
ABRAHAM LINCOLN & LEADERSHIP

Building Support and Managing Conflict



DEFINING LEADERSHIP

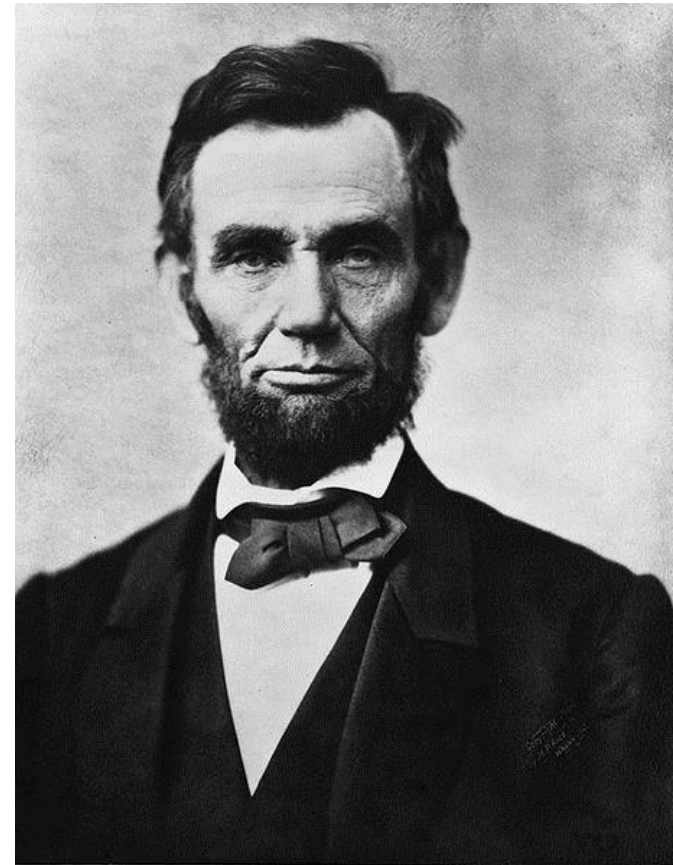
“My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure.”

-Abraham Lincoln



INTRODUCING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

- ★ Born February 12, 1809 in a one room log cabin
- ★ Elected to the IL General Assembly in 1834; serves 4 Terms and becomes Whig Floor Leader in 1838
- ★ Receives his law license in 1836 and becomes a Partner in a firm the next year
- ★ Marries Mary Todd, an upper class lady, in 1842
- ★ Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1846
- ★ Elected as the 16th President of the United States in 1860, the first Republican President
- ★ Issues the “Emancipation Proclamation” in 1863, freeing all slaves in the Confederate States
- ★ Elected to a second term as President in 1864
- ★ Guides the Union to victory in the Civil War
- ★ Shot in the head by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865; dies the next morning
- ★ December 6, 1865: The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is Ratified—Slavery is Abolished



DESTINED FOR LEADERSHIP?

- ★ Born into poverty, Lincoln's father was illiterate and Lincoln's mother died when he was 9
- ★ Lincoln was forced into work as a young boy; Lincoln would spend less than one year in formal education
- ★ Lincoln's father resented Abraham's efforts to educate himself and often destroyed his books and physically abused him
- ★ Loses election to the Illinois General Assembly in 1832
- ★ "Village Store" business venture fails twice in 1832 and 1833, leaving Lincoln in substantial debt
- ★ Lincoln's love interest dies from fever in 1835
- ★ Proposes to a second love interest in 1837 but is turned down
- ★ Lost two consecutive campaigns for the U.S. Senate in 1855 and 1859

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I appeal to you again to constantly bear in mind that with you, and not with politicians, not with Presidents, not with office-seekers, but with you, is the question, "Shall the Union and shall the liberties of this country be preserved to the latest generation?"

-Abraham Lincoln, speech to Gov. Morton in Indianapolis, February 11, 1861.

ATTITUDE

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed, is more important than any other one thing.”

