



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RANCHO COTATE BAND HEADS TO WASHINGTON DC

ROHNERT PARK, CA - Rancho Cotate High School's award-winning marching band has been chosen to represent the state of California at the rededication of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on May 30-31, 2009. The rededication ceremony is part of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration that includes a birthday celebration held on February 12, Lincoln's birthday, and a tribute concert to opera star Marian Anderson scheduled for April 12. Rancho Cotate was selected for this honor by the organizers of the event "The American Musical Salute to Abraham Lincoln." The selection was based on Rancho Cotate's standing as one of the preeminent bands in California with a strong commitment to excellence. Along with bands from other states, Rancho Cotate will perform for thirty minutes on May 31, the second day of the rededication.

Rancho Cotate has earned many awards over the past several years including first place in the Band, Colorguard, Drum Major, and ID Unit categories, as well as the John Bugbee Trophy for Excellence at the Luther Burbank Rose Parade in 2007. The Band, Colorguard, and Drumline have also won numerous awards competing in the Northern California Band Association circuit, including a third place in the Marching Band category at Petaluma Invitational Band Review, a first place in Novice Winterguard category at the Vallejo Classic, the Granada Fiesta, and the Foothill Winter Show, and a third place in the Advanced Percussion category, at the Vallejo Classic and Granada Fiesta. Earlier this school year, a smaller Pep Band traveled to Anaheim to perform at the NCAA "76" Classic and was the first high school band featured nationally on ESPN as part of this event. In addition to their competitive appearances, they are a highlight of every home football game's halftime program.

The cost of this trip is approximately \$60,000 for the fifty band students and chaperones. The band, with the support of the Rancho Cotate High School Band Boosters has already raised \$8,000. The Sonoma County Office of Education has also donated \$1,000 toward the trip. The band plans several fundraisers including a benefit concert at Spreckels Performing Arts Center on April 8th, ongoing T-shirt and CD sales, but is actively seeking donations as well. Contributions in any amount can be made through the Rancho Cotate Music Boosters at 5450 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

For further information, please contact Rancho Cotate Music Director, Tim Decker at 792-4750.