

Executive Department

State of California

P R O C L A M A T I O N

The Congress of the United States, the Legislature of California, and the legislatures of 38 other states have established sesquicentennial commissions to commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary year of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12, 1809.

The Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission of the State of California, created by act of the 1959 Legislature, was directed to promote statewide programs for celebrating events as the anniversary year progressed. It is cooperating with other groups intent on inspiring national devotion to the Lincolnian principles which in his own words have made this nation "the last best hope on earth."

These principles of honesty, justice, and democracy are urgently needed today as a bulwark in the character of American citizens against the complex challenges of domestic and foreign problems. For Lincoln's struggle for human rights and liberty still continues, as it did when he wrote from his heart to dedicate, on that nineteenth day of November, four score and sixteen years ago, not just a cemetery at Gettysburg but himself and his people to the proposition that all men are created equal.

The great task he defined still remains before us. We must continue to seek for ourselves and our fellow humans that essence of equality which he defined as "an unfettered start, an equal chance in the race of life."

It is fitting that plans, exhibits, publications, celebrations and appropriate programs should emphasize the greatness and value of the life and character of Abraham Lincoln. His historical stature never stops growing.

As Governor of California, I, Edmund G. Brown, do proclaim and declare that the years 1959 and 1960 shall be a period of appropriate observance and celebration of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. I call upon and recommend to all community governments, all civic groups, all educational institutions, all service organizations, and all newspapers, radio and television channels to take such steps as they may deem appropriate to carry out the spirit and purpose of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 19th day of November, A. D., One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-nine.

Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California

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of the State of California

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ATTEST:

FRANK J. JORDAN, Secretary of State

James W. Jordan
Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State