



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**“To this place, and the kindness of these people,  
I owe everything”**

***“Springfield’s Farewell to Lincoln” to be staged February 11 as  
one of the key performances of the Lincoln Bicentennial***

*SPRINGFIELD* – “To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything.” People of all ages are invited to see what Lincoln meant during a free family performance of the one-of-a-kind program “Springfield’s Farewell to Lincoln” being offered Wednesday, February 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in downtown Springfield.

The performance is one of the signature events of the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and takes place just one day before Lincoln’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Twenty local actors portraying historical figures will set the stage for Lincoln’s February 11, 1861 speech by recollecting and re-enacting important moments that occurred during the months leading up to the farewell address. The actors will work from several stages and levels, and special lighting will be used to distinguish scene changes on the minimalistic sets. A large screen displaying historic images and photographs will help further illustrate what is happening. Participants in the production also include the 10th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Band, the 114<sup>th</sup> Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry Reactivated and the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry U.S. Colored Troops.

As many as 2,800 fifth graders from Sangamon County Schools, both public and private, have been invited to attend, with plenty of free seating available for people of all ages, particularly families. A committee of teachers, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Education Department, and Lincoln Home National Historic Site staff have completed curriculum which has been made available to all of the fifth grade teachers in Sangamon County, and the production will reflect those materials.

The students attending will have learned several period songs that are part of the program and several will have created the banners that will be part of the scenery.

“Springfield’s Farewell to Lincoln” has been made possible by a grant from the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition is coordinating the production. Mac Warren is the Director and Tara McClellan McAndrew is the playwright. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is also providing technical assistance.

The Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission is working closely with numerous organizations, tourism agencies and institutions in 2008 and 2009 to organize events and programming for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth. The commission is also partnering with local communities on their bicentennial plans. Visit [www.lincoln200.net](http://www.lincoln200.net).

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