

**CHAPTER 1****(HCR 112)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing February 12, 2008, as the official commencement of the celebration of the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial.

WHEREAS, on February 12, 1809, Nancy Hanks Lincoln gave birth to a son in a tiny log cabin on the banks of Nolin Creek, in Hardin County, Kentucky, unaware that the child she was holding would someday hold the future of a battered Union in his hands; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln family moved to Knob Creek in 1811, and although young Lincoln lived in the Commonwealth for just a brief time, he would later recall those early years of climbing trees, fishing in clear creeks, and learning passages from the Bible from his beloved mother, as some of the fondest memories of his life; and

WHEREAS, having moved first to Indiana, then to Illinois, Abraham Lincoln began working as a store clerk, and educated himself by reading Shakespeare and Robert Burns and learning basic mathematics. After a failed campaign for the Illinois General Assembly, and a failed business venture, Lincoln was appointed Postmaster of New Salem, and later Deputy County Surveyor, then was elected to the legislature in 1834, as a member of the Whig Party, and served there until 1842. He also studied law, and practiced throughout his adopted state; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was instrumental in the organization of the Republican Party of Illinois in 1856, and four years later, was elected as the sixteenth President of the United States, and the first elected from that party; and

WHEREAS, just over a year after his inauguration, Abraham Lincoln saw the beginning of the nation's darkest years, when the Union was divided, and brother fought brother during the bloody Civil War, which broke the heart of America and its leader; and

WHEREAS, having witnessed the tragedy of slavery throughout his life, President Lincoln was determined that no man or woman should be bought and sold as the property of another, and fought steadfastly for the rights of every human being, without regard to the color of one's skin, culminating in the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, after years of bloodshed, the Civil War finally came to an end on April 9, 1865, but the victory was short-lived for President Lincoln, who was shot and killed by an assassin the following week, bringing an end to the life of one who has become a legendary figure in American history, often considered to have been one of the greatest of this nation's leaders; and

WHEREAS, this day marks the beginning of the celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, born of humble beginnings, but leaving a legacy of courage, honesty, and freedom, as his words remind us still that, "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves";

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:*

➔Section 1. On this day, in the chambers of the Old Capitol, whose halls were graced by the likes of Henry Clay, and where the acrimonious words of secession debates still echo, the General Assembly proudly recalls the legacy of the Commonwealth's greatest son, and joins our sister states in celebration of the birth of Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln 200 years ago.

**Signed by Governor February 18, 2008.**