

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 102

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PROVIDING THAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN OF
2 ILLINOIS IS HEREBY DECLARED TO BE THE HONORARY GOVERNOR OF THE
3 FORMER TERRITORY OF IDAHO FOR THE DAY OF FEBRUARY 12, 2009.
4

5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, the northwest states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana wish to
7 collectively celebrate their unique heritage and collective historic relationships with Abraham
8 Lincoln; and

9 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln embodies the essence of the American spirit, guided his
10 country through a period that preserved the nation and planned for peace "with malice toward
11 none and charity for all"; and

12 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, in 1849, was offered a presidential appointment to the
13 governorship of the Oregon Territory, but declined that honor upon the recommendation of his
14 wife Mary, so he could pursue his law practice; and

15 WHEREAS, the Oregon Territory in 1849, consisted of what are now the states of Ore-
16 gon, Idaho, Montana and Washington; and

17 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, perhaps by not taking the position of governor of the Ore-
18 gon Territory and remaining involved in national issues in Illinois, did become the sixteenth
19 President of the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, the Washington Territory was divided during the Lincoln administration in
21 1863, to create the Idaho Territory and the Idaho Territory was divided in 1864, to create the
22 Montana Territory; and

23 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln as president attended the meeting at which the name
24 "Idaho" was chosen for a new territory, lobbied congress to accomplish passage of the Idaho
25 Act, signed the bill creating the Idaho Territory on March 4, 1863, and appointed the first two
26 territorial governors and thirteen other men to judicial and federal office in Idaho prior to April
27 14, 1865; and

28 WHEREAS, among Lincoln's last official acts in the White House on the final day of
29 his life was the authorizing of additional appointments to fill vacancies in office for the Idaho
30 Territory; and

31 WHEREAS, President Lincoln also contributed to the development of the states of Ore-
32 gon, Idaho, Montana and Washington by his support of the Homestead Act, the establishment
33 of land grant colleges and the launching of a transcontinental railway; and

34 WHEREAS, the legislative assemblies of these four northwestern states wish to honor
35 President Abraham Lincoln on his 200th anniversary of his birth and bestow upon him the
36 honor which he was unable to take in 1849.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of
38 the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein,
39 that Abraham Lincoln of Illinois is hereby declared to be the Honorary Governor of the former

1 Idaho Territory for the day of February 12, 2009, with the thanks and appreciation, posthu-
2 mously bestowed, by the citizens of the great state of Idaho for the attainments of his public
3 service career, which could have, but did not include presiding as Territorial Governor over the
4 landmass and then inhabitants of this area.