



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Maria Elena Schacknies
703-820-1904

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**The Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance
with support from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation,
to host
“Peace Convention at 150: A Call to Compromise”
at the Willard InterContinental Hotel
February 11, 2011**

(Washington, D.C.)—The Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance (LATCRA) will commemorate, in partnership with the Willard Intercontinental Hotel, with the sponsorship of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation and the endorsement of The Lincoln Forum, the 150th Anniversary of the Washington Peace Convention held in February 1861. The sesquicentennial conference will take place from 9:30AM to 3:00PM at the Willard InterContinental Hotel at 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington—the very same site where the Peace Commissioners met 150 years ago—on February 11, 2011.

The Washington Peace Convention of 1861 was the final effort by American politicians to avoid the impending crisis of a Civil War. More than 100 politicians attended from both the North and the South. Fourteen northern states and seven southern states were represented. The group met for three weeks and held meetings that consisted of much shouting and posturing, and finally produced an impractical document that was passed by a narrow vote. When this proposal, which would have enshrined and expanded slavery, was presented to the U.S. Senate, it was rejected, and no workable political compromise remained available to avoid the Civil War.

This sesquicentennial symposium, "The Peace Convention at 150: A Call to Compromise," will examine the issues, intrigues, and opportunities lost in a first-ever effort to re-examine and reinterpret the conference that almost saved the Union.

Appearing at the event will be a roster of distinguished historians:

- Professor James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr., leading expert in Civil War history and Executive Director for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech, will speak on “Washington in 1861;”

- Jefferson Davis biographer William C. (Jack) Davis, also a professor at Virginia Tech, will present “The Southern Delegation;”
- Rhode Island Chief Justice emeritus and leading Lincoln scholar Frank J. Williams will focus on the “Northern Delegation;”
- Howard University Professor Edna Greene Medford will discuss “African Americans in DC in 1861;” and,
- Harold Holzer, award-winning author of “Lincoln: President-Elect” will address the topic of “President-Elect Lincoln and the Peace Commissioners.”

Reservations for the symposium, luncheon and outdoor program are \$40.

Reservations and payment should be sent to:

LATCRA, 3713 S. George Mason Dr., Suite 1302, Falls Church, VA 22041. For additional information contact Maria Elena Schacknies at meschacknies@latcra.org.

LATCRA is a Virginia tax-exempt and 501(c)3 organization. The website is www.latcra.org. The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation (www.lincolnbicentennial.gov) is the successor organization to the U.S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, which helped create and lead the national celebration of Lincoln’s 200th birthday in 2009. The Lincoln Forum www.thelincolnforum.org is an assembly of people who share a deep interest in the life and times of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era.

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