



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Governor's Press Office ♦ Room 308, Main Capitol Building ♦ Harrisburg, PA 17120
www.governor.state.pa.us ♦ 717-783-1116 (Phone) ♦ 717-772-8462 (Fax)

EDWARD G. RENDELL, Governor

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CONTACT:
Ana Gomez
717-783-1116

Jane Crawford, PHMC
717-783-9882

GOVERNOR RENDELL NAMES MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

HARRISBURG – Governor Edward G. Rendell today announced the members of the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC), which will plan and organize celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth and accomplishments of President Abraham Lincoln.

“On Pennsylvania soil, Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg address where he spoke of the basic principles of human equality and sought a new birth of freedom for the American people,” Governor Rendell said during the first meeting of the ALBC at the Governor’s Residence. “I am grateful that the citizens I have asked to serve on this commission have eagerly agreed to share their expertise and enthusiasm in creating fitting events to honor Abraham Lincoln and his legacy.”

Governor Rendell, who created the ALBC, has named Gordon Haaland, President Emeritus of Gettysburg College, chair of the commission and Katherine Haley Will, President of Gettysburg College, as vice-chair. In addition, the Governor named the following people to serve on the commission:

- David Atkinson, Economic Development Specialist for Sen. Gibson Armstrong;
- Gabor Boritt, Director of the Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College;
- V. Chapman-Smith, Regional Administrator, National Archives and Records Administration;
- Rep. Bill DeWeese, Pennsylvania House Majority Leader;
- Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
- Sen. Andrew Dinniman;
- Barbara Franco, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum

Commission;

- Philip Horn, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts;
- Robert Jubelirer, Attorney;
- Joseph H. Kelly, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Humanities Council;
- John Latschar, Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park;
- Andy Masich, President, Sen. John Heinz Regional History Center;
- Kevin McMahon, President, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust;
- John J. Meko, Jr., Executive Director, Lincoln Foundation- Union League of Philadelphia;
- David Myers, Chief of Staff, Bucknell University;
- Ivory Nelson, President, Lincoln University;
- Hon. Dennis M. O'Brien, Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- Matthew Pinsker, History Professor, Dickinson College;
- Kim Sajet, President, Historical Society of Pennsylvania;
- Sylvia Strobel, President, Pennsylvania Public Television Network;
- Lawrence Taylor, retired U.S. Diplomat
- Barry Wickes, President, Pennsylvania Tourism and Lodging Association;
- Dennis Yablonsky, Secretary, Department of Community and Economic Development; and
- Gerald Zahorchak, Secretary, Department of Education.

The Pennsylvania ALBC also will work with the national commission to coordinate events and mark the role that Pennsylvania played in the life of Abraham Lincoln. State historical, tourist and civic groups will join the bicentennial celebration.

The commission will be based at Gettysburg College and will receive support from the Office of the Governor, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and other agencies of state government. The commission will also work with members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and organizations that are interested in commemorating the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln, born in February of 1809 in Kentucky, made what is perhaps his most famous address in Gettysburg in 1863. His travels in Pennsylvania included visits to Erie, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia.

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The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his weekly newsletter, visit his Web site at: www.governor.state.pa.us.