



## Virginia Celebrates the Sesquicentennial, 1863-2013

*In 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation to free slaves in ten rebelling Confederate states. Just two years later, he pushed for the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which successfully freed all slaves in America. The Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation is a series of commemorative events designed to educate citizens and raise awareness of racial equality.*

*According to historians, in 1620, a Dutch man-of-war ship "landed 20 negroes for sale, which were the first of that kind that were carried into the country." The slave trade, which continued unabated for almost 400 years, was brutal and denigrating. It ultimately uprooted more than 12 million Africans from their homeland and scattered them to the far reaches of the Western Hemisphere.*

*January 1, 2013 marked the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. In Virginia, 2013 launched a three-year-long, statewide celebration to commemorate this historic event.*

POWER ON: OUT OF BONDAGE...INTO FREEDOM  
**EMANCIPATION  
PROCLAMATION**  
SESQUICENTENNIAL 1863-2013  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission  
Virginia General Assembly

### More information

[www.mlcommission.dls.virginia.gov](http://www.mlcommission.dls.virginia.gov)

### Questions

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Richmond, Virginia

Design by the Virginia Department of General Services,  
Office of Graphic Communications



# EMANCIPATION *Proclamation*

IN VIRGINIA



**Celebrate the Beginning  
of the End of Slavery  
150 Years Ago.**

**Sponsor a  
Commemorative Event  
Today.**



### Commission Continues the Work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission**  
www.mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov

Established by the 1992 Virginia General Assembly and elevated to a permanent bipartisan legislative commission in 1997.

Mission: to continue Dr. King’s work, perpetuate his legacy, and educate citizens regarding the totality of his life

**Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Subcommittee**  
www.mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov/lincoln

Established in 2009 by the MLK Commission.

Mission: to celebrate President Lincoln’s birthday and to highlight the commonality between Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Together, the commission and subcommittee work to ensure that King’s famous dream of a “Beloved Community” becomes a reality in Virginia. The Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation is their largest joint project, focusing attention to one of the most important documents in United States’ history.

# Out of Bondage . . . *into Freedom*

### Sponsors Help Fund the Emancipation Proclamation Events

Between 2013 and 2015, the Commission has planned a number of special events, programs and activities designed to increase public awareness and educate students about the importance of the Emancipation Proclamation. Many private foundations, businesses and organizations have already pledged their support. Gift opportunities are available at friend, patron, backer, contributor, partner, sponsor and benefactor levels.\*

#### Main events

- April 2013 Concert with the Richmond Symphony
- Spring-Fall 2013 Public forums on “Slavery and Preservation of Slave Burial Grounds”
- June 29, 2013 - “Revolutions: Songs of Social Change, 1860-65 and 1960-65”  
January 5, 2014 Virginia Historical Society
- September 2013 Unveiling of plaques of African American legislators from Reconstruction – State Capitol
- April 2014 Dramatic reading at the Emancipation Oak Tree – Hampton University
- September 2015 Emancipation Proclamation exhibit – Library of Virginia
- October 2015 Period ball dance

#### Donation request

Gifts of all levels are accepted  
Sponsorship of specific event or general donation

#### Donor benefits (based on donation amount)

- Acknowledgement at event and on website
- Tax deduction
- VIP seating at events
- Free tickets to events
- Autographed programs
- Invitation to receptions before and after events
- Keepsake poster, CD, bookmark and other souvenirs

\*See website for more details:  
www.mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov



### Pledge Your Support

Please complete and mail this form, along with a check made out to “Treasurer of Virginia, MLK Special Fund” to:

Ms. Caryl S. Harris  
Fiscal Officer  
Division of Legislative Services  
General Assembly Building, 2nd Floor  
201 North Ninth Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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General donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Event sponsorship donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_

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