

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1255

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

April 27, 1953

MOST TIMELY EDITORIAL — FEBRUARY 12, 1953

The Lincoln Foundation advisory group has selected a contribution published in *The Miami Herald* as the most timely editorial appearing in American newspapers for February 12, 1953. The troubled times through which the nation is passing invited an unusually large number of discussions on the need of the Lincoln philosophy in our modern day. It is of special interest to note that the outstanding editorial for 1952 originated in Maine while the one this year was published in Florida. The 1953 Lincoln editorial is presented in full while excerpts from some of the other outstanding sentiments are also presented.

AN INSPIRATION FOR FREEMEN EVERYWHERE

This is Abraham Lincoln's birthday. It is one of the most significant anniversaries not only in the history of the United States but of human kind.

One-hundred-forty-four years ago today destiny was at work in the one-door, one-window, dirt-floor Kentucky log cabin that housed the birth of the immortal Abe.

Out of these primitive surroundings came the gaunt-faced, raw-boned man whose genius was safely to guide the country through the tempest of internal strife, forever to eradicate human bondage from the land in recognition and acceptance of the worth and dignity of all men.

The story of Lincoln has been told often and at length. Its interest does not lessen through the years.

In fact, in the last year there has been a great outpouring of scholarly studies of this immortal.

He is the humanitarian symbol to freemen everywhere. He is the embodiment of the principle that a democracy can think and that there is a rightmindedness in the common people out of whom is woven the fabric of America.

Lincoln came to the head of this government at a time of great stress.

He was the stabilizing influence in a period of national flux which threatened the permanence of this "new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

It is to no present-day purpose to assess Lincoln's greatness against the causes that led to the War Between the States.

The American people are not internally embroiled today. We do, however, face a menacing world turbulence. It has put us to the test as a people, against an ideology of totalitarianism that would destroy us.

Lincolns are not the commonplace of any time or people. They are the great and rare lights in man's quest for human decency in democracy.

Lincoln was raised up not just for his time but as an enduring inspiration for all of us to live and work for the heritage of our Fathers—the right to govern ourselves.

His homely virtues, his courage, his abiding faith in the right and his determination to follow it—if adhered to by our government heads and practiced by all of us in our daily living—are the basic and essential guarantees that "government of, by and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Excerpts from Other Feb. 12 Editorials

He was the type of man who could act wisely in any kind of an emergency.—*Sioux City Journal*.

He was driven by a tremendous urge to do the right thing at the right time.—*Rochester Democrat*.

Today, Lincoln is the symbol, not only of democracy, but of the human spirit uncorrupted.—*Salt Lake City Tribune*.

He symbolizes so many of the old-fashioned virtues that have been flouted in our time.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*.

Lincoln dedicated himself—in fact, he gave his life—to proving that the Union is inviolate.—*Detroit Free Press*.

His philosophy may have been lofty in its ideals, but there was commonsense practicality in its application.—*San Francisco News*.

Lincoln's greatness and inspiration have passed from the finite physical to the infinite spiritual.—*Miami Daily News*.

His firmness came from a quiet, spiritual strength, never from an inflated pride or a reckless energy.—*Dayton Daily News*.

Simplicity, therefore, personified Lincoln the man and Lincoln the president. . . . Simplicity was his pattern and his glory.—*Chicago Sun Times*.

He has become to later generations a kind of symbol of creation—the first great American the very pattern of Americanism.—*Detroit News*.

The people of the world, too, have come to acknowledge him as the one American who embodied in his life human qualities of universal appeal.—*Hartford Courant*.

There is, indeed, something about the dignity of this simplicity that characterizes his life and work and that lends itself to classic design.—*Lexington (Ky.) Herald*.

Lincoln is the enduring hero of America though segments of the population may occasionally go for a movie star, a gangster or a demagogue politician.—*Wichita Eagle*.

He did insist upon a high degree of morality both in private and political life, and was himself a sterling example of the integrity which he advocated.—*Miami Daily Argus*.

The stalwart idealism which Abraham Lincoln expressed by action and conduct as well as word inspired men and saved the nation at a time of supreme ordeal.—*Indianapolis News*.

Lincoln, no matter how many the years that separated him from this day and the days to come, was a man with the inherent greatness of mind and humanity to meet the problems.—*Denver Post*.

Lincoln had a sense of destiny, not only for himself but for his country. We are moved to hope that we are recapturing that sense of destiny in our present generation.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*.

He was the supreme example of what a human body and spirit drawn at random from the mass could endure on the anvil of fate; and by him is democracy justified.—*Portland Evening Express*.

Now the Lincoln spirit walks again in our land, the spirit of looking ahead, of correcting errors where they are shown, of adopting new views as they appear to be true views.—*Grand Rapids Herald*.