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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1800s campaign banners made by Springfield area students hang in Lincoln Presidential Library

SPRINGFIELD – Dozens of three by six foot cloth campaign banners made by Springfield area elementary and middle school students and modeled after banners used during the mid-1800s are now hanging in the atrium of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library at 112 N. Sixth Street in Springfield. The banners may be viewed free of charge seven days per week through the end of summer.

The campaign banners were made for the performance of “Springfield’s Farewell to Lincoln” at Springfield’s Prairie Capital Convention Center the morning of February 11, 2009 as part of the Illinois Lincoln Bicentennial celebration. They also provided a period atmosphere at the “Let Freedom Sing!” symphony and choir performance that evening. More than 4,000 people attended both events, which were sponsored by the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

More than 50 area teachers attended a Bicentennial workshop in September 2008 where they learned more about Lincoln’s connection to Springfield, were provided curriculum on Lincoln’s departure from Springfield, and were encouraged to have their classes make the banners for the February 11 performances. The teachers then took the knowledge to their classrooms and worked with their students to design and construct their own original banners.

Participating schools included middle schools from Chatham, Pawnee, PORTA, Pleasant Plains, New Berlin/Loami, Riverton, Rochester and Tri-City; Springfield parochial schools Calvary Academy, Christ the King, Blessed Sacrament, Little Flower, St. Patrick, St. Agnes, At. Aloysius, St. Joseph, Concordia Lutheran, Christian Elementary, and Trinity Lutheran; and Springfield District 186 schools Jane Addams, Ball Charter, Black Hawk, Butler, Dubois, Enos, Fairview, Feitshans, Graham, Harvard Park, Iles, Hazel Dell, Laketown, Lee, Lincoln Magnet, Lindsay, Owen Marsh, Matheny-Withrow, McClernand, Pleasant Hill, Ridgely, Sandburg, Southern View, Wanless, and Wilcox.

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