

Abraham “Honest Abe” Lincoln

1111 White House Road ♦ Washington, D.C.

STATESMAN, COMMANDER IN CHIEF & MILITARY STRATEGIST

Visionary leader and masterful politician, widely regarded as the greatest American president. Served as the sixteenth President of the United States, guiding the country through the Civil War, saving the Union and freeing slaves while in office.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President of the United States – Washington, D.C. – March 1861 to April 1865

- ♦ Served as the first Republican Party president and built the Republican Party into a powerful national organization.
- ♦ Defended and preserved the unity of the United States by defeating the secessionist Confederacy in the Civil War, and instituted a formal Reconstruction Plan to reunite the nation after the war.
- ♦ Supervised all aspects of the war effort and selected top generals (including Ulysses S. Grant) to lead military campaigns.
- ♦ Issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, freeing slaves within the Confederacy. Endorsed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery.
- ♦ Delivered the Gettysburg Address, the most famous oration in American history.
- ♦ Signed landmark legislation including the National Banking Act (establishing a national currency and supporting a national banking network), legislation that protected American industry and a bill that chartered the first transcontinental railroad.
- ♦ Supported the Federal Homestead Law (1862), which allowed poor people in the East to acquire land in the West.
- ♦ Won a landslide re-election in 1864.

Attorney at Law – Springfield, Illinois – 1836 to 1861

- ♦ Prepared cases for federal courts, the Illinois Supreme Court and the state’s Eighth Judicial Circuit. Admitted to practice in United States Circuit Court in 1839.
- ♦ Served a term as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- ♦ Joined the Republican Party in 1856 and gained national attention by challenging Stephen A. Douglas to a series of debates in 1858.

Early Career: Early political career highlights include a campaign for the Illinois General Assembly as a member of the Whig Party in 1832. Spent eight years in the Illinois legislature (1834-1842). Additional experience includes farm work, rail splitting, grocery store management, surveyor and village postmaster.

EDUCATION

Received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Princeton University.

– Licensed to practice law in 1836

Additional honorary degrees: Columbia (1861), Knox College (1860)

PATENT

Only U.S. President to own a patent, granted in 1849 for device to lift boats over shoals.

Abraham “Honest Abe” Lincoln

Page Two

VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteer and Elected Captain, Black Hawk War – Sangamon County Rifles, April – June 1832

PRESENTATIONS & FAMOUS QUOTES

Notable Presentations:

- ◆ The Lyceum Address – 1838
- ◆ The Cooper Union Address – 1860
- ◆ The Gettysburg Address – 1863
- ◆ House Divided Speech – 1858
- ◆ Second Inaugural Address – 1865

Famous Quotes:

Second Inaugural Address, 3/4/1865

“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds...”

Gettysburg Address, 11/19/1863

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Inaugural Address, 3/4/1861

“In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you... You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it.”

Dedicating the military cemetery at Gettysburg: *“...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain--that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom--and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”*

Address in Independence Hall, 2/22/1861

“I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence.”

Cooper Union Address, 2/27/1860

“Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.”