

## Assembly Resolution No. 120

**BY:** M. of A. Maisel

**COMMEMORATING** the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln

**WHEREAS,** From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals of remarkable courage and strength of character who lived their lives for others, and who stood for liberty and democracy; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, and to pay just tribute to his many accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, and served as the 16th President of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS,** He successfully led the country through its greatest internal crisis, the American Civil War, preserving the Union and ending slavery; as the war was drawing to a close, Abraham Lincoln became the first American president to be assassinated; and

**WHEREAS,** Prior to his election in 1860 as the first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln had been a lawyer, an Illinois State Legislator, a member of the United States House of Representatives, and twice an unsuccessful candidate for election to the Senate; and

**WHEREAS,** As an outspoken opponent of the expansion of slavery in the United States, Abraham Lincoln won the Republican Party nomination in 1860, and was elected president later that year; and

**WHEREAS,** His tenure in office was occupied primarily with the defeat of the secessionist Confederate States of America in the American Civil War; he introduced measures that resulted in the abolition of slavery, issuing his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and promoting the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which passed Congress

before Lincoln's death and was ratified by the States later in 1865; and

**WHEREAS**, Abraham Lincoln closely supervised the victorious war effort, especially the selection of top generals, including Ulysses S. Grant; historians have concluded that he handled the factions of the Republican Party well, bringing leaders of each faction into his cabinet and forcing them to cooperate; and

**WHEREAS**, President Lincoln successfully defused the Trent Affair, a war scare with Britain in 1861; under his leadership, the Union took control of the border slave States at the start of the war; additionally, he managed his own reelection in the 1864 presidential election; and

**WHEREAS**, Opponents of the war, also known as "Copperheads" criticized President Lincoln for refusing to compromise on the slavery issue; conversely, the Radical Republicans, an abolitionist faction of

the Republican Party, criticized him for moving too slowly in abolishing slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, Even with these road blocks, the President successfully rallied public opinion through his rhetoric and speeches; his Gettysburg Address is but one example of this; at the close of the war, Abraham Lincoln held a moderate view of Reconstruction, seeking to speedily reunite the Nation through a policy of generous reconciliation, a position his successor in the White House, Andrew Johnson, also took; and

**WHEREAS**, His assassination in April of 1865 by John Wilkes Booth was the first presidential assassination in United States history, and as a result, Abraham Lincoln has been considered a martyr for the ideal of national unity and human rights; he has been consistently ranked by scholars as one of the greatest Presidents of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, The dedication and sacrifice of Abraham Lincoln ensures our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and is a defender of liberty for people throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS,** President Abraham Lincoln deserves to be recognized and celebrated by the citizens of this great Empire State and by all the people of our Nation for his valiant and steadfast service to our country; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.