

For Immediate Release

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Willard Hotel's Civil War Yearlong Anniversary Programming Features Programs, Exhibits, Actors' Presentations and History Package

Washington DC, November 16, 2010 -- As America marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War in 2011, the Willard InterContinental will highlight its significant history of the period with Willard *Hotel and the Civil War*. This yearlong event in conjunction with Destination DC's regional *Civil War to Civil Rights* commemoration highlights various aspects of the Willard's history during this period through exhibitions, lectures, tours, concerts, discussion panels and related events. The Willard's programming includes partnerships with such cultural and historic entities as Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance, The International Spy Museum, Ford's Theater, the Civil War Preservation Trust and The Washington National Opera. Events will include presentations by actors Stephen Lange (Avatar) and Sam Waterston (Law & Order.) Further underscoring the anniversary, the Willard is offering a history-related package.

Calendar of Events below.

The *Willard Hotel and the Civil War* package for two includes a weekend night in a Deluxe King Room, Breakfast in Café du Parc, Valet Parking and Tickets to the Lincoln Cottage. Price starts at \$369 per room per night and is offered Thursdays to Sundays through May 31, 2011. Package must be booked at least seven days prior to arrival. Based on availability. Bookings can be made by calling 202-628-9100, or by visiting www.washington.intercontinental.com.

The Willard was a center for political and social life in Washington DC throughout the Civil War. Located close to the White House, the six-story building upon which the New Willard Hotel was later built in 1901, was at the crossroads of society and politics. According to Nathaniel Hawthorne, Willard's was "much more justly called the center of Washington and the Union than the Capitol, the White House or the State Department."

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In addition to the calendar of special events marking the occasion, the hotel will offer a *Willard Hotel and the Civil War* package available throughout the year. The Willard is also issuing a new edition of its complimentary Willard history brochure for guests. The brochure, designed by Jeanne Krohn of Krohn Design, and written by Cindy Gueli, PhD, who together created the Willard's comprehensive history gallery, will be a compilation of historic anecdotes and evocative imagery. "We hope the new Willard history brochure will provide guests with an enhanced sense of place," said Jim Veil, General Manager of the Willard InterContinental and Regional Director of Operations for Baltimore and Washington, D.C., "the Willard InterContinental is so much more than an architectural gem, it is a true microcosm of American history centered as a vital establishment through some of our nation's most dramatic chapters," Veil continued. A new series of Willard and the Civil War "history bytes" compiled by Professor Gueli will be included in the hotel's guest and media communications throughout the year.

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The Willard InterContinental is located in the heart of the nation's capital on Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House, the Smithsonian museums and the downtown business and theatre districts. The Willard epitomizes world-class hospitality as the hotel of choice for heads of state and leaders of the world's business, cultural, social and political elite. The hotel's 335 well appointed guestrooms include 41 elegant suites. Dining options include Café du Parc, the popular French bistro with seasonal outdoor seating, the Occidental Grill & Seafood, traditional Afternoon Tea in Peacock Alley and the classic Round Robin Bar. The luxurious Red Door Spa offers a wide array of pampering treatments.

*An American institution, the Willard has hosted nearly every U.S. president since 1853. It was at the Willard that Julia Ward Howe wrote *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, where President Ulysses S. Grant popularized the term "Lobbyist," and where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King finished his renowned "I Have a Dream" speech. The Willard is also noted for its 100% wind power, recycling and charitable initiatives including Anacostia River clean-up, the hotel's "Adoption" of a Pershing Park, and support of a school prom for disabled youth. The classic Willard InterContinental combines heritage and luxury with contemporary comfort and the latest technology. Tel. 202-628-9100, 1-800-827-1747, or Web site: www.washington.intercontinental.com. Twitter: www.twitter.com/willardhotel ; Facebook: www.Facebook.com/willardhotel*

*Condé Nast Traveler Gold List 2011
Travel & Leisure World's Best Hotel 2010
Café du Parc Washingtonian Magazine Top 100 Restaurants 2011
Washingtonian Bride & Groom Voted Top Wedding Venue 2011
Condé Nast Traveler 2009 World Saver Award - AAA 4 Diamond
Voted 2010 Winner for Best Hotel in Washington, D.C. by AOL City's Best*

Willard Hotel and the Civil War 150 - Calendar of Events 2011

February - The Peace Convention at 150: A Call to Compromise –

The 150th Anniversary of the Washington Peace Convention held on February 11, 1861
Actor Stephen Lang (Avatar) will deliver Lincoln's First Inaugural Address.

Presented by Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance (LATCRA) in partnership with the Willard InterContinental, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation and The Lincoln Forum.

A roster of distinguished historians will examine the Washington Peace Convention of 1861 - the final effort by American politicians to avoid the impending crisis of a Civil War. Actor Stephen Lang (Avatar) will deliver Lincoln's First Inaugural Address.

