

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE NEWS

A Newsletter for Members of
President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldiers' Home

Vol. 1

www.lincolncottage.org

Spring 2008

Dear Friends,

Just three months ago we celebrated the restoration of President Lincoln's Cottage and opened this national treasure to the public for the first time in history. I am delighted to report that since that February day, the response by the public has been tremendous.

I want to share a few statistics that tell the story of our first three months of operation:

- *Tours have been running at 83% of capacity, with nearly every weekend sold out*
- *We have welcomed visitors from all 50 states*
- *793 school children have participated in our programs*
- *95% of visitors respond that the experience was informative, enjoyable and provided new information (495 survey responses)*

I am very grateful to all of you who have become founding members of President Lincoln's Cottage. Your support enables our signature interpretive approach – offering an enriching experience to limited numbers for an intimate, in-depth look at Abraham Lincoln the man and president.

*With my sincere appreciation,
Frank D. Milligan, Ph.D.
Director*

President Lincoln's Cottage
AFRH-W Box 1315
3700 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Telephone: 202-829-0436
Fax: 202-829-0437
Lincoln_Cottage@nthp.org

Staff:

Frank D. Milligan, Ph.D.
Director
Erin Carlson Mast
Curator and Site Administrator
George Rogers
Director of Development
Jill Sanderson
Curator of Education
Alison Mitchell
Development Coordinator
Katie Derr
Administrative Assistant

Tours offered on the hour
Mon - Sat 10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm - 4:00pm

National Award Received!

The MUSE award is given annually by the American Association of Museums (AAM) to recognize outstanding achievement in museum media. President Lincoln's Cottage won the silver MUSE Award for Lincoln's Toughest Decisions, an interactive program that allows school groups and visitors to take on the roles of Lincoln's cabinet members and debate the ideals and implications of the Emancipation Proclamation.



The judges were particularly impressed with the way the program underscores the importance of primary source documents for students. Using touch screen technology, visitors use letters, newspaper clippings and diaries to help them decide how they, as a member of Lincoln's Cabinet, should advise Lincoln as he prepared to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. "This installation is a commendable example of technology that is not for technology's sake, but is instead used as an effective tool for encouraging personal experiences with history." - AAM Judges on Lincoln's Toughest Decisions



See page 3 for more photos of the Grand Opening Ceremony February 18, 2008

*For members of the
Lincoln Cabinet...*

The first
"Evening at President
Lincoln's Cottage"
will be held on

June 12, 2008

Lincoln Cabinet mem-
bers contribute \$1,000 or
more annually. To become
a member of the Lincoln
Cabinet please contact
George Rogers,
george_rogers@nthp.org

Premium Tours

Offered at 9:00am

Guests are greeted by
Director Frank Milligan,
given a guided tour, and a
private session with Curator
Erin Carlson Mast

\$300 for up to 10 people

To schedule a Premium
Tour please contact
Alison Mitchell
(202)829-0436 x31228

First Lady of Korea visits the Cottage

The White House wasn't the only presidential home Kim Yun-ok, First Lady of South Korea, visited during her four-day official visit to the United States with her husband, President Lee Myung-bak. On April 17th, the First Lady took a tour of President Lincoln's Cottage led by Director, Frank Milligan. After touring the Cottage Curator Erin Carlson Mast led the First Lady and her guests through the Special Exhibition



Gallery where they viewed a signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation as well as the pen President Lincoln used to sign it. After visiting this former presidential retreat, Kim Yun-ok and her husband accompanied President and Mrs. Bush to the First Family's current retreat, Camp David.

New \$5 Bill Unveiled at President Lincoln's Cottage



enhanced security features, including two new watermarks and an enhanced security thread. Officiating at the ceremony were Michael Lambert, Assistant Director, Division of Reserve Bank Operations and Payment Systems, Federal Reserve Board; Anna Escobedo Cabral, United States Treasurer; Michael Merritt, Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Investigations of the U.S. Secret Service; and Pamela Gardiner, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The first \$5 bill was spent in the Museum Store in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center.

The Treasury launched the newly re-designed \$5 bill at President Lincoln's Cottage on March 13, 2008. The new bill features a por-





Scenes from the
 President Lincoln's Cottage
**Grand Opening
 Ceremony**
February 18, 2008

From Our Visitors...

The following are excerpts from feedback we have received from our visitors

“One of the best tours I’ve been on in D.C. (or anywhere)!”

- Visitor from North Carolina

“I really felt a sense of place...When our tour guide played audio of visitors to the Cottage over 150 years ago, I felt like I was there with them.”

- visitor from Minnesota

“Overall this was a very interesting visit...already have told folks that it’s a ‘not miss’ in D.C.”

- visitor from South Carolina

“I have lived in this area for 21 years and must say that this is one of the best tours I have ever had in D.C.” - Washington D.C. resident

“President Lincoln’s Cottage was the highlight of our weekend in D.C.”

- visitor from Kentucky

“The fact that there was relatively little furniture in the rooms was a plus because it allowed us to concentrate on what Lincoln did there.” - North Dakota visitor

“It was a blend of simplicity and outstanding factual information given by an extremely engaging interpreter that all blended into a fascinating hour. I am bringing more people next week!”

- visitor from Virginia