

First Lady Laura Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

March 16, 2002

Dear Mrs. Bush,

On behalf of the Junior League of Springfield, Illinois, we would like to express our thanks to you and your husband for guiding our nation through the healing process in the aftermath of September 11. We would be honored if you would accept the enclosed gifts. We have enclosed one of our *Honest to Goodness* cookbooks, celebrating honestly good food from Abraham Lincoln's hometown. A 1990 winner of the *Tabasco Award*, the book's recipes, artwork and historical commentary impart the rich history that abounds in Illinois' capital city. We hope you will enjoy it.

We have also enclosed a Springfield historic scarf, which the Junior League of Springfield commissioned in 2000. Six of Springfield's historic landmarks can be found on the scarf, drawn in hues of blue, deep gold and black. Its historic images hold great significance for Springfield and for the United States.

☞☞ The scarf features the **home of Abraham Lincoln**, where the young attorney lived with his wife Mary Todd Lincoln and their sons from 1843 until 1861.

☞☞ Also featured is the **Lincoln-Herndon Law Office**, where Mr. Lincoln and his partner, William H. Herndon, built their law practice. And it was at the **Great Western Train Depot** where Mr. Lincoln bid farewell to his friends and neighbors in March 1861 and headed for Washington to be inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States.

☞☞ The **Old State Capitol of Illinois**, a stately stone building completed in 1840, and the **Executive Mansion**, circa 1856, current home of the Governor of Illinois, can also be found on the scarf. As can the **Condell House**, one of the oldest homes in Springfield.

☞☞ The images are framed in an intricate pattern matching the metalwork of the **balcony of the Illinois State Capitol**.

We hope you will accept these small gifts from your fellow Junior Leaguers. As a women's organization dedicated to voluntarism, the Junior League of Springfield is proud of your efforts to speak out against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and to encourage the fair treatment of women and children. We feel that it is only fitting to share these mementos from Mr. Lincoln's hometown with a First Lady who brings such integrity and compassion to the White House.

Sincerely yours,

Gail Sciarra Kacich
President, Junior League of Springfield, Illinois

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