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## Public Recitation Commemorating the Gettysburg Address

*On November 19<sup>th</sup> 2013, in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, visitors are invited to recite Lincoln's most enduring words from the steps of President Lincoln's Cottage in NW Washington, DC.*

**Washington, D.C.** – Ten elegant sentences that have shaped our understanding of the nation's most divisive event will come to life on November 19<sup>th</sup> at President Lincoln's Cottage. In honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, the public is invited to come together for mass recitations of Lincoln's transformative speech from the steps of the veranda of President Lincoln's Cottage, the Lincoln family's seasonal residence in Washington, DC.

"Living at the Cottage brought Lincoln face to face with the consequences of war," says Erin Carlson Mast, Executive Director of President Lincoln's Cottage. "At the adjacent national cemetery he witnessed fresh burials of thousands of soldiers. On his commute to the White House he saw caravans of wounded soldiers. Noted scholar Matthew Pinsky wrote that 'Lincoln must have drawn on his solitary reflections at his wartime sanctuary' while 'he crafted the ten elegant sentences of his brief address that would culminate months of work at explaining the war's purpose.' On the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, we welcome visitors to his beloved home to give voice to his illustrious speech and to re-dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work."

Public recitations will take place at 10:45 am, 11:45 am, 12:45 pm, 1:45 pm, and 2:45 pm. Participation in this program is free of charge, and groups are welcome to participate. Recitations will occur on the veranda, located on the south side of President Lincoln's Cottage. Memorization is not required – the text of the speech will be provided. Confirmed guests include school groups, media personalities, veterans, and active duty members of the military. **Pre-registration is required; register at [www.lincolncottage.org/GettysburgAddress150](http://www.lincolncottage.org/GettysburgAddress150).**

For more information, visit [www.lincolncottage.org/GettysburgAddress150](http://www.lincolncottage.org/GettysburgAddress150) or call 202-829-0436.

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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 are 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).