
NEWS RELEASE

Louisiana
Department of State



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LINCOLN COMMISSION CELEBRATES 200TH BIRTHDAY WITH 'LINCOLN CHOSE LOUISIANA' PROGRAM

Secretary of State Jay Dardenne and the Louisiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission are announcing the celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday on Thursday, Feb. 12, with the "Lincoln Chose Louisiana" program. The events will begin on Wednesday, Feb. 4 and continue through Sunday, Feb. 15.

"Lincoln's unique relationship with Louisiana is that he chose this state to be the first to re-enter the Union and to function as a model for all other Southern states in the implementation of his non-vengeful vision of Reconstruction," David Madden, chair of the commission, said.

The primary mission of the festivities is to tell the story of Lincoln's plan for Louisiana and to facilitate celebrations throughout 2009 through music, exhibits, poetry, plays, speeches and readings of poems by and about Lincoln.

The highlight of the festivities will take place on Lincoln's 200th birthday, Thursday, Feb. 12 on the steps of the State Capitol. Secretary of State Jay Dardenne will read Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address and the students participating in the Lincoln Penny Power campaign will be recognized. To view the full schedule of events, visit www.sos.louisiana.gov/lincoln.

The purpose, mission and goals of the Louisiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission match those of the national commission which are to provide information and to propose, advise and facilitate a wide range of commemorative activities throughout the bicentennial year of 2009. For more information about the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, call David Madden at 225.344.3630 or e-mail dmadden@lsu.edu. For more information about the national commission, visit www.abrahamlincoln200.org.

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