

FOR RELEASE AFTER SEPT 7, 2011

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**Monument Restoration Workshop  
September 23, 2011 10:00 to 2:30  
Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV**

**Q** When does cleaning a bathrobe become a community event?

**A** When the bathrobe is being worn by Presidents Lincoln and the community wants to learn how to restore Civil War monuments!

The Monument "Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight" is prominently displayed at the front steps of the West Virginia State Capitol. It shows Lincoln in his bathrobe as he paces the floor in contemplation of the War Between the States. It was based on a Poem by Vachel Lindsay and the design sculpture was made by Fred Martin Torrey. In 1974 a nine-and-one-half foot bronze casting of the statue was commissioned by Charleston artist Bernard Wiepper and erected at the state capitol. A recent assessment by the National Park Service revealed the need for restoration.

A public workshop will be conducted by craftspeople from the National Park Service, Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC), Frederick Maryland. It will provide an informational overview of monument and statuary assessment and best practices for their maintenance. The workshop will be Friday, Sept 23 from 10:00 to 2:30. Historic Society and/or Historic Landmark Commission members, city managers or mayors are encouraged to attend. There is no charge for participation; register by Sept 21. Register at 304 345 6005 or info@pawv.org.

In conjunction with the Monument Restoration Workshop, NPS craftspeople will provide training for the General Services Division, who will spend the week cleaning and re-waxing the famed statue, "Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight", to bring it back to its intended appearance. Other statuary on the grounds of the West Virginia capital will provide examples of "before" conditions which can be compared to the finished monument. Specific conditions typical to monuments to be addressed are signs of deterioration in both bronze and stone; methods of cleaning; how to re-wax and patina; and when and how to find an experienced conservator.

The WV Division of Tourism is partnering with this effort and plans to make other workshops available to the public in 2012 to help communities restore and prepare their Civil War monuments on the Civil War Trail in preparation for the 2013 West Virginia Birthday Sesquicentennial.

The HPTC has worked and provided training at hundreds of state and federally-significant sites across the country, including recent preservation of multiple monuments

at the Civil War sites of Chickamauga & Chattanooga, Shiloh, and Gettysburg National Battlefields.