



FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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www.savefoggybottom.com

February 18, 2009

Rep. Thaddeus Stevens, Stevens Elementary School Founder *Paved the Way for President Lincoln's Emancipation of Slaves, Assured Schools for Freed Slaves*

Foggy Bottom's **Stevens Elementary School** was founded in 1868 by Rep. Thaddeus Stevens who died in Washington in August of that year and left a \$50,000 bequest (1868 dollars) for education. The public's expression of grief was second only to that following the death of Abraham Lincoln in 1865. Stevens' coffin lay in state inside the Capitol Rotunda, flanked by a Black Union Honor Guard from Massachusetts. Twenty thousand people, one-half of whom were free black men, attended his funeral in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

He chose to be buried in the Shreiner-Concord Cemetery because it was the only cemetery that would accept people without regard to race. Stevens wrote the inscription on his head stone that reads: "I repose in this quiet and secluded spot, not from any natural preference for solitude, but, finding other cemeteries limited as to race, by charter rules I have chosen this that I might illustrate in my death the principles which I advocated through a long life, equality of man before his Creator." Stevens left \$50,000 (1868 dollars) for education.

While we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, keep in mind that Thaddeus Stevens not only paved the way, but also made certain—with his own dollars—that freed black slaves would have education.

After 139 years of continuous operations, **Stevens Elementary School** was closed in June of 2007 by Chancellor Michelle Rhee, who never responded to the outcry over and opposition to the school's closing. This included our *ANC*, *GW*, the *Foggy Bottom Association Board*, graduates, and the community at large. Rhee has yet to acknowledge the Stevens School's demise.

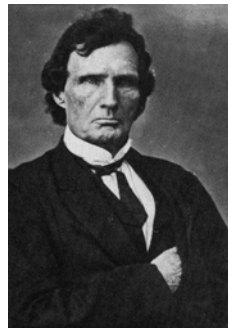
Check www.SaveFoggyBottom.com to participate in the Historic Stevens Coalition.

Pennsylvania Representative Thaddeus Stevens' zeal to end slavery met the House of Representatives and Lincoln head on. Yet as predominant as Stevens' name is in Foggy Bottom, one rarely recalls how critical his role was in the freeing of slaves. The following excerpts taken from the "Mr. Lincoln's Contemporaries" on the Lincoln Institute website: <http://www.mrlincolnanfreedom.org>,

illustrate Stevens' significance in eliminating slavery.

Republican Editor Alexander K. McClure, who came from the same area of Pennsylvania as Stevens, observed that "Strange as it may seem, these two great characters, even in conflict and yet ever battling for the same great cause, rendered invaluable service to each other, and unitedly rendered incalculable service in saving the Republic. Had Stevens not declared for the abolition of slavery as soon as the war began, and pressed it in

"Stevens was ever clearing the underbrush and preparing the soil, while Lincoln followed to sow the seeds that were to ripen in a regenerated Union; and while Stevens was ever hastening the opportunity for Lincoln to consummate great achievements in the steady advance made for the overthrow of slavery." — ANDREW McCLURE STEVENS CONTEMPORARY



and out of season, Lincoln could not have issued his Emancipation Proclamation as early as September, 1862. ... Each in his great trust attained the highest possible measure of success, and the two men who more than all others blended the varied currents of their efforts and crystallized them in

the unchangeable policy of the government were Lincoln and Thaddeus Stevens."

Biographer Ralph Korngold wrote: "Lincoln believed that the Union could best be saved by having the federal government interfere with slavery as little as possible; Stevens believed it could

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FBA MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday,
February 24, 2009
7:00 p.m. socializing,
7:30 p.m. speaker

SPEAKER:

VINCENT GRAY
DC Council Chairman

NEW LOCATION FOR FEBRUARY ONLY:

Western
Presbyterian Church
2401 Virginia Ave NW
(Entrance on 24th Street)

Vincent C. Gray, Chair D.C. Council

Gray is a native Washingtonian who is a proud product of the D.C. Public School system. He attended GWU undergraduate and graduate schools and during his career has championed the District's children and families with over 30 years in social services. First, Gray was



Executive Director of the D.C. Association for Retarded Citizens, where his advocacy led to innovative public policy initiatives on behalf of the mentally retarded.

