

February 12, 2009 □ **Washington, D.C.** – Today, on the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Abraham Lincoln, Congressman Carson issued the following statement to commemorate the legacy of our nation's 16<sup>th</sup> President: “On this bicentennial anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s birth, I am proud to witness so many Americans making time to remember his legacy and the irrefutable impact he has had on our national identity.

There are few lessons more worthy of passing onto future generations than the courage and moral fortitude with which he led us through the Civil War and into a new era of freedom.

“In the midst of its imminent collapse, President Lincoln guided the United States through one of its darkest hours and onto a path towards unity and strength.

He stood for freedom and righteousness in the face of overwhelming opposition, signing the Emancipation Proclamation and forever changing the history of our nation.

Two hundred years after his birth we have nearly come full circle, from engrained slavery and bigotry to the election of our first African-American president.

“Today, President Lincoln is rightly regarded as one of our most devoted protectors of liberty.

He continues to serve as a shining example of character, perseverance and the true American spirit.

On this momentous anniversary, we should all follow his example by rededicating ourselves to the structuring of a more unified and just United States.”

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