-Abraham Lincoln, “Letter to Isham Reavis,” Nov. 5, 1855

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

*“I destroy my enemies,
when I make them my friends.”*

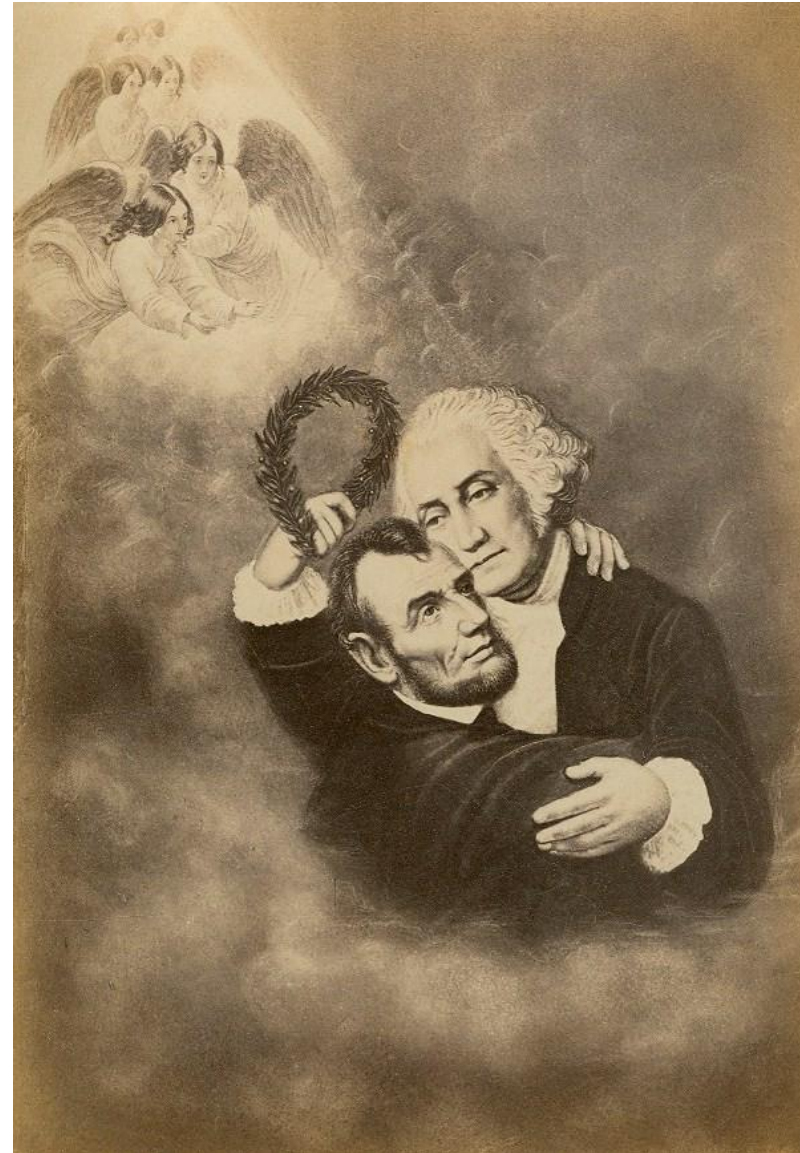
-Abraham Lincoln

TEAMBUILDING

- ★ In the 1860 Republican National Convention, Presidential hopeful Abraham Lincoln was opposed by NY Senator William Seward, Ohio Governor Salmon Chase and Missouri's elder statesman Edward Bates
- ★ Following his election to the Presidency, Lincoln made the following nominations:
 - Secretary of State: William Seward
 - Secretary of the Treasury: Salmon Chase
 - Attorney General: Edward Bates
 - Three of the remaining top posts were offered to three former Democrats
- ★ “Every member of this administration was better known, better educated and more experienced in public life than Lincoln.” (Doris Kearns Goodwin, Team of Rivals, 2005)

LESSONS LEARNED

- ★ Great leaders own their destiny
- ★ Great leaders choose their attitudes; they are not victims of circumstances
- ★ Great leaders build bridges, not barriers
- ★ Great leaders understand that “greatness” requires more than one



LINCOLN'S ULTIMATE LESSON

Success is predicated upon two things:

1. Failure/crisis can be the foundation of success
2. Teambuilding and the ability to resolve conflict are the mortar of that success

