

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

Commemorating the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial

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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 as a part of the national commemoration of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial in Virginia, the King Commission and its Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Subcommittee led by Dr. Robert C. Vaughan, III, President of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, and the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, will sponsor a two-day *Lincoln Symposium: Lincoln in Virginia*, beginning on Thursday, July 15, 2010, at the State Capitol in Richmond, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The lecture will be preceded by an invitation only reception in the Rotunda from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. On Friday, July 16, 2010, the Commission, the Subcommittee, and invited guests will tour the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, "the nation's first museum to interpret the Civil War from Union, Confederate, and African American perspectives".

The guest lecturer for the Symposium, Dr. Edna Greene Medford, a native of Virginia and Lincoln scholar, is associate professor of history at Howard University and Director of History for New York's African Burial Ground Project. She is also an accomplished author and serves as a member of the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission's Advisory Council, the Scholars' Advisory panel for the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and the Education Committee of the Education Center at Mount Vernon Plantation. She has appeared on the History Channel's "Civil War Journal," and is a frequent guest on C-SPAN.

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 inextricably tied to the Commonwealth.

The Symposium, the only planned state recognition of the national Lincoln Bicentennial in the Commonwealth, will explore Lincoln as an effective, skilled, and visionary leader, and probe the relevance of his presidency to contemporary sociopolitical issues, as well as the legacy of the Emancipation Proclamation for the State and the nation. Designed to educate citizens concerning Lincoln's deep Virginia roots and highlight the need to preserve the Lincoln Homestead in the Shenandoah Valley, which dates back to the 1700s, the Symposium will also commence the Commission's observance of the Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation.

For further information concerning the Symposium and other Commission projects and activities, please contact Mrs. Brenda H. Edwards, Division of Legislative Services, at (804) 786-3591 or by email at bedwards@dls.virginia.gov.