A Country Divided
By Ranger Richard Ayad

“I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington…. “

Portending the future, it was on that note that Abraham Lincoln departed Springfield, Illinois on Monday, February 11, 1861 for his inauguration in Washington, DC. Seven hundred miles to the south, Jefferson Davis left his Mississippi home for Montgomery, Alabama to become President of the Confederate States of America. Seven states already had seceded before Lincoln’s inauguration, while others debated joining the revolt. The argument over slavery, that “peculiar institution,” its politics, its economics, and its morality, issues that had baffled the nation since its inception, finally boiled over.

Just sixty-five years earlier, George Washington had reminded Americans that unity was the pillar of their independence and vital to their future security and stability. Now, a morass of political parties, old fears, suspicions, and long-standing sectional differences yielded Lincoln victory, but with just forty percent of the popular vote. The Democrats were split over the means of expanding slavery into new territories. Among the members of Lincoln's Republican Party were “Radicals,” who thought abolition of slavery paramount regardless of the consequences, and others who simply opposed expansion of slavery into the territories. These differences and more were exacerbated by the widely held belief, North and South, that blacks were inferior.

Following his March 4, 1861 inauguration, Lincoln felt the full weight of the “task” he had referenced in Springfield. Fort Sumter, near Charleston, South Carolina, one of the few southern forts still in Union control, was surrounded by Confederates and short on supplies. Lincoln, in his inaugural address, reiterated his oath to “preserve, protect, and defend” the government, but that government would not fire the first shot. On April 12, 1861, Confederates attacked Fort Sumter and the President called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion.

Soon, civil war exploded in battles never imagined, spilling the blood of Northerners and Southerners, friends and foes alike, on the fields and waterways of America. Four years later, Lincoln won reelection by 400,000 votes. Although Lincoln's victory was cut short by his assassination, the country was made whole again.

For more information, look for numerous Lincoln titles at the Eastern National Bookstore at the Lincoln Memorial.

Lincoln’s First Inauguration - March 4, 1861

Union troops on the grounds of the unfinished Washington Monument

Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks!

March is a great time to experience your national park! Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park from bike tours and evening walking tours to shorter detailed programs of each memorial.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival begins March 28 and features a wide variety of ranger programs that highlight the cherry trees.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website (www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan) to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and Memorial Parks!
Birds, Bugs and Trees, OH MY!

Discover the wild side of the National Mall with nature packs designed to engage the entire family. Each pack is filled with a sketch pad, binoculars, books, park brochures, maps and activities for the whole family. These self-guided nature packs allow the whole family to put on their Eagle eyes and explore the unbe-leaf-able sights and sounds behind these famous flowering Japanese cherry trees.

Packs are available at the Survey Lodge Ranger Station near the southwest corner of the Washington Monument grounds. Packs are available on a first come, first served basis and require an adult's drivers license. One pack per family. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.

Ranger Led Bike Tours

Join National Park Service rangers every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. for FREE guided bike tours of the Nation's Capital. (Family Tours are given on the third Sunday of the month from 2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.)

Tour season begins Saturday, March 28 and continues through Sunday, November 29, 2009. Please bring your own bike, helmet (required), and water.

For more information call Bike Program Coordinator, Ranger Jason Martz at 202-438-4391 or check our website: www.nps.gov/mall

Saturday, March 28 – History of the Mall - Explore the History of America's Front Yard

The history of the National Mall is as diverse and fascinating as the history of our nation itself. From George Washington's vision of the Federal City to the District of Columbia of today, how has this span of green space in the heart of the Nation's Capital been altered over time? How has this area been influenced by great natural, cultural, historical, and social events through time? Come see and hear how the National Mall has evolved into what you experience today.

Sunday, March 29 – Unexplored Tales of the City – History of the Cherry Trees

Have you ever wondered about the history behind the Japanese cherry trees on the National Mall? Are you curious about their arrival in Washington, DC, the different species found along the National Mall, or how to identify a cherry tree from the similar-looking crab-apple tree? Then join National Park rangers for a bike tour around the National Mall to explore the history and science behind these famous flowering Japanese cherry trees.

Potomac Nature Packs

Daily Ranger Programs

Join National Park Service rangers to learn more about the meaning, symbolism, and significance of the park’s many memorials. No prior sign up is required and all programs are free. Program length varies. For more information contact a park ranger at each memorial. Programs are offered at the following memorials:

- World War II Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Scheduled Programs are presented at:

11:00 A.M., 1:00 P.M., 3:00 P.M., 5:00 P.M.

**Additional programs on request.

National Park Service Cell Phone Tours

It’s easy! Just call the following phone numbers to listen to National Park Service rangers present programs about various aspects of the Lincoln Memorial and the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

NOTE: Please be respectful. No speakerphones within memorials. Standard cell phone rates apply.

