln, including his life, work, significance in American history, lessons to be learned from his life, and special focus on his connections with Rockingham County, Virginia. This year, in collaboration with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, the Society's annual Lincoln Day Ceremony at the Lincoln Homestead Cemetery will initiate the commemorative period for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln in Virginia. Together with historians, educators, historical societies, and many other interested parties, the Lincoln Society of Virginia and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, will embark upon various educational and cultural programs and activities during the commemorative period to join with the nation in observing the Bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln, which will culminate in a national observance of this singular event on February 12, 2009.

The public is encouraged to participate in the Annual Lincoln Day Ceremony which will be held on February 12, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., at the Lincoln Homestead Cemetery (rain or shine). The keynote speaker for this occasion is Dr. Phillip Stone, President of Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia. Persons desiring further information concerning the Ceremony should contact Dr. Phillip Stone at (540) 828-5620. The directions to the Homestead are as follows.

Lincoln Homestead and Lincoln Cemetery

From Interstate 81 from the north:

Take exit 264 (New Market) . Go West on Rt. 211 . Go approx. 5 miles to the stoplight in Timberville and turn left (Rt 42/Main Street converts into Timber Way). Go approx. 1 1/2 miles and turn right onto Lee Street at the stoplight at the Ford Motor Co. Go to the next light and turn left onto Rt. 42 (Main Street, Broadway). Continue on Rt. 42 through Broadway and travel 3 miles. The Lincoln Homestead/Cemetery is on the left (lime colored house).

From Richmond, Charlottesville and points south on I-81) and From Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, VA)

Take Dinkel Avenue West, turn right onto Main Street (Rt. 42). Continue North through Harrisonburg on Rt. 42 (also called John Wayland Hwy., High Street, Virginia Avenue, Harpine Hwy.) The Lincoln Homestead/Cemetery is approx. 6 miles north of Harrisonburg on the right side of Harpine Hwy. (lime colored house).

Traveling Rt. 33 (from the East - Charlottesville, Richmond)

Enter Harrisonburg on Rt. 33 (East Market Street), continue to downtown. Turn right onto North Main Street (will be facing the Court House at the stoplight) and get in the far left lane. Take an immediate left and follow around the Court House. Take a right onto West Market Street, go two blocks to the intersection with Rt. 42 (High Street/Virginia Avenue). Turn right onto Rt.42 North. Continue on Rt. 42 (converts into Harpine Hwy.) for approx. 8 miles. The Lincoln Homestead/Cemetery is on the right (lime colored house).