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President Lincoln's Cottage Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Ten Months of Special Exhibits, Deals for Visitors

Washington, D.C. – This February 19th marks ten years that President Lincoln's Cottage, an award-winning historic site, has been open to the public. To celebrate a decade of ground-breaking programs that shed new light on the past and provide opportunities to take action today, President Lincoln's Cottage will roll out a series of special opportunities for visitors tied to themes of empathy, equality, justice, and freedom.

When President Lincoln's Cottage opened to the public in 2008, it immediately established a reputation as a unique and innovative model for historic sites. In just a decade, President Lincoln's Cottage has served approximately 275,000 visitors from across the nation and around the world. Through innovative guided tours, award-winning exhibits and programs, it uses Lincoln's example to inspire visitors to take their own path to greatness, and preserve this place as an authentic, tangible connection to the past and a beacon of hope for all who take up Lincoln's unfinished work.

From February to November 2018, President Lincoln's Cottage will exhibit a series of artifacts rarely displayed from its own collection as well as items on loan from public and private collections. February's "Freedom Documents"—miniature copies of both the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation and the final Emancipation Proclamation, a broadside of the Proclamation, and an etching of the Thirteenth Amendment—will be on loan for six months. Starting in March, a same-edition collection of books Lincoln had in his library will be on display for one month. In April 2018, President Lincoln's Cottage will display a sherry glass President Lincoln purportedly used during his last visit to the Soldiers' Home in 1865. Future month's exhibits will be announced at a later date.

In addition, for ten months starting in February, President Lincoln's Cottage will feature \$10 discounted admission on ten separate days, starting with the Cottage's exact 10-year anniversary: Monday, February 19th, President's Day. Additional special offers will be announced monthly throughout the year.

Over the past ten years, President Lincoln's Cottage has transformed from an unknown relic of history shrouded from the public, to a vibrant gem at the forefront of great cultural institutions in Washington, D.C. It has received numerous awards and honors for its preservation, interpretation, and education programming nearly every year since opening, including a *Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Programming for Students Opposing Slavery* (October 2016), various American Association for State and Local History *Leadership in History Awards*, the *American Alliance of Museum's EdCom Award for Excellence in Programming* (2016), *Washingtonian Magazine's* 50 "Great Places to Work" list (2017) and named "Best Museum Off the Mall" by the *City Paper's* Best of DC 2017 Readers' Poll (2017).

The Cottage and 2.3 surrounding acres were declared a National Monument by President Clinton in 2000, and after an eight-year restoration by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, President Lincoln's Cottage opened to the public in

2008. In January 2016 President Lincoln's Cottage became an independent 501(c)3. President Lincoln's Cottage is a National Monument, National Historic Landmark, and site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, but receives no federal operating support.

For up-to-date details regarding special 10-year anniversary programming and events, visit <http://www.lincolncottage.org/10-year-anniversary/> or follow along on social media: @LincolnsCottage with #10yearsofPLC and #Celebrating10Years.

About President Lincoln's Cottage: President Lincoln's Cottage is an historic site and museum located in the Petworth neighborhood of Northwest Washington, D.C. President Lincoln's Cottage first opened to the public in February 2008, after an eight-year capital restoration project under the auspices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is the only place the public can experience the history of Abraham Lincoln's public and private life where he lived and worked for over a quarter of his presidency. While in residence at the Cottage, Lincoln visited with wounded soldiers, spent time with self-emancipated men, women and children, and developed the Emancipation Proclamation. The human cost of the Civil War surrounded him, undoubtedly impacted his thinking, and strengthened his resolve to challenge the status quo. Through innovative guided tours, exhibits and program, we use Lincoln's example to inspire visitors to take their own path to greatness, and preserve this place as an authentic, tangible connection to the past and a beacon of hope for all who take up Lincoln's unfinished work.

President Lincoln's Cottage is a private independent 501(c)3 located on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. The Cottage is recognized as a National Historic Landmark, National Monument, and site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Hours of operation: The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center is open 9:30am-4:30pm Monday-Saturday and 10:30am-4:30pm Sunday. Cottage tours are on the hour, seven days a week. For more information, visit: www.lincolncottage.org or call 202-829-0436.