



# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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## Presidents Lincoln and John Q. Adams Foster America's Scientific Advances – the Locus: FB

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) located on Foggy Bottom's southern boundary at Constitution Ave NW and 21st St, was founded by Pres. Abraham Lincoln in 1863 at the height of the Civil War. He anticipated that it would serve to keep pace with the growing roles that science and technology would play in public life. Since its founding, NAS has served to "investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art" whenever called upon to do so by any department of the government and our nation's leaders.



A walk to the impressive building constructed in 1924 is rewarded by a visit to the Einstein Memorial located on the southwest corner of the NAS grounds. Einstein is depicted by a statue cast in bronze – 21' from head to toe. In his hand he holds papers with the mathematical equations that summarize his three most important scientific contributions. At his back are three quotations. At his feet is a remarkable circular sky map, a 28 foot field that represents the planets as they were at noon April 22, 1979 when the memorial

was unveiled and dedicated. The map features more than 2,700 metal studs representing the location of binary stars, spectroscopic binaries, pulsars, globular clusters, open clusters, and quasars. Einstein's contributions to science opened up a new understanding of the world and the universe.

That celestial map was designed with the help of U.S. Naval Observatory astronomers. The original Naval Observatory, a known destination of President Lincoln's located on 23rd St is almost shouting distance from NAS. This observatory built in 1844, was the dream of Pres. John Quincy Adams who lobbied long and hard to fund America's first observatory beginning with his first State of the Union address to Congress in December 1825. It was not until John Tyler became President that funding was

appropriated. The reason for the delay – partisan politics.

The Naval Observatory significantly contributed to scientific advancements in a number of fields, including astronomy, introducing standard time zones, and making Oceanography a recognized scientific area of research. The Naval Observatory inroads enabled their commission and purchase of a second telescope, the world-press revered, Great Equatorial, 32' telescope with a 26" diameter lens made in Britain and delivered in 1873. In 1895 it was moved to its current location, then the new Naval Observatory facility on Massachusetts Ave, where it continues in service.

And so the efforts of these 19th century Presidents proved to escalate America in the world through advances in the sciences – with their beginnings in FB.

*The Naval Observatory information is from A HILLTOP IN FOGGY BOTTOM: Home of the Old Naval Observatory and the Navy Medical Department, author Jan K Herman Naval Medical Command, Department of the Navy, Washington D.C., 1984. (Reprinted from U.S. Navy Medicine)*

## FBA MEMBERSHIP 2009-2010 YOU COUNT!

And **TOGETHER**, we count to help our neighborhood! Updates on events and activities that affect us and our neighborhood and a **local merchants program offering discounts to members.**

It adds up to all of the above and more for **\$15 (tax deductible) per year.**  
Membership year: August 15, 2009 – August 14, 2010

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Contribution .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and return this form with checks made payable to the FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION.  
Mail to: FBA, Post Office Box 58087  
Washington, DC 20037-8087.  
The Foggy Bottom Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit org.

## 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:

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### FBA Board of Directors:

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