



# NEWS

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **U.S.S. ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO HOST BICENTENNIAL TOWN HALL MEETING: ‘Lincoln, Leadership, and the Military’**

WASHINGTON – The goal of completing the nation’s “unfinished work,” as Abraham Lincoln challenged us at Gettysburg, remains as yet unaccomplished. Next week, the crew of the **USS Abraham Lincoln** will explore how the 16<sup>th</sup> president’s leadership during the Civil War still offers lessons to the armed forces in their defense of the American ideals of freedom, democracy, and equality of opportunity.

A Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> town hall meeting on board the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is the first post-birthday event in a year-long series of civic, cultural, and educational programs planned by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission across the country. The theme of the town hall is “Lincoln, Leadership, and the Military.”

It is the second of eleven town hall meetings scheduled by the ALBC under the broad theme of “Lincoln’s Legacy: Race, Freedom, and Equality of Opportunity.”

In addition to the give-and-take of the town hall, the Lincoln’s crew will hear the world-premiere of “Letters From Lincoln,” a newly commissioned jazz work by **Anthony Davis**, composer of operas *X*, *The Life and Times of Malcolm X*; *Under the Double Moon*; and *Amistad*, and the music for *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*.

“Jazz influences the composition,” said Davis, “and jazz is certainly an expression of freedom. Part of the way you can look at the piece is by looking at the creation of our country and its improvisation. Part of Lincoln’s ability to communicate his message was his ability to improvise – taking them from what they believed and moving them.”

**The event is open to the media.** Interviews with officers and enlisted crew can be arranged upon request. A congressional delegation, led by **U.S. Reps. Norm Dicks** (D-Wash.) and **Rick Larsen** (D-Wash.), will be visiting the carrier and will participate in the town hall meeting.

The program is produced in cooperation with the aircraft carrier’s commanders and the Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership. Panelists include:

- ❑ **Matthew Pinsker**, history professor at Dickinson College and author of *Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home*;
- ❑ **Robin Read**, president of the National Foundation for Women Legislators;
- ❑ **Joseph P. Reidy**, Howard University history professor renowned for his scholarly work on African American sailors in the Civil War Navy; and
- ❑ **Donald Scott**, retired U.S. Army general, and an expert on military leadership.

**Adam Green**, associate professor of history at the University of Chicago whose work has focused on African American and U.S. history and comparative racial politics, will moderate.

The **Stennis Center**, with locations in Starkville, Miss., and Washington, DC, conducts an ongoing program to foster understanding between prospective aircraft carrier commanding officers and Members of Congress and senior-level congressional staff who work on national security issues.

The USS Abraham Lincoln recently completed a seven-month deployment in the Persian Gulf. The carrier is currently docked at its home port in Everett, Wash., for routine maintenance.

WHAT:	Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Town Hall Meeting – Lincoln, Leadership and the Military
WHO:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew Pinsker, history professor at Dickinson College and author of <i>Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home</i>;</li> <li>• Robin Read, president of the National Foundation for Women Legislators;</li> <li>• Joseph P. Reidy, Howard University history professor renowned for his scholarly work on African American sailors in the Civil War Navy; and</li> <li>• Donald Scott, retired U.S. Army general, and an expert on military leadership.</li> </ul>
WHEN:	Friday, February 27, 2009 2:00 p.m. PT/5:00 p.m. ET
WHERE:	Aboard the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln Everett, Wash.

### **About the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission**

Congress established the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to plan the nation's celebration of the 16<sup>th</sup> president's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2009. The Commission works to engage the broadest range of individuals and groups in the commemoration. Through education programs, public forums, and the arts, the Commission provides an opportunity to re-examine Lincoln's legacy in our 21<sup>st</sup> century democracy. Its members, who are appointed by the president and congressional leaders, include political leaders, jurists, historians, and collectors. For more information, please visit [www.abrahamlincoln200.org](http://www.abrahamlincoln200.org).

