



The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives

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The Lincoln Highway Comes of Age

A Nationwide Millennium Project

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For Immediate Release

Friday October 31, 2003 marks the 90th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Lincoln Highway as America's first transcontinental highway from New York City to San Francisco. On this night in 1913, towns and cities all Across America Celebrated this "Great Patriot Event" with Proclamations, Bon Fires, Torchlight Parades, Dances and Speeches. (See Web Site for Details)

Dubbed, "The Show Road of the World" the Lincoln Highway was always intended to be an "Object Lesson" in "Good Road Building" the world over and as such "The World's Greatest Memorial" in Honor of Abraham Lincoln to be perpetuated by each successive generation.

Born under the The White House Millennium Council in 1999, The Lincoln Highway Comes of Age, A Nationwide Millennium Project was charged with a Mission to "Honor the Past-Imagine the Future" and "Keep Alive...The Sacred Fire of Liberty".

Accordingly, Craig Harmon, Founder and Director of The Lincoln Highway Comes of Age and The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives set out in July of 2000 in front of the Lincoln Memorial to carry "The Sacred Fire of Liberty" and The American Flag across the Continent on The Lincoln Highway in the "Spirit of the Lincoln Way" Fire Truck, a 1964 Maxim 100 foot ladder truck to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of a trip made in 1915.

After a few detours that led to the Presidential Inaugural Parade in 2001 and the Lincoln Birthday Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial, Director Harmon finally arrived in San Francisco on the Fourth of July in 2002 after a year on the road with stops at 350 Fire Departments to visit with firemen and raise the flag on the 100 ft ladder. (See Web Site for Media Coverage)

While on the road in Goshen, Indiana the attacks on the World Trade Center took place. Wanting to Honor the lost Firemen as he continued the trip, Director Harmon asked Fire Chief's along the way to sign a Fire Helmet in their Honor. In Valley, Nebraska the helmet filled up so one of the Firemen said, "We've got an extra Helmet" thus starting the tradition of each Fire Department signing a Helmet. Director Harmon has collected 113 Helmets as a catalyst for things to come. (See Web Site for Complete Listing with Photos)

After a year in the Bay Area researching Abraham Lincoln and The Lincoln Highway, Director Harmon released a 500 page book on Mr. Lincoln's Birthday called, "The Perfect Tribute" which details The Lincoln Highway as the centerpiece of a 6 year Celebration beginning October 31, 2003 with the 90th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Lincoln Highway and leading up to The Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration in 2009.

On July 10, 1862 after President Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act that created the Nation's first transcontinental railroad, the Firemen of San Francisco celebrated the event with a huge torchlight parade. Accordingly, Director Harmon is asking Firemen from all around the world to act as "Guardians of the Sacred Fire of Liberty" and sponsor Bon Fire Celebrations on October 31st and form a "Light Around the World" in Honor of Abraham Lincoln and those lost September 11th.

As part of the closing ceremony, a Memorial Mile will be established for each victim of September 11th with each Fire Department being assigned a fallen Firefighter. In addition, a helmet will be signed by each Department to be sent to the Fire Chief in New York as part of a memorial similar to the Viet Nam Wall. The Ceremony will end with the symbolic striking of the Four Fives and the ringing of the World Peace Bell.

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"Light Around the World"

**Tribute to Firemen
and those lost
September 11, 2001**

**Friday
October 31, 2003**

12:00 am est
Marietta, Ohio
"The Start of it All"
Sound the Alarm**

12:01 am cst
Council Bluffs, Iowa
First in the Nation
Keep the Flame Burning**

7:22 pm It
Tone Out
Calling all Firemen
Assemble at the station house.
President Lincoln Died at 7:22 am**

**7:45 pm It*
Proceed to starting point.**

**8:00 pm *
Begin Parade to Bonfire Site.**

8:45 pm It
North Tower Hit
Program Begins
"The Greatest Memorial"
"Road of Character"**

9:03 pm It
South Tower Hit
Light the Sacred Fire of Liberty
Form Light Around the World**

9:43 pm It
Flight 77 Crashes into Pentagon
Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land
Ring Liberty Bells...all 50 States**

**90th Anniversary
Dedication of
Lincoln Highway
*Schedule of Events***

**Tribute to Servicemen
lost in Battles of
Afghanistan-Iraq**

10:05 pm est
North Tower Collapses
Presentation of Fire Helmet
Valley, Nebraska
Firemen Sign First Helmet**

10:28 pm est
South Tower Collapses
Announce Memorial Miles
Light Candles
Strike the Four Fives
First struck Lincoln Chimes
Washington, DC**

10:48 pm est
Flight 93 Crashes in PA near
The Lincoln Highway
Lincoln's Eyes
Ring the World Peace Bell**

**Sunday
November 2, 2003
Sunday Church Services
The Greatest Memorial
Perpetual Memorial
Lincoln's Eyes
Battle Hymn of the Republic**

**Times for planning only.*

*** Times are Carved in Stone.*

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