

A Call to Union



*An Evening
at the
Willard Inter Continental Hotel*



November 4, 2009



Lincoln
at the
Crossroads
ALLIANCE



A CALL TO UNION

Theme Statement

America's Founding Fathers created a new nation composed of a *union* of individual states that had common interests and a common purpose. This revolutionary concept of uniting 13 disparate regional governments under federal leadership was seriously threatened for the first time by the Civil War.

The Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance (LATCRA) chose the theme *A Call to Union* for its November 4, 2009, gala dinner at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel to highlight the importance of *union*—of a singleness of purpose so compelling that men and women were willing to sacrifice everything, including their lives, for it.

The November 4 event at the Willard will explore how the Civil War's call to union influenced the following:

- **Abraham Lincoln as President and Commander-in-Chief.**
Preserving the concept of the *Union* became the primary objective of Abraham Lincoln as president.
- **Formation of A Standing American Army.**
The Grand Review of November 20, 1861, sought to *unify* what had been, up to that point, an army of undisciplined state militias whose soldiers were not necessarily committed to long-term military service to the Federal government. The new standing army, on view that day, introduced the concept of a military force *unified* by common purpose.
- **Ordinary Citizens and the Creation of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.**
Because the Civil War marked the first serious threat to the concept of an American union of states, ordinary citizens had not seriously evaluated until then all that could be lost by internal rebellion. Those who witnessed the Grand Review were inspired to consider what was at stake. Among them was Julia Ward Howe, who expressed her prayerful aspirations for this new Union Army and her country in her composition of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* on the evening of the Grand Review. She wrote this inspiring hymn in her guest room at Willard's Hotel, site of the November 4 Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance gala dinner. The hymn remains a unifying force for Americans to this day.
- **The Lincoln Marriage.**
The November 4 dinner will also mark the 167th anniversary of the marriage of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd, a *union* marked by deep commitment to one another and a commonality of purpose to support one another in the face of profound challenges and tragedy.
- **Americans Today.**
Contemporary Americans continue to be called to union to solve vexing domestic and international problems. The examples of President Abraham Lincoln and those who supported his efforts to preserve the nation during the Civil War still inspire people everywhere to join together to give life to great visions.

PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Kim B. Holien
Professional Military Historian

SPEAKERS

The Honorable Frank J. Williams
Chief Justice (Ret.) of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, Author, Lecturer

Mr. William B. Styple
Historian, Author, Editor

Sarah G. Epstein
Great-Great Grand Daughter of Henry and Sarah Willard, Patron

SONGS OF THE CIVIL WAR BY DOUGLAS JIMERSON,
ELLEN ANDERSON, & BOB CLAYTON



HONORARY DINNER COMMITTEE

Congressman Gerry Connolly

Mr. Andrew Ferguson

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

Professor James Oliver Horton

Congressman Jim Moran

Professor Richard Norton Smith

Congressman Frank R. Wolf

CONTRIBUTORS

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Rongley, Kay

Rongley, Ray

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