



The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives

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The Lincoln Highway Comes of Age

A Nationwide Millennium Project
2411 Benning Road NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 536-5329 - Voice

June 1, 2006

Open letter to all Lincoln Highway Mayors

Subject: 90th Anniversary Nationwide Lincoln Highway Flag Day Celebration

Dear Friends,

Hard to believe it's been 5 years since Mr. Lincoln and I crossed the Continent in the "Spirit of the Lincoln Way" Fire Truck, but time flies when you're doing research.

In that regard, after finally arriving in San Francisco on July 4, 2002 spent over a year researching The Lincoln Highway in the Bay Area before traveling back across the Continent via Amtrak in 2004 on a "Lincoln Pilgrimage" for the National Lincoln Birthday Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the first Boy Scout Lincoln Pilgrimage to Lincoln Park and the End of the Lincoln Highway in 1924.

While the plan was to stay for only a week or so, just keep finding stuff and have been here for a little over two years...

Accordingly, have made several significant "Lincoln Highway Finds" including the fact that the Lincoln Highway was actually routed through "The Nation's Capitol" in 1915 after a little help from President Wilson, the first member of the Lincoln Highway Association and a year long campaign by Colonel Robert Harper, Chairman of the Lincoln Highway Feeder Committee.

This in turn led to a second trip down Pennsylvania Ave. in the Presidential Inaugural Parade, which we now know was actually...The Lincoln Highway. Joining me for this historic journey was Mickey Rooney, who sang the original Lincoln Highway Theme Song in 1939, and several "Exemplary Americans" who provided aid and comfort while traveling across the Continent.

Also, escorting the "Spirit of the Lincoln Way" were 37 "Exemplary Firefighters" from all across the country each carrying an American or State Flag representing the now 17 Lincoln Highway States.

The second find, "The Greatest Flag Day Celebration in American History" leads me to you...

Turns out 1916 was a very good year which included 4 "Flag Day Firsts".

The "First" Presidential Flag Day Proclamation, the "First" time a President of the United States ever led a parade down Pennsylvania Ave, the "First" time the American Flag ever flew on the Washington Monument and the "First" Nationwide Lincoln Highway Flag Day Celebration.

Which is of course the reason for this letter...

In that regard, please join with me in celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the "Greatest Flag Day Celebration in American History" by issuing a Flag Day Proclamation calling on every citizen along the Lincoln Highway to join together and celebrate this historic event by forming "A Band of Waving American Flags, stretching across the continent from New York to San Francisco".

The plan calls for Fire Chiefs all across America to sponsor a Flag Raising Ceremony followed by an Parade down the Lincoln Highway with Lights, Siren and Flags Flying.

The parade may be an impromptu caravan or an organized event, but at the very least, one fire truck should make the journey down "The Lincoln Highway" with an American Flag flying.

Accordingly, have attached a sample Proclamation along with a Press Release and Schedule of "Suggested Activities".

If possible, the Proclamation should be issued as soon as possible so everyone will have time to plan their activities.

In addition to this letter, will fax and or e-mail all the Fire Chiefs and Newspapers on the Lincoln Highway over the next few days so they can start the ball rolling.

While it is late in the game, it was only a week ago that all the pieces fell into place, so we must all do our part and make this a truly "National Event". Obviously, it will be up you and the Fire Chiefs to take a leadership role in each community, but experience tells me everything will work out fine.

Feel free to edit my sample Proclamation as you see fit, but thought it was important for you to have a solid historic foundation to work from.

In that regard, have prepared an extensive "Flag Day Web Page" with a complete overview so you can better understand the significance and magnitude of this Historic Event. The URL is:

www.lincoln-highway-museum.org/FlagDay1916/FlagDay-1916-Index.html

Will be in Washington for all the festivities, so copies of any Proclamations and or correspondence should be sent to the Washington Address.

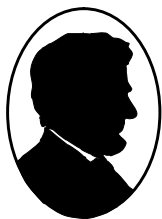
Have been in contact with The White House, all 17 Lincoln Highway Governors, the Associated Press and many others, so I'm hopefully optimistic they will "Run with the Ball" as well.

If you have any questions, feel free to call any time 24-7 at 202-536-5329 or send an e-mail to starman@bright.net.

