

*A Lincoln*

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE  
AT THE SOLDIERS' HOME



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**For Immediate Release: May 28, 2013**

**Modern Slavery Exhibit at President Lincoln's Cottage Receives Leadership Award**  
*"Can You Walk Away?" nationally recognized for exhibit excellence.*

**Washington, D.C.** – “Can You Walk Away?,” a ground-breaking exhibit at President Lincoln’s Cottage examining modern slavery in the United States, was awarded the 2013 Leadership in History Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Video testimonials from survivors of human trafficking are the focal point of this exhibit, which opened to the public in early 2012 and will close on August 31<sup>st</sup>. President Lincoln’s Cottage produced “Can You Walk Away?” in partnership with Polaris Project, a leading non-profit organization working to end human trafficking. Visit <http://lincolncottage.org/canyouwalkaway.html> to learn more about the exhibit.

“President Lincoln drafted the Emancipation Proclamation 150 years ago while in residence at the Cottage, a major milestone on the road to abolishing slavery,” said Erin Carlson Mast, executive director of President Lincoln’s Cottage. “But the fight for freedom continues. “Can You Walk Away?” honors Lincoln’s legacy here by raising awareness of modern forms of slavery and providing avenues for positive action. Receiving this AASLH award of excellence affirms that powerful exhibits can help make a tangible difference in the world today.”

“We are thrilled to hear that President Lincoln’s Cottage has received the 2013 Leadership in History Award of Merit,” remarked Bradley Myles, executive director and CEO of Polaris Project. “The “Can You Walk Away?” exhibit reveals the reality of modern slavery and teaches audiences that slavery still exists in the U.S. and around the world, harming 20.9 million people worldwide. President Lincoln’s Cottage honors Lincoln’s ideas by applying them to modern day slavery, linking the present efforts to combat human trafficking to past struggles for freedom.”

President Lincoln’s Cottage will be presented with the award during the 2013 AASLH Annual Meeting in September. For more information, visit [www.lincolncottage.org](http://www.lincolncottage.org) or call 202-829-0436.

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Pictured: A visitor reading in the “Can You Walk Away?” exhibit. Credit: Howard + Reeves.

President Lincoln’s Cottage, the “Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation,” is located on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC. While living here for more than a quarter of his presidency, Abraham Lincoln bonded with soldiers and veterans, made crucial decisions about the Civil War, and, most notably, developed the Emancipation Proclamation his first summer in residence. His daily commute put him in regular contact with wounded soldiers and self-emancipated men, women, and children. Today, the site offers an intimate, never-before-seen view of Abraham Lincoln’s presidency and private life, and new perspectives on the influential ideas Lincoln developed while living here. Hours of operation: The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center is open 9:30am-4:30pm Monday-Saturday and 10:30am-4:30pm Sunday. Cottage tours on the hour, 7 days a week. For more information on President Lincoln’s Cottage, visit: [www.lincolncottage.org](http://www.lincolncottage.org) or call 202-829-0436.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America’s historic places. President Lincoln’s Cottage is a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit: [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org).

To report a tip in the United States or connect with U.S. anti-trafficking services, community members can call The National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at: 1-888-373-7888.

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