

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. On February 12, 1809, our 16th President was born to Thomas and Nancy Lincoln in Kentucky. President Lincoln spent the majority of his adult life in Illinois where he became a successful lawyer and politician. But in between these periods, he lived with his family in the backwoods of Indiana, 20 miles east of Evansville. In these famous salt lick hunting grounds near the Ohio River, the young Abe Lincoln learned about farming, suffered the death of his mother, and grew into a man. Although his potential as a leader would not be fully revealed until later in life, his experiences in Indiana formed the basis of his self-taught genius and helped shape his belief system.

Abe Lincoln's family moved to Indiana in December 1816 when Abe was 7, arriving shortly after Indiana entered the Union as the 19th State. In Kentucky, the Lincolns had struggled with legal controversies related to the title to their land. They were attracted to Indiana, in part, because buying land from the Federal Government under the clear terms of the Northwest Ordinance would eliminate these troubles. Thomas Lincoln acquired 160 acres of land near Little Pigeon Creek in what is now Spencer County and set up a farm.

The family initially lived in a three-sided cabin, known as a half-faced camp. Abraham, who was always tall for his age, helped his father with farming chores. By age 9, he began to learn the detailed skill of wielding an ax, which later would be the basis for his backwoods "rail splitter" campaign persona.

Soon after arriving in Indiana, tragedy struck the family when Nancy Lincoln died of "milk sickness" on October 5, 1818. Thomas Lincoln married Sarah Bush Johnston on December 2, 1819. Sarah Johnston and her three children from her previous marriage joined Abe and his older sister Sarah.

Being situated in a sparsely populated region of southern Indiana made access to school difficult. The closest school was a great distance over rough terrain from the Lincoln farm, and Abe's attendance was sporadic, at best. In 1859 Lincoln wrote a letter to his friend Jesse Fell describing his early life and education in Indiana:

We reached our new home about the time the State came into the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up. There were some schools, so called; but no qualification was ever required of a teacher, beyond readin, writin, and cipherin' to the Rule of Three. If a straggler supposed to understand latin, happened to so-journ in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizzard. There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education. Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher to the Rule of Three; but that was all. I have not been to school since. The little advance I now have upon this store of education, I

have picked up from time to time under the pressure of necessity.[sic]

Thomas Lincoln, who had received no formal education himself, saw little value in Abe's schooling. But Abe's stepmother Sarah encouraged him to read on his own. Abe immersed himself in the family Bible and borrowed books from neighbors. He read Parson Weems' "Life of Washington" at an early age, as well as such classics as Benjamin Franklin's "Autobiography" and Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe."

The first exposure that President Lincoln had to political argument came at a country store owned by James Gentry, a local land owner and friend of the Lincoln family. Abe worked in Gentry's store, soaking up conversation on politics and frontier life. As Lincoln grew, his horizons expanded beyond Spencer County. In 1828, he worked on a flatboat carrying goods for Gentry all the way to New Orleans. On this trip he encountered slavery for the first time.

The Lincolns moved to Illinois in 1830 where Abe went on to become a lawyer and State politician, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and finally President of the United States.

The strong feelings of pride that Hoosiers feel for President Lincoln are amplified by remembrances of the President around the State. For example, the Indiana State Museum located in Indianapolis houses the largest private collection of President Lincoln memorabilia in the world. Included in this collection are signed copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th amendment, family photos, and more than 20,000 other items. Additionally, the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial continues to fascinate visitors and preserve Lincoln's Hoosier legacy.

Hoosiers are proud to celebrate President Lincoln's life and the 14 formative years he spent in Indiana. The ties of the Lincoln family in Spencer County will never be forgotten, and new generations of Hoosiers will learn how Lincoln lifted himself up from humble circumstances to become a great President and a true American hero.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, today our Nation celebrates the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, a man who became one of the finest leaders America has ever known. Given his service to our Nation, it is fitting that we pause to acknowledge President Lincoln's lasting contributions to our society.

President Lincoln was a writer, an attorney, and a statesman, but above all else he was a strong advocate for the common man. This was due in large part to the fact that he was a common man. He was born into a family with modest means, became self-educated, and entered into a life of public service at the age of 23.

During his Presidency, Lincoln once remarked, "God must love the common man, he made so many of them." He gave a voice to the disenfranchised, the

destitute, and the dispirited, and even in the face of adversity, he stood strong in support of the notion that "all men are created equal."

He also led with conviction during a turbulent time in our Nation's history. As President, Lincoln guided our divided Nation with moral clarity and persevered when the fabric of our democracy was tested. He helped to heal our Nation after the Civil War and put America on a path to overcome the dark days of slavery.

Today, President Lincoln's virtue extends far beyond our borders. He has inspired generations of individuals seeking to advance the cause of freedom and liberty even when their voices have been silenced. These individuals find inspiration in places like Havana, where a statue of Lincoln still stands proudly along the Avenida de los Presidentes. I join them in hoping for the day when Lincoln's dreams can be realized and the people of Cuba can taste the same fruits of liberty we as Americans cherish.

On this day, we are reminded not only of Lincoln's contributions to our society, but also his vision, which continues to guide our Nation. May his life continue to inspire us and his words always serve as a source of hope. As he once wrote, "The cause of liberty must not be surrendered at the end of one, or even one hundred defeats." May God bless Abraham Lincoln, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 1 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:24 a.m., recessed and reassembled at 1 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. UDALL of Colorado).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

#### STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I will share a few remarks about the stimulus package that we understand is making its way here after going through conference. I believe there may be some opportunity to change what is in it. I hope so because one of the most disappointing aspects of the process we have been going through is that I was denied a vote on an amendment that would simply say that every business that gets contracts out of this job stimulus package will have to use the very simple-to-operate E-verify system that over one hundred thousand American corporations are using voluntarily.

With that system, you simply punch in the Social Security number of a job applicant in order to verify work eligibility. Employers run the social security number through the system and they receive information as to whether this individual has a legitimate Social