

After working a lot, Abraham Lincoln finally became the sixteenth president of the United States. He married Mary Todd Lincoln and had four children. He went against slavery and tried to prove that to people who didn't believe slavery should be stopped. He has once said, "Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally." He fought for the slaves' freedom in the Civil War and won. He signed the Emancipation Proclamation and set all the slaves free. But during the Civil War, Lincoln gave one of the most brilliant speeches of all time. It wasn't very long but it had tons of meaning. It was called the Gettysburg Address. He gave it after the brutal battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. That speech made him famous back then and what makes him important today.

Even though he is not with us today, he is very hard to forget. He is on the penny and five dollar bill. He also has famous monuments made for him, such as the Lincoln Memorial and Mount Rushmore. He will especially be remembered in Illinois, because he spent a lot of his time here. He's known for his tall hat and the first president with a beard. He was also fond of pets. He is known for his many quotes, such as "I leave you, hoping that the lamp of liberty will burn in your bosom, until there shall no longer be doubt, that all men are created equal". There are many more credentials of Abraham Lincoln, but I think I'll stop right there because I don't think there are enough pieces of paper to list all of Lincoln's accomplishments.

Abraham Lincoln was living a great life but sadly it had to end because while he was enjoying a play at Ford's Theater, he was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth in 1865. He lived to be fifty-six years old. Lincoln's death broke the heart of many people. He was buried in Springfield, Illinois.

Abraham Lincoln will be missed a lot. His death was very unfortunate, especially since he was in his second term as president. He was important in so many ways. Although he is not with us today he will be remembered forever.

#### WHY IS ABRAHAM LINCOLN STILL IMPORTANT TODAY?

(By Hannah Binnion, Grade 3, Miss Alday)

Abraham Lincoln is still important today because he was honest. He had a customer that paid too much so he ran miles to give her extra change back. Abe didn't like slavery so he made a law when he was the president stating "There was to be no more slaves." This law helped free slaves. It seemed that he cared not only for himself but for others as well. He wanted to avoid war at any cost it was difficult.

President Lincoln liked to be funny and kind. He loved books for fun and to learn. Lincoln set an example that if we helped others even if their from different cultures we'll get along better.

I feel this is why Abraham Lincoln is still important today. I feel that it is important for us to be honest and not think of people from different cultures as bad and different then we are because of who they are, we should be treated equal.

Lincoln set an example that if we follow his example, it would make us and our community better. He helped us regain our freedom for our countries rights.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the

memory of Luke Cole, a leading environmental attorney and founder and executive director of the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment. Mr. Cole passed away on June 6th as the result of a car accident in Uganda. He was 46 years old.

Luke Cole was born in North Adams, MA, on July 15, 1962. He spent parts of his childhood in New York and Santa Barbara, where his father was an art historian at the University of California at Santa Barbara. During this period, Mr. Cole often accompanied his father on research trips to Nigeria. He graduated from Stanford University and Harvard Law School.

Mr. Cole decided against potentially more lucrative career paths in favor of one that allowed him to follow his heart and enable him to make an impact on issues that he cared about most deeply: social justice and the environment. As a result of Mr. Cole's determination and vision, what began with a desk and a phone at a friend's office became the San Francisco-based nonprofit law center, the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment. Today, the center has a staff of 20 and offices throughout central California.

Mr. Cole's accomplishments as the executive director of the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment were numerous and significant. From the rural communities of California's San Joaquin Valley to a 4,000-year-old Inupiat Eskimo village in Kivalina, AK, his legacy can be seen in the traditionally underserved communities that he worked so hard to save from the effects of harmful pollutants. His unyielding commitment to environmental justice inspired and empowered many people from minority communities to take a more active role in combating environmental racism.

In addition to his leadership of the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, Mr. Cole also served on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's National Justice Advisory Council and taught environmental justice seminars at Stanford Law School and UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. A man of many interests, he was also a dedicated bird watcher and root beer connoisseur, and possessed an extensive collection of miniature spy cameras and bobblehead dolls. He will be missed.

Mr. Cole is survived by his wife Nancy Shelby; father Herbert; mother Alexandra Cole, and stepmother Shelley Cole; two brothers Peter and Thomas; sister, Sarah; stepbrother Daryn; and son Zane. •

#### COMMENDING TOM MASTERSON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Tom Masterson for being selected by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the Kentucky Small Business Person of the Year.

Tom Masterson is president of T.E.M. Electric Company, a minority-owned firm with offices in both Louisville and

Lexington. He was nominated by Bechtel Parsons and subsequently selected as the recipient of the Kentucky Small Business Person of the Year award. Not only was Tom Masterson honored at the Governor's Mansion in Frankfort, but the award was also presented during National Small Business Week in Washington, DC. As stated by President Obama at a White House ceremony, Masterson started the business with his own funds and worked from his own home until he landed his first contract. Today, he now employs 75 people and has more than \$12 million of annual revenue.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Tom Masterson, the recipient of the Small Business Person of the Year for Kentucky award. His work ethic and dedication are to be admired and he is an inspiration to us all. •

#### RECOGNIZING SHAWN P. MOORE

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Mr. Shawn P. Moore as a recipient of the 2009 James Madison Memorial Fellowship. Mr. Moore is a teacher at Russell High School in Russell, KY, and was given this award as a result of his success at the 18th annual fellowship competition.

Mr. Moore was selected for a James Madison Fellowship in competition with applicants from each of the 50 States and U.S. territories. This award requires its recipient to teach American history or social studies in a secondary school for at least 1 year for each year of fellowship support. This fellowship is directed toward current and prospective teachers of American history and social studies and supports graduate study of the history and principles of the Constitution of the United States.

Again, I congratulate Mr. Moore for his hard work and thank him for his dedication to shaping the minds of young Kentuckians. It is teachers like Mr. Moore who will ensure that there will always be a bright future for the Commonwealth. •

#### CONGRATULATING BEECHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL IN KENTUCKY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to congratulate Beechwood High School in Fort Mitchell, KY.

Newsweek magazine recently published a list of the top 1,500 public schools in the country. The 15 schools that made the list from Kentucky rank among the top 6 percent of public schools in the Nation. What is even more impressive is that Kentucky had three more schools ranked this year than in 2008, showing improvement in our State's schools. Placing as 1 of 15 schools from Kentucky on this list, Beechwood High School has earned national recognition for the fine performance of its students and faculty.

I am proud of the students of Beechwood High School. Their commitment