



**For Immediate Release**

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### **National Park Service Recognizes 2010 “History Comes Alive” Programming**

**Springfield – May 24, 2011.** Springfield’s 2010 “History Comes Alive – A Living History Program” was recently awarded a **2011 Midwest Region Excellence in Partnerships Merit Award by the National Park Service**. The award recognizes partnerships created between the National Park Service sites and their local communities. The National Park Service manages Springfield’s Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the only National Park in Illinois.

Springfield’s “History Comes Alive – A Living History Program”, a groundbreaking new tourism program, debuted in 2010, filling historic downtown Springfield and its Lincoln historic sites with period re-enactors, musical and theatre performances – all for free seven days a week for eight weeks last summer. The program is a collaborative effort between Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IL-DCEO) - Office of Tourism, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), the National Park Service, the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the State Journal Register and the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Successful community and interagency partnerships are integral to promoting the National

Park Service mission both within and beyond park boundaries,” said Dale Phillips, Site Superintendent for Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

“Being able to see history leap from the pages and come to life before their eyes helps students better understand their classroom lessons and the world around them,” said Governor Quinn. “‘History Comes Alive’ is not only educating our children; it is also boosting tourism in our capital city, bringing people from around the world to the Land of Lincoln.”

Other NPS programs receiving the Excellence in Partnerships Merit Awards included the Friends of Fort Scott at Fort Scott National Historic Site and the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. This was the first year the National Park Service presented the partnership award.

“The partnership between both public and private entities at all levels is what makes ‘History Comes Alive’ such a success,” said Tim Farley, Executive Director of the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau. “We are most successful when we are able to work with our community partners to create programming that excites visitors to travel to Springfield.” “History Comes Alive – A Living History Program” has generated not only excitement among our visitors from around the globe, but has brought a renewed enthusiasm to the many people who work within the hospitality industry in Springfield. We’re bringing our history to life in a fun and engaging way that makes people want to return again and again.”

Through special tourism grant funding from IL-DCEO – Office of Tourism awarded through the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, the “History Comes Alive” program will be presented again in 2011 from June 15 – August 15. Events will be listed on the official visitors web site at: [www.visit-springfieldillinois.com](http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com) and will be distributed through an 8-page tabloid being published later in June through the State-Journal Register.

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