Warmest Regards



Craig Harmon, Director



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"The Perfect Tribute"

Flag Day

June 14, 2006

90th Anniversary

"Greatest Flag Day Celebration in American History"

First Presidential Flag Day Proclamation

and

Lincoln Highway

Nationwide Flag Day Celebration

"Binding the Nation Together"

"The Lincoln Way"

Simplicity

Patriotism

Integrity

Virtue

HONOR



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"The Perfect Tribute"

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"Binding the Nation Together"

**Lincoln & The Flag
"One and Inseparable"**



**The San Francisco Examiner
Editorial Page
February 12, 1926**

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"The Perfect Tribute"

Flag Day

June 14, 2006

90th Anniversary

First Presidential Flag Day Proclamation

"Let us on this day rededicate ourselves to the nation
"One and Inseparable"

from which every thought that is not worthy of
our fathers first vows of independence, liberty and right shall be excluded
and in which we shall stand with united hearts for an America
which no man can corrupt, no influence draw away from its ideals,
no force divide against itself."

WILSON, IN FLAG DAY PROCLAMATION, ASKS LOYALTY TO AMERICAN IDEALS

President Wilson yesterday issued a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to celebrate Flag day, June 14, with patriotic exercises. The President declared that the people should rededicate themselves "for an America which no man can corrupt, no influence draw away from its ideals, no force divide against itself."

The proclamation follows:

"My fellow countrymen: Many circumstances have recently conspired to turn our thoughts to a critical examination of the conditions of our national life, of the influences which have seemed to threaten to divide us in interest and sympathy, of forces within and without which seemed likely to draw us away from the happy traditions of united purpose and action of which we have been so proud.

"It has, therefore, seemed to me fitting that I should call your attention to the approach of the anniversary of the day upon which the flag of the United States was adopted by the Congress as the emblem of the Union, and to suggest to you that it should, this year and in the years to come, be given special significance as a day of renewal and reminder, a day upon which we should direct our minds with a special desire of renewal to thoughts of the ideals and principles of which we have sought to make our great government the embodiment.

"I, therefore, suggest and request that throughout the nation, and, if possible, in every community, the 14th day of June be observed as Flag day with special patriotic exercises, at which means shall be taken to give significant expression to our thoughtful love of America, our comprehension of the great mission of liberty and justice to which we have devoted ourselves as a people, our pride in the history and our enthusiasm for the political program of the nation, our determination to make it greater and purer with each generation and our resolution to demonstrate to all the world its vital union in sentiment and purpose, accepting only those as true compatriots who feel as we do the compulsion of this supreme allegiance.

"Let us on that day rededicate ourselves to the nation, "one and inseparable," from which every thought that is not worthy of our fathers' first vows of independence, liberty and right shall be excluded, and in which we shall stand with united hearts for an America which no man can corrupt, no influence draw away from its ideals, no force divide against itself, a nation signally distinguished among all the nations of mankind for its clear, individual conception alike of its duties and its privileges, its obligations and its rights."

The Washington Post
May 31, 1916

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"The Perfect Tribute"

Flag Day

June 14, 2006

90th Anniversary

Lincoln Highway

Nationwide Flag Day Celebration

"Binding the Nation Together"



The Lincoln Highway
May 10, 1916



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For Immediate Release

Wednesday, June 14th marks the 90th Anniversary of the "Greatest Flag Day Celebration in American History." Accordingly, on that day in 1916 four extraordinary "Firsts" took place, the likes of which America has not seen before or since.

First and foremost, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States issued the "First Presidential Flag Day Proclamation" calling on American's to "Rededicate themselves to the Ideals of America" by giving significant expression through patriotic exercises to our thoughtful love of America, our comprehension of the great mission of Liberty and Justice to which we have devoted ourselves as a people, and with a special desire of renewal to the thoughts, ideals and principles which we have sought to make our great government the embodiment.

In this regard, President Wilson led the way by carrying an American Flag down Pennsylvania Ave. aka, The Lincoln Highway followed by 86,000 marchers which included members of his Staff, Cabinet, The Supreme Court and Congress in the Washington Flag Day-Preparedness Parade.

Which according to all news accounts of the day, was the "First Time In History" the President of the United States ever led a parade down Pennsylvania Ave., let alone with his Staff and members of the Judicial and Legislative Branches of government.