The sesquicentennial conference takes place at the Willard InterContinental Hotel on the very same site where the Peace Commissioners met 150 years ago, on February 11, 2011. This symposium will examine the issues, intrigues, and opportunities lost in a first-ever effort to re-examine and reinterpret the conference that almost saved the Union. Appearing at the event will be a roster of distinguished historians: Professor James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr., leading expert in Civil War history and Executive Director for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech, will speak on Washington in 1861; Jefferson Davis biographer William C. (Jack) Davis, also a professor at Virginia Tech, will present "The Southern Delegation;" Rhode Island Chief Justice emeritus and leading Lincoln scholar Frank J. Williams will focus on the Northern Delegation; Howard University Professor Edna Greene Medford will discuss African Americans in DC in 1861; and Harold Holzer, award-winning author of "Lincoln: President-Elect" will address the topic of "President-Elect Lincoln and the Peace Commissioners."

February 11

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Willard InterContinental

1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington DC 20008

Reservations for the symposium, luncheon and outdoor program are \$40.

Payment required by January 15, 2011. Reservations and payment should be sent to LATCRA, 3713 S. George Mason Dr., Suite 1302, Falls Church, VA 22041. For additional information contact Maria Elena Schacknies at meschacknies@latcra.org.

February - Lincoln at the Willard Hotel: Ten Days of Presidential Transition

Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of President-elect Abraham Lincoln's stay at the Willard Hotel for ten days before his inauguration, February 23-March 4, 1861.

Free Lecture and Discussion Presented by the Willard Intercontinental.

Dr. John T. Elliff, author of "Lincoln at Willard's Hotel" (The Lincolnian, 2009), will lecture and lead discussion of the activities of Abraham Lincoln at the Willard Hotel during his ten days of presidential transition in Washington, D.C. The lecture and discussion will cover the history-making events that took place at the hotel as Lincoln made his final preparations to assume the presidency - his surprise early arrival, his meetings with President Buchanan and General Winfield Scott, members of the Peace Commission, his defeated rival Stephen A. Douglas, his cabinet choices (and their critics), other leading political figures, and members of the public; his remarks on public occasions; the final selection of his cabinet, and completion of his inaugural address. Also discussed will be the ways the Willard Hotel has remembered Lincoln's stay over the subsequent years, including an intriguing twist on the payment of his hotel bill and a children's story about the slippers provided to Lincoln by the hotel. Dr. Elliff holds a Ph.D. in political science, formerly taught American government at Brandeis University, and currently writes and lectures on Lincoln. He is a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, and the Lincoln Forum.

Sunday, February 27, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00p.m. Free

March - Reenactment of the March 5, 1868 Inauguration Inaugural Banquet of Abraham Lincoln at the Willard Hotel - Presentation by Actor Sam Waterston

In collaboration with the Lincoln Group of D.C. The Lincoln BiCentennial Foundation and the Lincoln Archives.

The 150th anniversary of the first inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln which took place on March 4, 1861, will be commemorated on March 5, 2011, at a public ceremony at the United States Capitol Visitor Center auditorium. Following this, a reenactment inaugural luncheon will take place at the Willard InterContinental Hotel. Distinguished actor Sam Waterston will read from select Lincoln post inaugural speeches at the luncheon.

The 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's inauguration will be celebrated at the Willard InterContinental Hotel, with the re-enactment of the President's Inaugural Luncheon. Authentic live music of the Civil War period, Lincoln biographer speakers and exhibit of cartoons, illustrations and documents relating to the Lincoln inauguration. Participants will enjoy a menu reminiscent of the same menu as President-elect Lincoln had 150 years ago at the hotel. Keynote speakers include historian Ron White, Jr. Ph.D. Religion and History, author of *A. Lincoln: A Biography*; Allen Guelzo, Henry R. Luce III Professor of the Civil War Era at Gettysburg College, Director of the Civil War Era Studies Program and author of *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President*. Panel discussion highlights the election, Lincoln's inaugural trip to D.C., his inaugural speech and the impending crisis of war. The Lincoln Archives Digital Project (www.lincolnarchives.us) will exhibit political cartoons, newspaper front pages, illustrations and documents related to the election and inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln.

March 5

12:00 p.m.

Willard InterContinental

1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington DC 20008

Tickets for the inaugural luncheon and panel will go on sale December 1, 2010. Cost TBD. Payment is required by January 31. For more information visit: www.lincolningauguration2011.com, or call 240-462-9802.

June/July - Civil War Spies: A Three-Part Exploration of Union and Confederate Intelligence Operations

In collaboration with Ford's Theatre, National Historic Site, National Park Service; The Willard InterContinental Hotel and the International Spy Museum.

