

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born, destined to make our world a greater and nobler place. A man of humble background, he worked throughout his life serving freedom and advancing the public good.

WHEREAS: From an early age, Abraham Lincoln was an avid reader and this love for reading continued as he studied law books, which helped him pass the Illinois State bar exam in 1836. Shortly after passing the bar exam, he began his law practice. About 20 years after his start of his career in law, Lincoln became one of the most recognized lawyers in Illinois, where he was known for his honesty and fairness; and

WHEREAS: Abraham Lincoln began his early political career in the Illinois State Legislature, where he was elected four times and was known to be a critical and free thinker. Lincoln committed to large critical infrastructure projects using state funds, where he believed that the state had a role to encourage and assist the growth of economic development. Lincoln stood by his beliefs again in 1837, where he voted against the Illinois's state legislator resolutions defending slavery in the South; and

WHEREAS: Abraham Lincoln ran for a U.S. Senate seat in 1854 and 1856, where he was defeated both times. Despite these setbacks, Lincoln did not stop his efforts which had been gaining recognition and, with careful planning, he quickly became a contender for the 1860 presidential election. During the Republican National Convention in Chicago, Lincoln was nominated on the third ballot on May 18, 1860. After defying the odds, Lincoln won the presidency on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1860, after receiving a majority of votes in the Electoral College; and

WHEREAS: On April 12, 1861, the American Civil War began at the Battle of Fort Sumter, creating the largest obstacle for the newly elected president of preserving the Union. After many bloody battles, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation, a speech that transformed the war effort from preserving the Union to abolishing slavery. After a major victory in the Battle of Gettysburg, President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address where he reinforced his vision of equality for all Americans and a government for the people; and

WHEREAS: On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln's life was cut short at the age of 56 by an assassin's bullet. President Lincoln's words and actions continues to live on within each of us; and

WHEREAS: February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, will be the 217<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincolns birth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, as

ABRAHAM LINCOLN DAY IN ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary Of State