

THE GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD ARCHWAY MONUMENT™

Kearney, Nebraska

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NEWS RELEASE

Lincoln Highway Celebrates 88th

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Nation "Joined" by Lincoln Memorial Highway

Kearney, Nebraska - October 31, 2001 marks the 88th Anniversary of the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial Highway that stretches from New York City to San Francisco. The original dedication ceremonies were carried out in communities and cities across the proposed route. Nebraska was one of the states that celebrated the occasion with a statewide dedication by a proclamation from Governor Morehead asking for a proper observance of the day. According to a feature article in the Omaha Bee dated November 1, 1913, Halloween was celebrated with 300 miles of bonfires between Omaha and North Platte along the proposed route of the Highway, the "Show Road of the World". Then on November 2, 1913, two days after the Lincoln Highway dedication, pastors across the nation made Abraham Lincoln the topic of their sermons. One pastor, enthusiastic over what the highway would mean to his community proclaimed, "...because it binds together all these wonders and sweeps forward till it touches the end of earth and the beginning of sea, it is to be named the 'Lincoln Highway'.

For most Americans, the Lincoln Memorial is the most visible monument to the 16th president but there is another memorial to Mr. Lincoln and his legacy. It is the nation's first transcontinental highway, the Lincoln Highway. This memorial highway is the focus of the Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives at Galion, Ohio and it's founder and director Craig Harmon.

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July 29, 2001 marked the beginning of Harmon's "Unfinished Journey" across the Continent driving the "Spirit of the Lincoln Way" Fire Truck, a 1964 Maxim with 100' ladder. The idea is to carry the "Sacred Fire of Liberty" along the route of the original Lincoln Highway and raise the American Flag in all 450 towns. Using the Bush Inaugural theme, "Celebrating America's Spirit Together", the goal is to "Honor the Past and Imagine the Future" and complete the work begun last year with the White House Millennium Council, that asks each Lincoln Highway city to nominate their portion of the highway as a White House Community Millennium Trail and form an unbroken "Link Across America" in preparation for the Bicentennial Celebration of Mr. Lincoln's birth in 2009.

Beginning in 2003, with the 90th Anniversary of the dedication, plans call for fireman from around the world to host Bonfire Celebrations and light the "Sacred Fire of Liberty" all across the continent on the Lincoln Highway, forming a "Light Around the World" in honor of Abraham Lincoln and their fallen brothers in New York City.

Today, Harmon reached the halfway point in his journey and raised the American flag and Lincoln Highway banner at the Archway Monument, which features a wonderful Lincoln Highway exhibit. A guest at the Archway, a Lincoln Highway enthusiast, called Harmon's truck "America's Fire Truck." Upon reaching San Francisco, Harmon will plant the American flag and re-claim Lincoln Park as the end of the highway .

In view of the September 11, 2001 tragedy, plans call for an historic return trip to New York City for Harmon and his fire engine, via special rail car. Harmon plan to raise the American Flag at the World Trade Center sight and display Lincoln Way Fire Department helmets and other memorabilia collected along the way in honor of all fireman.

For more information, contact Harmon at 419-566-0790 or www.lincoln-highway-museum.org

Video Feed available from Kari Miller at NTV-ABC 308-743-2494 FAX 308-743-2660

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