The North and the South both had their share of intelligence successes (and failures), but neither the Blue nor the Gray were strangers to intrigue and espionage. Society ladies carried secret messages, runaway slaves re-crossed the Mason-Dixon Line as undercover agents, and couriers worked covert operations in the life or death climate of wartime. In this series, a distinguished group of historians and espionage experts will introduce you to some of the most amazing spies and spy cases of the War Between the States.

Spy Rings, Covert Action, and Deception: Spies and their Tactics

Tuesday, June 21 at the International Spy Museum

Civil War intelligence operations ranged from the dazzling to the preposterous. How close did Southern covert action come to rendering New York City a Confederate holding? How did music lend deception to the battlefield? Join International Spy Museum historian Mark Stout, James A Davis, Prof. of Musicology at State University of New York, College at Fredonia, (invited), and other experts impart the value of intelligence and deceptive measures during the Civil War. Explore the key role that intelligence played in the North's victory at Gettysburg, Pinkerton's intelligence network and counterintelligence operations for the Union, and the "spy" gadgets available to the Civil War era James Bond.

The Lincoln Assassination Conspiracies

Tuesday, July 19 at Ford's Theatre

Why did a handsome, successful actor murder President Lincoln? Examine the Lincoln assassination anew—at the scene of the crime—during this eye-opening adventure. On one fact alone do scholars agree: President Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theatre on April 14th, 1865. All else is suspect! This program is presented in the very theatre where the tragedy occurred. Learn the true facts of the event and also the key conspiracy schools of thought. Was Booth acting as a lone gunman? A player in an internal Union scheme? A tool of the Confederacy? A cog in an insidious global plot? The evening will include a surprise appearance by "Booth."

Civil War Sisterhood of Spies

Tuesday, July 26 at The Willard InterContinental

Discover the secret work of key Civil War operatives of the fair sex. Meet three of the most successful female Civil War spies: Wild Rose Greenhow, a charming high society widow who sweet-talked top-flight Union officials and lowly Union clerks alike, encoded their intelligence, and smuggled messages south—with the help of her own spy ring! Antonia Ford, a confederate spy who married one of the Willard Hotel's 19th century proprietors and Virginia-based Civil War Union spy Elizabeth Van Lew. Ann Blackman (invited) author of *Wild Rose* will cover Greenhow, Amanda Ohlke, director of adult education at the International Spy Museum will trace Van Lew's espionage career, and historical impersonator Emily Lapisardi (invited) will portray Confederate spy Antonia Ford.

7:00 p.m.

Series Tickets: \$60; Individual Tickets: \$25

Tickets can be purchased at www.spymuseum.org or by calling 202.654.0932

July - 1861: The Civil War's First Year in 3D

Presented by the Civil War Preservation Trust

June 24 to July 15

Open weekdays and weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.,

Willard InterContinental

1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington DC 20008

202-628-9100

Free

In 1861, America was torn apart and thrust into civil war. States seceded from the Union, armies were raised, battles were fought, leaders emerged and the nation began an inextricable series of changes. This upheaval was not only captured by the lenses of a growing army of photographers, but was recorded using 3D, stereoscopic cameras. This exhibition will present more than three dozen Civil War-era photographs in the manner in which they were meant to be seen - in 3D. From secession to civil war, from Abraham Lincoln to Jefferson Davis, and from Fort Sumter to Bull Run, see the Civil War in depth and how the art of photojournalism was born! Developed in association with the Center for Civil War Photography and HISTORY (formerly called the History Channel), the exhibition will include a multimedia documentary-style program focusing upon the Civil War's first, but bloodless battle, Fort Sumter.

November - Afternoon Tea at the Willard with Poet Julia Ward Howe

Presented by the Willard InterContinental

Enjoy a Traditional Afternoon Tea with Julia Ward Howe, the writer, feminist and reformer who authored *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* at the Willard Hotel on November 20, 1861. In honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, the Willard InterContinental has commissioned artist Emily Lapisardi to research and develop the character of Julia Ward Howe. Ms. Lapisardi's Julia Ward Howe debut brings the character vividly and realistically to life presenting biographical information through first-person portrayal, detailed reproduction clothing and authentic artifacts.

November 19

Willard InterContinental

1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington DC 20008

202-628-9100 - tickets: \$52

December - Songs of the Civil War

Presented by the Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program.

Date and time tbd
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1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20008
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Winner of the 2009 Condé Nast Traveler World Saver Award and the DC 'Mayor's Environmental Excellence Award for "Outstanding Achievement by a Hotel, the Willard InterContinental is noted particularly for its 100% wind power, recycling, water projects in South Africa, Ethiopia, South Dakota; Washington DC's Anacostia River, its "adoption" of Pershing Park, the annual hosting of a prom for disabled youth, among other charitable initiatives. Tel. 202-628-9100, 1-800-827-1747, or Web site: www.washington.intercontinental.com. Follow on Twitter: www.twitter.com/willardhotel and Facebook: www.Facebook.com/willardhotel