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NAHB's Log Home Manufacturers Applaud U.S. Mint's Commemoration of Abraham Lincoln's Log Home;

Donate 100,000 Lincoln Pennies to Bicentennial Commission

WASHINGTON, February 2009—The Log Homes Council (LHC) of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) applauded the U.S. Mint's creation of a new Lincoln penny featuring Abraham Lincoln's log cabin on the back of the coin, and donated 100,000 of the new pennies to the group tasked with planning the Bicentennial celebrations.

The new pennies are part of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebrating the 200th birthday of the United States' 16th president. The first coin in the series, which will be released this month, depicts Lincoln's birth and early childhood in Kentucky with an image of the modest one-room log cabin in which he was raised on the "tails" side.

"The creation of the new Lincoln penny is an exciting event for the log home industry," said Rob Cantrell, co-LHC President and President of StoneMill Log Homes in Knoxville, Tenn. "Log Home Council manufacturers take pride in the unique connection they have to the history of home building in the United States. Acknowledging Lincoln's log cabin on a U.S. coin makes us proud to be carrying on this age-old building practice."

It is a practice that has become much more intricate and efficient over the years, Cantrell noted. "It is amazing to step back and see how far the log home industry has come in the past several decades, let alone two centuries," said Cantrell. "With techniques like log grading and specialized fastening systems, today's log homes are able to offer consumers structurally sound, energy-efficient homes that still manage to capture the rustic charm that log homes have had for generations."

In appreciation of the release of the new coin, the LHC is donating 100,000 Lincoln log cabin pennies (or \$1,000) to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC), the group that was heavily involved in the creation of the new coins. The ALBC is celebrating the Lincoln Bicentennial across the country this year, with events already planned in Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Indiana.

The \$1,000 donation is the annual LHC Heritage Grant, given by the LHC president to an organization that is uniquely tied to preserving the heritage of log homes in the United States. The donation stems from 2008 president Rob Cantrell's oversight of the LHC.

The LHC's Heritage Grant will be uniquely recognized on Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12. The ALBC is hosting a birthday party next to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. The birthday cakes, donated by local bakeries, will all commemorate the role of the log home in Lincoln's life and American history. The cake display and the event program will recognize the Log Homes Council's donation to the ALBC.

Many prominent government officials have been invited to ALBC's day-long celebration on Lincoln's 200th birthday, including President Barack Obama, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

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ABOUT THE LHC: The Log Homes Council is a national organization with membership comprised of manufacturers of log homes. The LHC is part of the Building Systems Councils, a council of the National Association of Home Builders. Council members are log home manufacturers and producers who have united to develop and promote quality building systems and ethical business practices by participation in both mandatory and voluntary council programs designed to benefit log home customers.

ABOUT NAHB: The National Association of Home Builders is a Washington, D.C.-based trade association representing more than 200,000 members involved in home building, remodeling, multifamily construction, property management, subcontracting, design, housing finance, building product manufacturing and other aspects of residential and light commercial construction. Known as "the voice of the housing industry," NAHB is affiliated with more than 800 state and local home builders associations around the country. NAHB's builder members will construct about 80 percent of the new housing units projected for 2009.