



# Springfield Post No. 32 The American Legion



1120 Sangamon Avenue - Springfield, IL 62702

217/523-3415 [spfldpost32@outlook.com](mailto:spfldpost32@outlook.com) [www.springfieldamericanlegion.com](http://www.springfieldamericanlegion.com)

## A SHORT HISTORY ON THE Springfield Post No. 32 The American Legion Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln Every year on his birthday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, since 1935

Springfield Post #32, The American Legion has sponsored the Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln since February 11 & 12, 1935. It is the longest running commemoration of Mr. Lincoln's birthday that has been held on his birthday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, since 1935.

Back in 1935 the World War I Veterans and members of The American Legion wanted to honor Springfield's #1 Son, President Abraham Lincoln and also the many Civil War Veterans who lived in Springfield. So they worked together and decided to do the Annual Pilgrimage on Mr. Lincoln's Birthday to honor him and at the time the living Civil War Veterans.

Since its inception in 1935 the Pilgrimage has had a total of five (5) Chairmen. The first pilgrimage chairman was Herbert N. Tragethon, a World War I veteran. Noel C. "Whitey" Moore, a World War II veteran took over for Mr. Tragethon, but we are not sure what year Whitey assumed the reins. Michael E. Walton, a Vietnam Veteran took over from Whitey in 1978 and served as Chairman through 2012, serving a total of 35 years as General Chairman. Retired Colonel Anthony P. "Tony" Libri Jr. a veteran of Afghanistan, Bosnia, Croatia, Kuwait, and Panama took over in 2013 and was Chairman through 2019. After the 2019 Pilgrimage and for 2020 forward, Vietnam Marine Corps Veteran Robert "Bob" Wesley took over and now holds the honor of being General Chairman.

The Lincoln Day Pilgrimage each year begins on **February 11<sup>th</sup>** with The American Legion National Commander; American Legion Auxiliary National President; Sons of The American Legion National Commander and American Legion dignitaries from Illinois and throughout the United States coming to Springfield to honor our 16<sup>th</sup> President on his Birthday. An American Legion Family Leadership Reception is held at the headquarters hotel from 4:30 – 6 p.m. and then everyone attends the Open House at Springfield Post #32, 1120 Sangamon Avenue. **On Lincoln's Birthday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, an American Legion Family Breakfast is held at the headquarters hotel with The American Legion Auxiliary National President as the keynote speaker. At 10 a.m. all assemble in front of the headquarters hotel and with a Springfield Police escort they Pilgrimage/Journey to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln, located in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois. At 10:30 a.m. and inside Lincoln's Tomb, wreaths are placed honoring President Lincoln and remarks are made by our visiting American Legion Family dignitaries and many political figures. Upon completion of the ceremonies inside of Mr. Lincoln's Tomb the attendees return to the headquarters hotel, where at 12:30 p.m. the **Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon** is held. We are honored each year to have The American Legion National Commander as the keynote speaker of the Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon. This luncheon is attended by members of The American Legion Family, political figures, media and interested citizens.

The members of Springfield Post #32, The American Legion are proud to continue this honored tradition of honoring Springfield's #1 Son, our 16<sup>th</sup> President, Abraham Lincoln.

FIRST



ANNUAL

# PILGRIMAGE

to the

## TOMB OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

and

## Lincoln Commemoration Banquet

Under Auspices of

## THE AMERICAN LEGION



SANGAMON POST NO. 32 AND AUXILIARY UNIT  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

---

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1935

---

### OUR GUESTS

Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., California.....	National Commander
Mrs. A. C. Carlson, Minnesota.....	National President
Paul G. Armstrong, Chicago.....	Departmental Commander
Mrs. T. K. Rinaker, Carlinville.....	Departmental President
Leonard Applequist, Aurora.....	La Grand Chef de Gare
Mrs. Beatrice E. Allen, Belleville.....	Le Chapeau Departmental

**PROGRAM OF EVENTS**

- 8:00 A.M.—Arrival of National Commander and National President.
- 8:45 A.M.—Reception Breakfast, Abraham Lincoln Hotel.
- 12:00 A.M.—Pilgrimage to Tomb of Abraham Lincoln.