Lincoln Memorial
202-747-3420

National Cherry Blossom Festival
202-747-3465

Saturday, March 14
1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Women’s Military Service during the World Wars

You are invited to join a National Park Service ranger for a special program honoring Women's History Month. The program will focus on American women’s military service during World War I and World War II. Women served in the military during the First World War in an unofficial capacity and during World War II as an official part of the Army. From 1943 to 1945 over 250,000 women served their country during World War II as members of the newly founded Women's Army Corps (WACs), the Army Nurse Corps, the Coast Guard (SPARS), Navy (WAVES), and the Marine Corps. These women served both stateside and in every major theater of war around the world.

This program will be an hour walking tour and will start at the World War II Memorial. Please contact the Survey Lodge Ranger Station at 202-426-6841 for details.
Welcome Areas

The Tidal Basin Welcome Area, near the paddle boats, and Thomas Jefferson Memorial Welcome Area are convenient locations for services offered by the National Park Service and its partners during the National Cherry Blossom Festival. The National Park Service will have tents providing visitor services, first aid and children’s activities. Guest Services and Eastern National will provide tents for food, souvenirs and books.

The National Park Service Welcome Tents serve as a place for visitors attending the Festival to learn the history of the cherry trees, the various park ranger programs, as well as the many events occurring during the festival. Park rangers and volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions concerning the Festival and National Mall and Memorial Parks.

Welcome Tents and Information: (Every Day)
10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

First Aid Tents: (Every Day)
10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Bloomin’ Junior Ranger Tent: (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays)
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Food Tents: (Every Day)
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Souvenirs/Bookstore Tents: (Every Day)
10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Note: Dates and hours of operation are subject to change.

Remember, Paddles Says:

“Please Do Not Pick The Blossoms.”
The Great American Scientist and Father of the Smithsonian

By Ranger Tom Downs

Take a stroll down the National Mall and you will undoubtedly stumble across the Smithsonian Castle, a Washington landmark since its completion in 1855. Once you arrive at the castle, look for the bronze statue and then look for the electromagnet on its side. The statue is easy to miss, and most visitors probably believe it to be James Smithson. Smithson had bequeathed his fortune to establish an institution “for the increased diffusion of knowledge among men.” However, the statue honors one of America’s great scientists during the nineteenth century, a man whose work affects our daily lives today.

The man has been largely forgotten, but in his day such was not the case; everyone knew and respected him immensely. In fact, he was so well known and respected that the entire United States government closed for his funeral on May 16, 1878. The funeral was attended by the President, Vice-President, members of the Cabinet and Supreme Court, Congress, and the senior officers of the Army and Navy. In 1880, Congress passed special legislation to create a statue in his honor to grace the grounds of the Smithsonian, and appropriated a sum of $15,000. The government once again showed its respect for this man and closed early for the unveiling of his statue on April 19, 1883. John Philip Sousa led the Marine Band in the inaugural performance of “The Transit of Venus March,” a piece he composed for the occasion. This great American scientist and first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution was Joseph Henry. Few people today know his name or what he did to command such respect.

Joseph Henry was posthumously honored again in 1897 when the Library of Congress opened its doors. Sixteen bronze portrait statues surround the main reading room of the library and represent human development and the progress of civilization in world history. Joseph Henry was chosen as one of those sixteen representatives. His portrait joins figures such as Beethoven, Columbus, Fulton, Gibbon, Herodotus, Homer, Michelangelo, Moses, Newton, Plato, Saint Paul, Shakespeare, and Solon. Joseph Henry was an important figure in our history of science and progress; to add further to his honor, the unit of inductance that he discovered, was appropriately termed, “the Henry.”

In a vote of seven to five, Joseph Henry was selected as the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Henry then opened the doors of the castle, where he lived the remaining twenty-nine years of his life, to all scientists around the world. He also started collections that would later earn for the Smithsonian Institution its nickname, “America’s Attic.” In 1848 he went on to establish the Smithsonian Meteorological Observer Network, the very beginning of our weather forecasts.

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Visit the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History and discover Joseph Henry’s original 1831 Electromagnet!

For more information about other famous Americans, visit the four Eastern National Bookstores throughout the park.
Come out and experience National Mall and Memorial Parks at night and enjoy one of our rangers’ numerous evening interpretive programs. These programs will take you to familiar locations that you will never see the same way again! All tours are free of charge. Read each description to find out when and where to meet. Reservations are not required.

Saturday, March 7
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Ironclads at Hampton Roads
On March 7, 1862, the first clash of ironclads occurred in the waters of the lower Chesapeake Bay. The fascinating story behind the inventor of the Union warship Monitor, John Ericsson, will be detailed. This tour will explore John Ericsson, the clash of the ironclads, and Abraham Lincoln’s role in this story. This tour will begin at the base of the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and will visit the Lincoln Memorial and the John Ericsson Memorial. For more information, please call Paul O’Brian at 202-438-7066.

