

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 160**

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Adopted in Assembly February 5, 2004

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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Adopted in Senate February 9, 2004

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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This resolution was received by the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_M.

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*Deputy Secretary of State*



## RESOLUTION CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 160—Relative to Abraham Lincoln.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 160, Mountjoy. President Abraham Lincoln.

This measure would honor President Abraham Lincoln on his birthday.

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, and the one that Americans remember the most with deepest affection, rose from humble beginnings to become President of the United States and courageously led his country during its darkest time, the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lincoln brought a new honesty and integrity to the White House, and would always be remembered as “Honest Abe.” Most of all, he is associated with saving the Union with the abolition of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in Kentucky, and spent the first seven years of his life there; and

WHEREAS, In his entire life, President Lincoln was only able to go to school for a total of one year. This lack of formal education only made him hungry for more knowledge, and he mastered the Bible, the works of William Shakespeare, and the law; and

WHEREAS, In 1834, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives and began studying to become a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, In 1847, he was elected to the Congress, where his opinions against the Mexican War and his vehement opposition to the extension of slavery did not ensure him a long stay there. He was not elected to a second term, so he returned to the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln joined the Republicans, a new political party that was opposed to the extension of slavery. The Republicans nominated him for the United States Senate in 1858, and in his nomination acceptance speech, he stated: “A house divided against itself cannot stand ... . This government cannot endure, permanently half-slave and half-free ... . I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall but I do



expect it will cease to be divided.” He lost a close election to Stephen Douglas, the Democratic Party candidate; and

WHEREAS, Having been nominated by the Republican Party in 1860 as its candidate for the Presidency of the United States, Mr. Lincoln won by a small margin; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after he assumed office, the Civil War began. Despite his military inexperience, President Lincoln displayed a shrewd grasp of military strategy, and the necessity of taking advantage of the Union’s superior resources. It took him several years, however, to find competent and aggressive generals to implement this strategy; and

WHEREAS, As the war continued, the objectives of the war expanded to not only saving the Union but also to freeing the slaves, and he moved to free the slaves in the United States by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862; and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln enunciated the nation’s loftiest ideals during its darkest moment following the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. His Gettysburg Address, regarded as one of the finest speeches in the English language, was delivered by him at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863, while dedicating a cemetery for those killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, which took place from July 1 to July 3, 1863, between the Army of the Potomac and the Army of northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was elected to a second term in 1864. The South subsequently surrendered, and the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, with the surrender of General Lee to the Union General, Ulysses S. Grant; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby declares that President Abraham Lincoln be honored on his birthday as the virtual symbol of the American dream whereby an ordinary person from humble beginnings can reach the pinnacle of American society as President of the country and serve with honor and courage; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.



Attest:

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*Secretary of State*

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