**At the Tomb**

“The Arlington of the West for American Citizenship”

1:15 P.M.—Placing of wreaths by National Commander and National President.

2:00 P.M.—Nation-wide Radio Broadcast—

Columbia Broadcasting Company

- Paul G. Armstrong, Departmental Commander
- Mrs. A. C. Carlson, National President
- Hon. Henry Horner, Governor of Illinois
- Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., National Commander

**LINCOLN COMMEMORATION BANQUET**

Hotel Abraham Lincoln—6:30 P.M.

**M E N U**

- Compote of California Fruit
- Longbranch Celery
- Jumbo Olives
- Tenderloin of Beef—Belgrano
- Rinaker Potatoes
- New Army Peas
- Lettuce and Endive—Carlson
- Creme Abraham Lincoln
- Demi Tasse Hayes
- Minnesota Cream Cheese—Saltines Hays

Edward A. Hayes, Toastmaster

Invocation - - - - - Rev. Henry Cluver  
State Departmental Chaplain, Belleville

Community Singing - - - - - William Dodd Chenery  
**M E S S**

“Springfield”.....Mayor John W. Kapp, Jr.

“Greetings”.....Mrs. T. K. Rinaker  
Departmental President, Illinois

“Illinois”.....Hon. Henry Horner  
Governor, State of Illinois

“Our Legionnaires”.....Paul G. Armstrong  
Departmental Commander, Illinois

Vocal—Mae Winter Buth  
“Carry On Legion, Carry On”.....M. L. Milbauer

“My Buddy”.....Gus Kahn

“The American Legion Auxiliary”.....Mrs. A. C. Carlson  
National Department President

“The Legion in Action”.....Frank N. Belgrano, Jr.  
National Department Commander

Announcements

“America”.....Audience

Reception by Distinguished Guests

**Dance with**  
**LYLE ROE and His BAND**

### HAIL! HAIL! THE GANG'S ALL HERE

Hail! Hail! the gang's all here,  
What the deuce do we care?  
What the deuce do we care?  
Hail! Hail! the gang's all here,  
What the deuce do we care now?

### OVER THERE

Over there, over there,  
Send the word, send the word, over there,  
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks  
are coming,  
The drums rum-trumming everywhere;  
So prepare, say a prayer,  
Send the word, send the word to beware,  
We'll be over, we're coming over,  
And we won't come back 'till its over,  
over there.

### BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Nine eyes have seen the glory of the  
coming of the Lord,  
He is trampling out the vintage where  
the grapes of wrath are stored,  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of  
His terrible swift sword,  
His truth is marching on,  
Glory, Glory Halleluia, Glory, Glory Hal-  
lelulia,  
Glory, Glory Halleluia, His truth is  
marching on.

### LONG, LONG TRAIL

There's a long, long trail a winding,  
Into the land of my dreams,  
Where the nightingales are singing  
And the white moon beams;  
There's a long, long night of waiting,  
Until my dreams all come true,  
'Till the day when I'll be coming down  
That long, long trail to you.

### PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES

Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag  
And smile, smile, smile,  
While you've a lucifer to light your fag,  
Smile, boys—that's the style;  
What's the use of worrying?  
It never was worth while, so  
Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag  
And smile, smile, smile.

### AMERICA

Our Father's God to Thee,  
Author of Liberty,  
To Thee we sing,  
Long may our land be bright  
With Freedom's Holy Light,  
Protect us by Thy Might,  
Great God, Our King.

### PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

—IF—

This day has been an instrument by which your spirit of patriotism has been quickened; if love of country and the principles for which it stands—for which our Lincoln lived and died—have been made more real in a renewed determination for a vigorous and rugged American Citizenship.

—THEN—

our efforts have not been in vain.

SANGAMON POST NO. 32.