Wednesday, March 11
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Lending to the Allied Cause
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the Lend-Lease Act to aid the Allies during World War II. Why was this aid so important to the Allies’ cause and did it actually aid countries like Great Britain during the war? Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial to learn more about this historic act and its impact on the relationship among the Allies during the Second World War. For more information, please call Paul O’Brien at 202-438-7066.

Saturday, March 14 and 21
7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Candlelight Tour with the Commander In Chief
Abraham Lincoln was Commander-in-Chief during the American Civil War. Lincoln is remembered for many things, but his role as Commander-in-Chief defined the role for presidents after him. Why was this particular role a critical factor of why the north won the war? Did his role in this capacity enhance his image even more? This one hour candlelight tour about these Lincoln topics will take place in the Lincoln Memorial chamber. For more information, please call Paul O’Brien at 202-438-7066.

April 12, 2009
Marian Anderson Tribute Concert
Join opera’s own Denyce Graves, the Chicago Children’s Choir, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and the Washington National Opera as we celebrate Abraham Lincoln and the civil rights legacy of opera star Marian Anderson. Described as having a “voice heard once in a hundred years,” Miss Anderson was denied the right to perform in Constitution Hall due to the color of her skin. Through the efforts of Miss Anderson, Howard University, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, a new location was chosen: the Lincoln Memorial.

From the moment that Marian Anderson sang to the nation from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday 1939, she anointed the memorial as a shrine to the ideals of freedom and activated the modern civil rights movement. Those in attendance described her voice “as it were a prayer” and the performance as a “beautiful awakening.”

Miss Anderson herself recalled: “It was more than a concert for me... it seemed that everyone present was a living witness to the ideals of freedom for which President Lincoln died.” Seventy years later, it is fitting that we pay tribute to Marian Anderson’s courage and Abraham Lincoln’s legacy of equality of opportunity, freedom and democracy.

A naturalization ceremony precedes the event.

May 30, 2009
Lincoln Memorial Rededication
Four score and seven years ago in 1922, Americans of different generations, races, backgrounds, and occupations gathered in Washington, D.C. to dedicate the Lincoln Memorial. The President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Robert Lincoln, and veterans of the Blue and Gray alike came to honor the Savior of the Union. In the wake of Civil War, unity alone was the prevailing sentiment of that day.

Now, eighty-seven years later, the memorial built to honor Abraham Lincoln continues to bring Americans together in struggles for equality and celebrations of freedom. Join us on May 30, 2009 as we rededicate the Lincoln Memorial and demonstrate that this government—this nation—truly is one of, by, and for, the People.

Be sure to visit the updated Lincoln Memorial website!

Highlights include a new Lincoln Memorial Construction Flipbook. This flipbook utilizes historic photographs to tell the story of the Lincoln Memorial construction from inception to completion.

http://www.nps.gov/linc

National Mall Times 5
Timed entry tickets are required and may be obtained in two ways:

1. Free, same-day tickets may be picked up at the Washington Monument Lodge (located at the base of the Monument along 15th Street) on a first come - first serve basis, the morning of your visit. Monument Lodge opens at 8:30 A.M.

2. Reserved tickets may be obtained in advance by visiting www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777 (for individuals) or 1-877-559-6777 (for large groups). Reserved tickets are often booked 30 days ahead of time during peak visitation (spring, summer, weekends, and holidays). Please plan accordingly. All reserved tickets carry a $1.50 convenience charge.

Operating Hours

Summer: Memorial Day through Labor Day
Monday through Saturday
9:00 A.M. - 7:45 P.M.
Sunday and Holidays
10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day
Monday through Saturday
9:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.
Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.

202-606-8691 www.nps.gov/opot

Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue
On Request - Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

Career Opportunities

Do you enjoy being outdoors? Are you well-informed about history? Are you a people person? If you answered yes then we would like you to consider employment opportunities at National Mall and Memorial Parks. National Parks are among the more remarkable places in America to recreate, learn, and become inspired. Park employees do rewarding work as park rangers, maintenance laborers, electricians, plumbers, park guides, information technology specialists, natural resource specialists, archivists, education specialists, and other great career fields.

Join our diverse and well trained National Mall and Memorial Parks staff. Help protect the environment and preserve national treasures.

For more information visit www.usajobs.gov or call Kim Brown 202-245-4678.

Want to learn more about National Mall and Memorial Parks?
Eastern National, a park partner, operates four bookstores throughout the park. The bookstores are located at:

Lincoln Memorial
9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Washington Monument Lodge
8:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

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Get ready for the sights and sounds of the Nation’s Capital. Tourmobile Sightseeing’s narrated shuttle tours take you right where you want to go. Buy your tickets from the driver and enjoy unlimited re-boarding. You choose where to stop, stay as long as you want, then board and ride to another historic location.

202-554-5100 www.tourmobile.com

“Monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

National Park Service Organic Act
August 25, 1916