In 1991, Gray became Director of the Department

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THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:

PRESIDENT – Joy Howell
VICE PRESIDENT – Jacqueline G. Lemire
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius
TREASURER – Bille Hougart
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Marilyn Rubin

FBA Board of Directors:

Rita Aid, David Hertzfeldt, Dusty Horwitt,
Donald W. Kreuzer, Lawrence G. Mrozinski, Greg Snyder
Ex-Officio: Ron Cocome (Immediate Past President);
Susan Trinter (FBN Editor)

Thaddeus Stevens (cont'd)

best be saved by vigorously attacking and destroying the institution. Lincoln believed that the Negro was unassimilable, a stranger in a strange land, and must eventually emigrate or be deported; Stevens believed that he was an integral part of the American nation and that national policy must be shaped accordingly. Stevens advocated his antislavery measures from conviction; Lincoln adopted them from necessity. The delay in their application, occasioned by Lincoln's resistance, may well have been salutary, but it should be considered that when Stevens advocated the measures he undoubtedly took the President's resistance into account, as he took into account the time required to mold public opinion for their acceptance."

Biographer Fawn M. Brodie wrote: "In November

1861 Stevens introduced a bill providing for total emancipation. It did not pass. On December 2 he introduced a resolution asking Lincoln to free every slave who aided in the rebellion, with compensation for loyal masters. Lincoln in the same week, much behind Stevens, delicately suggested in his Message to Congress that the border states agree to abolish slavery by 1900, selling their slaves to the government, which would then provide for their emancipation and colonization." Historian George H. Mayer wrote: "It would take four years for public opinion to catch up to Stevens."

Pennsylvania journalist Alexander K. McClure wrote, "When Stevens proposed the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and followed it with the extension

of the elective franchise to the liberated slaves, very many of his party followers in the House faltered and threatened revolt, and only a man of Stevens' iron will and relentless mastery could have commanded a solid party vote for the measures which were regarded by many as political suicide."

Biographer Fawn M. Brodie observed, "Stevens and Lincoln both treated individual Negroes as equals and as friends, without self-consciousness or self-righteousness. But Stevens never agreed with Lincoln about the necessity or justice of colonizing all the Negroes abroad, and Lincoln eventually came to recognize the idea as largely impracticable, though he never completely abandoned it." —*FBN*

Vincent C. Gray (cont'd)

of Human Services, managing the 7,000-person department and directing Public Health, Social Services, Mental Health Services and Health Care Finance related activities. He implemented initiatives addressing children with developmental needs.

In 1994, Gray became Executive Director of Covenant House Washington, an international faith-based organization dedicated to serving homeless and at-risk youth. Over a decade, Mr. Gray guided Covenant House Washington into one of the most effective agencies of its kind in the city with successful campaigns to purchase and renovate a crisis center for homeless youth, create a multi-purpose center, and to build a new community service center in the far southeast community of the District of Columbia.

Gray's foray into District politics began September 2004 with candidacy in the primary race for the Ward 7 Democratic City Council nomination. Gray defeated incumbent Councilmember, Kevin

Chavous, and went on to win the November general election with 91% of the vote, beginning his term January 2, 2005.

Gray won the 2006 Democratic primary nomination for DC Council Chairman and won the November general election with 98% of the vote. Chairman Gray continues to lead efforts to improve operations and transparency of the Council and preside over the Council's deliberations on public education reform. He has spearheaded the Pre-K

Expansion and Enhancement Act which establishes a voluntary, high-quality pre-school program for 3-4 year olds that provides 2,000 classroom slots over the next six years.

Gray's wife, Loretta, known as an outstanding educator in the D.C. Public Schools, passed away in 1998. Their two children, Jonice Gray Tucker and Vincent Carlos Gray and two grandchildren, live in the Hillcrest neighborhood of Ward 7.

—*FBN*

The FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION is sponsoring a TOUR: Backstage at the Kennedy Center, February 26, 2009

The Foggy Bottom Association (FBA) has made arrangements for a backstage tour of the Kennedy Center. The guided tour will be given by Mickey Berra, Vice President of Production, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Berra presides over operations of the Opera House, Eisenhower Theater, and the Concert Hall. Space is limited. Reservations are required. Priority will be given to FBA members. Contact Jackie Lemire at 337-2167 or jglemire@aol.com. Please provide your name and telephone number.