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Third Annual Freedom 5K at President Lincoln's Cottage, Two Days from Anniversary of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

Chris Jetton sets top pace for all runners with time of 17:46

Washington, D.C. – Erin Carlson Mast presented the top prize at the third annual Freedom 5K at President Lincoln's Cottage on Saturday, September 24th just two days after the 154th anniversary of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Over 215 runners from across the DC metropolitan area competed in the event, which traversed the historic 250-acre Armed Forces Retirement Home campus in Northwest Washington, DC. The route wound past historic buildings, around ponds and meadows, and through a wooded road before a final uphill climb to the lawn of President Lincoln's Cottage, where Abraham Lincoln developed the Emancipation Proclamation. The Freedom 5K supports preservation, award-winning programs, and innovative initiatives including the Students Opposing Slavery program at President Lincoln's Cottage, the only privately funded National Monument in the nation. We were joined by the cross-country team from Amidon-Bowen Elementary from South West Washington, DC, and Girl scouts from troop 1566 cheered on runners as they crossed the finish line.

Liz Kakouris placed first among female runners with a time of 21:28. The second and third place winners in the women's competition were Kit Leininger and Sonya Luisi with times of 21:51 and 24:20 respectively. Rounding out the men's competition in a close finish were Erik Lundgren and Jason Coates with times of 18:01 and 18:04 respectively. Registered runners ranged in age from 10-years-old to 71-years-old.

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 nonprofit 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.