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DEDICATION DAY

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Day-long event Thursday to honor 146th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address

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On Thursday, the 146th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address will be honored with numerous events in Gettysburg.

The day will begin with a 9:30 a.m. wreath-laying ceremony at the Soldiers' National Monument, featuring the Gettysburg High School Ceremonial Brass Band. Wreaths will be laid by Pa. Governor Ed Rendell, Richard Dreyfuss, Brion Fitzgerald, the acting superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park, and Frederick E. Clark, commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Gettysburg Camp 112.

Following a brief procession of Civil War re-enactors along the upper drive, ceremonies will continue at 10 a.m. at the Rostrum, where Governor Rendell and Richard Dreyfuss will deliver remarks.

Of his participation at Dedication Day, Dreyfuss said, "When President Lincoln spoke at Gettysburg, he was both admired and reviled by the nation he was trying to save. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should know him, not just the office he held. And I am looking forward with enormous gratitude to the opportunity to speak to these truths on November 19."

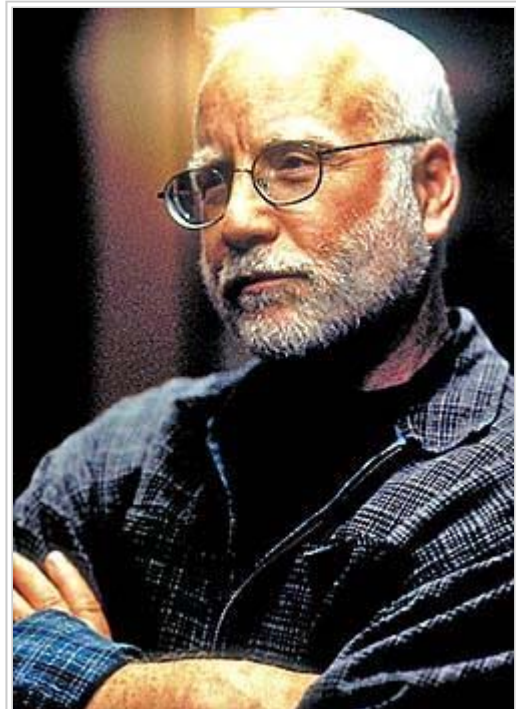
Musical performances by the "President's Own" United States Marine Band will be a highlight of the ceremony. The U.S. Marine Band traveled with President Lincoln in 1863 when he visited Gettysburg to deliver "a few appropriate remarks."

The band was initially created through an Act of Congress in 1798, signed by President John Adams, authorizing "...a drum major, a fife major, and 32 drums and fifes."

Another new addition this year is the Naturalization Ceremony by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Sixteen applicants will receive the United States Oath of Citizenship.

As usual, Jim Getty, portraying President Abraham Lincoln, will recite the Gettysburg Address, as he has done on Dedication Day for 30 years. The colors will be presented by the 11th Pa. Volunteer Infantry Fife and Drum Corps. Other participants in the day's ceremonies include Janet Morgan Riggs, president of Gettysburg College; David Klinepeter portraying Ward Hill Lamon; soloist Wayne Hill; and Rev. Stephen Herr, Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church. Emcee for the event will be D. Scott Hartwig, vice president of the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania.

Immediately following the event at the rostrum will be the U.S. Colored Troops Graveside Salute where Jim Getty will deliver remarks. This will occur at the gravesite of Charles H. Parker, one of only two African American soldiers buried in the National Cemetery.



Dreyfuss

In the evening, events will continue at The Majestic Theater, 35 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, with the World Premiere of "For the People," a new Oratorio by Dr. John William Jones, Professor at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music, Gettysburg College.

The premiere will feature guest narrator actor Stephen Lang, who has become known for work both on stage and in films, including the movies "Gettysburg" and "Gods and Generals."

The oratorio was commissioned by the Pa. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and will feature The Spires Brass Band, Kathleen Sasnett, soprano, Jeffrey Fahnestock, tenor, bass-baritone Roosevelt Credit, The Sunderman Conservatory Woodwind Octet, and The Victorian Dance Ensemble.

Author Jeff Shaara will present the 11th Annual Michael Shaara Prize for Civil War Fiction to Nick Taylor, author of "The Disagreement" (Simon and Schuster, 2008).

This novel tells the tale of a young Confederate doctor, John Muro, and the trials he faces at a military hospital during the Civil War.

Following the Shaara Prize, Michael Burlingame will deliver the 48th Annual Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture at 8 p.m.

Dr. Burlingame is currently the Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

At the conclusion of the evening, the public is invited to attend a reception with several scholars.

They include authors Jeff Shaara, Gabor Boritt, Allen Guelzo, Stephen Lang, Michael Burlingame, and Nick Taylor.

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