

Thank You

Thank you for your purchase of the 2008 Charleston Landmark Series Ornament of Hope. Proclaimed the official city ornament by Mayor John Inyart and the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce, the 2008 ornament is the tenth in a collectible series.

On September 18, 1858 over 12,000 enthusiastic supporters gathered at the Coles County Fairgrounds to hear two state senatorial candidates debate the issues of the day caused by the split in the country over slavery and its extension. This year's ornament commemorates the Sesquicentennial Celebration of that famous Lincoln-Douglas debate.

The Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum, located near the original site of the 1858 debate, is the only museum in Illinois which retraces the seven senatorial debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas. This interpretive center features hands-on exhibits, interactive displays, an orientation movie, audio selections, artifacts and photos. The museum also includes a children's area and a gift shop. The site is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The museum building was designed by former City Manager Bill Riebe and a Wall Raising Ceremony was held on November 13, 1999. Throughout the following winter and spring, City of Charleston staff and a group of dedicated volunteers worked to complete the structure. The official Grand Opening Celebration was then held on July 22, 2000. The museum was selected as one of the "Top 10 Lincoln Sites" in Illinois by the Illinois Bureau of Tourism, Illinois Now! Magazine, Fall 2002.

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The Official Landmark Series Ornament of Hope 2008

Through this purchase, you have made it possible for
Easter Seals Central Illinois to provide services to
individuals with disabilities in Coles County .

Ornament No. _____

Certified by: _____

E.A. Neiman, Mint Director

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