

Lincoln Bicentennial Memorial Committee of Newburgh, NY

January 24, 2009

What: Dedication of Lincoln Bicentennial Memorial
When: 3:00 p.m., Saturday, February 7, 2009
Where: City Park at the intersection of Forsythe Place, Nichols Place and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in Newburgh, NY

(For Immediate Release)

Newburgh, NY – The **Lincoln Bicentennial Memorial Committee of Newburgh, NY** is proud to announce the unveiling and dedication of a new monument honoring the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s birth. The stone monument bears a 27” x 22” bronze plaque featuring a bas relief of Lincoln’s profile and the entire text of his Gettysburg Address.

The recent inauguration of Barack Obama as the first African American president stands as a powerful affirmation of the ideas expressed by President Lincoln in that historic declaration – none more so than the nation’s commitment to “a new birth of freedom” for all Americans.

The dedication ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the city park located at the intersection of Forsythe Place, Nichols Place and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in the City of Newburgh. It will be followed by a reception at the historic Karpeles Museum, located at 94 Broadway in Newburgh.

The Lincoln Bicentennial Memorial Committee of Newburgh was formed to purchase and acquire this special plaque from a private collector in Springfield, IL. The Committee then bequeathed the plaque and monument as gifts to the City of Newburgh.

The plaque was refurbished by Dick Polich of Polich Tallix, LLC. The granite stone upon which it is fixed was picked at the Clinton Point plant of New York Trap Rock and donated in memory of Raymond Hughes, a worker of four decades at the plant. Lincoln’s inaugural train in 1861 – and his funeral train in 1865 – passed within 100 feet of where this rock was found.

The Committee dedicates this public honor to the memory of **Mike Maione**, who served as editor at *The Sentinel* newspaper in New Windsor before becoming an historian at Ford’s Theater National Historic Site in Washington, DC. Mr. Maione was considered one of the country’s leading authorities on Lincoln and served on the Federal Bicentennial Committee before his death in 2003.

Other events on this special “Lincoln Day” in Newburgh will include a rare screening of D.W. Griffith’s *Abraham Lincoln* (1930), starring Walter Huston, at the Downing Film Center at 19 Front Street (www.downingfilmcenter.com).

Lincoln Bicentennial Memorial Committee of Newburgh, NY

Immediately preceding the outdoor monument ceremony, at 2:00 p.m., will be a special guest lecture at the Newburgh Free Library (124 Grand Street) by renowned Lincoln scholar **John Stauffer**, Professor of English and The History of American Civilization at Harvard University. Among the nation's leading voices on the Civil War era, Professor Stauffer is the author or editor of seven books and more than 45 articles, including *The Black Hearts of Men: Radical Abolitionists and the Transformation of Race* (2002), which won four major awards, including the Frederick Douglass Book Prize, the Avery Craven Book Award and the Lincoln Prize runner-up. He has appeared on national radio and television shows. Professor Stauffer's new book, *GIANTS: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln*, was published in November 2008 by TWELVE. Professor Stauffer will bring fresh perspective to the intersecting lives of President Lincoln and Mr. Douglass, two of America's leading self-made men. Professor Stauffer will also appear at a book signing at 7:00 p.m. on February 7 at the Barnes & Noble on Route 17K in Newburgh.

Of particular historical note is Frederick Douglass' speech in Newburgh in 1870 urging ratification of the 15th Amendment; the valiant role soldiers from Newburgh in the 124th New York Regiment (the "Orange Blossoms") played in securing Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863; and President's Lincoln February 12, 1909 centennial plaque still hanging in the AME Zion Church at 109 Washington Street in Newburgh (this plaque was dedicated in 1909 by the Patriotic League of Newburgh and also lists the names of the first black troops to sign up to fight in the Civil War from Newburgh).

For further information contact: Ed McCarthy at 845-401-4209.

The Lincoln Bicentennial Memorial Committee of Newburgh includes the following members: Ed McCarthy, Kevin Burke, Deputy Mayor Regina Angelo, Brian Denniston, Everett Smith, Pam Krizek, Father Bill Scafidi and Yaakov Sullivan.

Monument Consultant: Jack Saffioti of Giacomo Memorials, New Windsor, NY.