



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**John Hoeven**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**BICENTENNIAL OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTH**  
FEBRUARY 2008 – FEBRUARY 2010

**WHEREAS**, Abraham Lincoln, the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, was one of the nation's greatest leaders, demonstrating courage, compassion and integrity during one of the most turbulent and violent periods in American history; and

**WHEREAS**, Abraham Lincoln was born of humble beginnings in a log cabin in Kentucky and rose to the presidency through a legacy of honesty, intelligence and determination, as well as a strong dedication to the nation he served; and

**WHEREAS**, with the belief that all men are created equal, Abraham Lincoln led the national effort to free all slaves in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal speech in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on November 19, 1863, invoking the basic principles of human equality as outlined in the Declaration of Independence, thereby transforming the objective of the American Civil War from saving the Union to fostering "a new birth of freedom" and re-emphasizing the underlying purpose of government to be an institution "of the people, by the people, and for the people"; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the tragedy and turmoil of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln demonstrated through words and actions a generosity of heart and greatness of character that generated a spirit of reconciliation with malice toward none and charity for all; and

**WHEREAS**, Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Homestead Act on May 20, 1862, which had a major impact on the settlement of the Northern Plains, including what is now North Dakota; and

**WHEREAS**, Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Land Grant College Act on July 2, 1862, which provided grants of land nationwide for the establishment of colleges specializing in agriculture and engineering, resulting in the founding of what is now North Dakota State University; and

**WHEREAS**, Abraham Lincoln appointed the first two governors of the Dakota Territory, part of which later became North Dakota – Dr. William Jayne (1826-1916) in 1861, and Newton Edmunds (1819-1908) in 1863; and

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**WHEREAS**, Abraham Lincoln signed the charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad on July 2, 1864, the construction of which through what is now North Dakota led to the settlement of many towns and cities; and

**WHEREAS**, forts in North Dakota were named in the late president's honor, including Fort Abraham Lincoln near Mandan, and Fort Lincoln (which did not include the first name of Abraham) near Bismarck; and

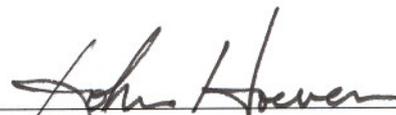
**WHEREAS**, a heroic-sized bust of Abraham Lincoln stands in Frogner Park in Oslo, Norway, sculpted by Valley City, North Dakota artist Paul Fjelde in 1914 and presented as a gift from the people of North Dakota to the people of Norway in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Syttende Mai*, Norwegian Independence Day; and

**WHEREAS**, the Congress of the United States has created the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to study and recommend worthy national activities to honor Abraham Lincoln in 2009, the year of his bicentennial birth; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans are beginning preparations for events and programs to commemorate statewide the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans and all Americans may derive inspiration and benefit from the study of the life, words and deeds of our nation's 16<sup>th</sup> president.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim that North Dakota will officially observe the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth in conjunction with the national commemoration, beginning February 12, 2008, and continuing through February 12, 2010.

  
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John Hoeven  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State