

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

***Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln***

August 20, 2009

**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, as a part of the national commemoration of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial in Virginia, the Commission and its Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Subcommittee will meet at Bridgewater College and visit the Lincoln Homestead and Cemetery, Long's Chapel, and other historic sites in Rockingham County on Friday, August 28, 2009.

Abraham Lincoln has deep roots in Virginia. His great-grandparents, grandparents, and father lived in Virginia; his grandparents met, married, and lived for a time in the Shenandoah Valley; his great-grandparents and multiple relatives are buried in the cemetery at the Lincoln Family Homestead in Rockingham County. Today, many Lincoln descendants continue to live in the Shenandoah Valley. During the Civil War, some of Lincoln's family owned slaves and were Confederates. As President, he visited several Virginia localities, including Petersburg and Richmond, the Confederate capital, in April 1865, just days prior to his death. A central figure in American history, Abraham Lincoln is also inextricably tied to the Commonwealth.

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, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, and a member of the Commission. Other Bicentennial 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 in the Kline Campus Center at Bridgewater College, 402 East College Street, Bridgewater, VA, prior to visiting various historical sites related to President Abraham Lincoln and his family in Virginia. Other commemorative site visits include retracing Lincoln's visits to Richmond and Petersburg. Persons planning to attend the meeting at Bridgewater College should travel I-64 west to I-81, take exit 240 from I-81 and drive west about two miles on Frieden's Church Road (Rt. 257), which becomes Dinkel Avenue approaching the College. Members of the public and press attending the meeting must provide their own lunch and transportation.

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](mailto:bedwards@dls.virginia.gov).