But he didn't stop there, because after reviewing the parade, President Wilson gave a Special Flag Day Speech at the Washington Monument which included another "Spectacular First": A 40 x 60 foot American Flag flying atop of the Washington Monument! A fete that has never been repeated...

And last but not least, the Lincoln Highway was the backdrop for a Nationwide Flag Day Celebration that included "A band of waving American Flags, stretching across the continent from New York to San Francisco-a salute of rifles and canon reverberating from coast to coast and the national hymn from thousands of voices and instruments at the appointed time."

Accordingly, The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives is calling on President Bush, the 17 Lincoln Highway Governors, the Mayors and Fire Chiefs from the 450 towns and cities across the continent on the Lincoln Highway to join together with "Significant Expression" and celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the "Greatest Flag Day Celebration in American History" by forming "A Band of Flags across the Continent" on Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14th at 12 noon local time.

Programs should include a flag raising ceremony at the Fire Station, followed by a rifle or canon salute where possible, The Star Spangled Banner, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a parade down The Lincoln Highway and or Main Street with Lights, Siren and Flags Flying...

See www.lincoln-highway-museum.org/FlagDay1916/FlagDay-1916-Index.html for complete history.

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"The Perfect Tribute"

Flag Day

June 14, 2006

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"Greatest Flag Day Celebration in American History"

**First Presidential Flag Day Proclamation
and**

**Lincoln Highway
Nationwide Flag Day Celebration**

"Binding the Nation Together"

Suggested Activities

Location: Fire Station

Time: 12 Noon

**Flag Raising
to the tune of**

**"National Emblem March"
played by high school or service band
followed by Rifle or Canon Salute
where possible**

**The Star Spangled Banner
followed by
Pledge of Allegiance
Remarks
God Bless America**

**Parade led by
Fire Department
down flag lined
Lincoln Highway
or Main Street with
Lights, Siren and Flags Flying**

**Return to Station
Open House & Light Refreshments
Discussions on Flag Day,
Abraham Lincoln
and
The Lincoln Highway**

Proclamation

90th Anniversary

"Greatest Flag Day Celebration in American History"

**Whereas, 90 years ago, President Woodrow Wilson, the First Member of
The Lincoln Highway Association issued the
First Presidential Flag Day Proclamation
calling for special patriotic exercises throughout the Nation on June 14th
as a significant expression of our thoughtful love of America,
our comprehension of the great mission of liberty and justice to which
we have devoted ourselves as a people, our pride in the history of
this great nation and a determination to make it greater and purer
with each generation and our resolution to demonstrate to all the world
its vital union in sentiment and purpose, and**

**Whereas, President Wilson called upon each of us to rededicate ourselves
to the nation, "One and Inseparable" from which every thought that is
not worthy of our father's first vows of independence, liberty and right
shall be excluded, and in which we shall stand with united hearts for an
America which no man can corrupt, no influence draw away from its ideals,
no force divide against itself, a nation signally distinguished among
all the nations of mankind for its clear, individual conception alike
of its duties and its privileges, its obligations and its rights; and**

**Whereas, President Wilson led the way by carrying an American Flag down
Pennsylvania Ave. aka The Lincoln Highway followed by 86,000 marchers
which included members of his Staff, Cabinet, The Supreme Court
and Congress in the Washington Flag Day- Preparedness Parade; and**

**Whereas, in association with the President's call, The Lincoln Highway was the backbone
of a Nationwide Flag Day Celebration that included, "A band of waving
American Flags, stretching across the continent from New York to San Francisco
-a salute of rifles and canon that will reverberate from coast to coast and the
national hymn from thousands of voices and instruments at the appointed time"; and**

**Whereas, on this the 90th Anniversary of these historic events,
it is altogether fitting that the Lincoln Highway should once again be the
background for such a national celebration, as the highway lies like a ribbon
across the breast of the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific,
binding the nation together, as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln;**

**Therefore I, _____ Mayor of the City of _____, do hereby proclaim June 14th
the 90th Anniversary of the "Greatest Flag Day Celebration in American History"
and encourage every citizen along the Lincoln Highway to join together
at 12 noon with citizens from across the nation in similar ceremony
in a salute to the American Flag that will reverberate across the nation and form
"A Band of Waving American Flags Across the Continent"
demonstrating to the world our love for America, our National Emblem and our comprehension
for the great mission of Liberty and Justice to which we have devoted ourselves as a people.**