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## Letter, George Bush to Abraham Lincoln Association, September 11, 1992

George W. Bush

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 11, 1992

I am pleased to send greetings to the members of the Abraham Lincoln Association and to all those who are gathered for this special conference on the Life, Times, and Legacy of one of our Nation's greatest Presidents. Congratulations to your hosts at Southern University and Louisiana State University in Shreveport.

President Lincoln was a strong, courageous leader whose words still inspire us today, and I share your appreciation of his critical role in our Nation's history. When civil war threatened to destroy this great experiment in self-government, Abraham Lincoln preserved the Union while restoring her soul. His commitment to the vision of our Founders, his moral conviction in the face of bitter, divisive debate over slavery, and his faith in both the providence of Almighty God and the future of the American people -- all have made President Lincoln a national hero and a model for his successors. I am proud to have his official portrait hanging in the Cabinet Room as a tangible reminder of his wisdom and example.

We do well to study and remember Lincoln's life and legacy, and I am confident that this conference will contribute to greater public understanding of this extraordinary individual. It is especially appropriate because he had so much regard for us. As he said to a Union regiment:

It is not merely for today, but for all time to come that we should perpetuate for our children's children [this] great and free government, which we have enjoyed all our lives. . . it is in order that each of you may have through this free government . . . an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise, and intelligence, or that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life, with all its desirable human aspirations.

I wish you, as fellow heirs of that great legacy,  
a successful conference.

Cy Burt