

Over the past 125 years, the Salvation Army in Altoona has occupied about 15 different locations. On December 5, 1976, the Salvation Army built their permanent location after a successful capital fund drive.

At different holidays the Salvation Army provides gifts to the nursing homes, VA hospitals, and anywhere individuals might not receive necessary needs at any time. The Salvation Army in Altoona does not discriminate against anyone based on their race, color, creed, or religion. The Salvation Army in Altoona maintains a presence in the community to assist and love and to meet the needs of all those who need it.

Historically, the Salvation Army has provided programs for children to help with their self esteem and caring for others, women and men programs, and older adult programs. The Salvation Army in Altoona still provides these services and will carry on its tradition of social and worship services in the community for many years to come. I congratulate them on this wonderful milestone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to attend to votes this week. Had I been present, my votes would have been as follows:

"Yea" on H.R. 3123;
 "Yea" on H.R. 310;
 "Yea" on H.R. 324;
 "Yea" on H. Res. 447;
 "Yea" on H. Res. 722;
 "Yea" on H.R. 2498;
 "Yea" on H.R. 2097, and
 "Yea" on H.R. 965.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION DAY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to one of our Nation's largest and most successful veterans advocacy organizations, the American Legion. Since the Congressional charter was issued on September 16th, 1919, the American Legion has worked tirelessly to serve American veterans and communities across the nation. Arkansas has the honorable distinction of becoming the first American Legion Department in the United States to be incorporated.

The American Legion was founded under four principles or pillars: The care for our veterans, the care for our children, a strong national defense, and the promotion of Americanism. Over the years, the American Legion has become a preeminent community-service organization, which includes more than 2.5 million members at over 14,000 American Legion posts worldwide.

Every year, members of the American Legion donate thousands of hours of community service in veterans' medical facilities and

homes to care for our nation's heroes. They remain committed to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy, strive to improve the overall quality of life to our nation's servicemen and women, and tirelessly work to make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans.

Today, on American Legion Day, we now have an opportunity each year to come together and celebrate the organization's long history and distinguished service to the community, state and nation. Millions of people who have been positively affected by the American Legion, as well as the American people are grateful for their efforts in serving our country. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, we thank you for your courage, your character, and your service to our country.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND WAYNE PERRYMAN

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of an individual from my district and his efforts to honor the principles of President Abraham Lincoln. Reverend Wayne Peryman from Mercer Island, Washington, and Kasandra Rae Huff, an 18-year-old student from Longview, Washington, created a piece of artwork that was recently accepted into the permanent collection of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

As our Nation confronts challenging times, we must remember and treasure the life and work of President Lincoln as he led this country through an extraordinarily difficult period. I commend Reverend Peryman and Ms. Huff for their artwork and am pleased to submit the text of it on their behalf into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This portrait of Lincoln is the fine work of Miss Kasandra Rae Huff, an eighteen year old high school student from Longview, Washington.

Kasandra sincerely admired our 16th President, who was perhaps the most lonely person that ever occupied the White House. He was a man not known for his good looks, but for his good heart.

Many scholars criticize Lincoln for his thoughts regarding what to do with the freed blacks after ending slavery, but few commend him for what he did for blacks by ending slavery. During the past thirty-plus years African Americans have occupied every major cabinet level position in the United States government; two have sat on the United States Supreme Court; several others have run our nation's largest cities, including Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and Atlanta; one headed the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and 145 years after Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, this nation has elected its first black president.

History reveals that Lincoln's appreciation for blacks was an evolving process, as it was for most Americans. The more exposure he had, the more he appreciated and saw African Americans as equals. By the time he reached Gettysburg on that cold November afternoon in 1863, he was at peace with idea of blacks being equal. Using carefully selected words in a cleverly crafted speech that he had worked on all night, he told those who gathered at the cemetery in Gettysburg what he thought about equality when he spoke these words:

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Even though he wrestled with what to do with the freed slaves after the war, he had grown to appreciate African Americans through his relationship with his black advisor, Frederick Douglass, and his wife's best friend and traveling companion, Ms. Elizabeth Keckley, a black dress designer. (Keckley, a freed black woman, designed dresses for Mary Todd Lincoln and other prominent women of that time.)

Evidence of Lincoln's evolving feelings toward blacks was clear to everyone when Democrats pressured Lincoln to sit down with Jefferson Davis to negotiate peace. The president, who once thought that saving the union "without freeing any slave" was an option, took that option off the table and stated that "reunion and the emancipation" were the only grounds for peace. Democrats tried to embarrass and discredit the president by accusing him of prolonging an unnecessary and unpopular war and by placing cartoons in newspapers depicting Lincoln as a "Widow Maker" and the killer of young men. Committed to the cause, Lincoln said, "If at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every friend on earth, I shall have at least one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me."

His renewed commitment to the emancipation of blacks was also reflected in the portion of the Gettysburg Address where he said:

"That this nation under God, will have a new birth of freedom and that the government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from this earth."

Unfortunately, many critics are quick to quote from Lincoln's speeches prior to the Gettysburg Address, but not as quick to quote from his speeches after the Gettysburg address. Through Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Keckley and the black soldiers who so bravely fought for the Union, Lincoln had gained a greater appreciation than most Americans for blacks. His struggle was not so much over how he would accept the new black citizens, but how his fellow white brothers and sisters who had only a stereotypical view of blacks would accept them.

With Jefferson Davis leading the nation of the Confederate States, Lincoln was the only president in our lifetime who was faced with the possibility of a future where there would be two separate nations rather than the one that our founding fathers had established. Winning the war and uniting the country was a tremendous accomplishment and that alone should make Lincoln the greatest president of all time. Had he allowed the South to exist as a separate nation, and had we remained as two smaller countries instead of one we know today, becoming a superpower would have been only a dream and never a reality. As two separate (smaller) nations, we would not have grown to be a superpower and our defense of democracies around the world would have never been a possibility. How different the world be, had he failed.

Had he lost the Civil War, what would have happened to blacks? What would have happened to the Republican Party, the Party of Lincoln? Would the defeat of the Union also have meant the destruction of this new fragile political party? Without the Party of Lincoln, would there have been the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution as well as other subsequent Civil Rights legislation to give blacks freedom, citizenship and the right to vote—all of which paved the way for America to elect its first black president?