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## **President Lincoln's Cottage Displays Rare July 11, 1776 Declaration of Independence**

Washington, D.C. – President Lincoln's Cottage will display a rare July 11, 1776 Declaration of Independence printing by John Holt starting July 1, 2018.

On July 4, 1864, the day President Abraham Lincoln moved out to the Cottage for the last time, he signed into law the nation's first comprehensive immigration reform. Lincoln recognized immigrants as one of America's greatest resources and its best hope for the future. He believed America, in return, owed immigrants the full realization of its founding promises and a fair chance to succeed. Lincoln saw these values reflected in the Declaration of Independence. In a speech also on July 4th, during his 1858 Senate campaign, he referred to the Declaration as the "electric cord...that links the hearts of Patriotic and liberty-loving men together," no matter where they were from.

In October 2015, President Lincoln's Cottage opened *American by Belief*, a special exhibit on Lincoln and immigration. This copy of the Declaration will be featured just outside the entrance of the exhibit. Director of Programming Callie Hawkins explains, "That July 4, 1858 speech during his Senate campaign demonstrates that Lincoln viewed the Declaration as a uniting document that applied equally to those who had just arrived on America's shores, as to those who had signed the Declaration itself. Juxtaposing this rare copy of the Declaration with our award-winning exhibit provides a tangible link between Lincoln's ideas on immigration and the principles this country was based on."

President Lincoln's Cottage CEO and Executive Director Erin Carlson Mast states, "Lincoln was a believer in the Golden Rule and the righteousness of the ideals articulated in the Declaration

of Independence – that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were among certain inalienable rights – even if those ideals were not yet realized. **Reading those words, here at the Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation? It's the ideal way to renew your faith in democracy and get inspired as we celebrate our Independence."**

This rare piece comes from a private collector, courtesy of Seth Kaller, Inc. One of just six known -- and the only one in private hands -- this attractive newspaper printing of the Declaration has the complete text printed on its own page, double-column. It predates the famous signature copy by a few weeks.

Mr. Kaller says: "It took a bloody Civil War and a bloody Civil Rights struggle, but 'all men are created equal' now means more than just free white men. We have become a great nation because people from all around the world came together as Americans. We are strongest when we live up to our founding ideals."

The document will be on display in the OriginALS exhibit located in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center until January 4, 2019.

**About President Lincoln's Cottage:** For over a quarter of Abraham Lincoln's presidency, he lived at the Cottage on an uplifting hilltop in Northwest Washington, D.C. While in residence, President Lincoln made some of his most crucial decisions of the Civil War, visited with wounded soldiers, spent time with self-emancipated men, women and children, and developed the Emancipation Proclamation. His experience of being surrounded by the human cost of war here undoubtedly impacted his thinking and strengthened his resolve to challenge the status quo. Through innovative guided tours, exhibits and programs, 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 daily, 9:30am-4:30pm. Cottage tours are on the hour, seven days a week. For more information, visit: [www.lincolncottage.org](http://www.lincolncottage.org) or call 202-829-0436.