

GUANGDONG ART TROUPE BRINGS TO CARMEL CHINESE NEW YEAR SPECTACULAR

Feb 12, 2017 Chinese Americans in Carmel of Indiana welcomed the visiting performance by Guangdong Art Troupe. The performance was held in the city's landmark building, Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts. The Art Troupe wooed the audience with twelve wonderful Chinese folk dance, songs, music, circus and magic.

Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard, Chinese Consul Generalin Chicago Lei Hong, Director of Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office Qiuyan Chen, Indy Deputy Mayor Angela Smith-Jones, ICCCI president Lin Li, and Executive Chairman of Telamon Corporation Board Albert Chen gave remarkson the stage before the performance. They wished local Chinese community a very happy, successful and healthy New Year of Rooster. This event was proposed by the local Chinese community, greatly supported by General Consulate in Chicago, Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office, Guangdong Culture Department.

This event brought nine local and a cross-state-line Chinese organizations and numerous volunteers together. According to Ming Ye, the chairwoman of the Planning Committee for this event, this event showed strength and the unity of the local Chinese community. "We worked as a team". The eventcould not have happened without the joint effort of these Chinese

organizations and generous contribution of time and skills from the volunteers.

The nine organizations are America China Society of Indiana, Carmel-Xiangyang Sister City Committee, Confucius Institute of IUPUI, Indiana Association of Chinese Americans, Indianapolis Chinese Americans, Indianapolis Chinese Performing Arts, Inc., Jane J Chen DDS PC, M /I Homes, Raymond Wong DDS MSD Family Dentistry, America China Society of Indiana, Carmel-Xiangyang Sister City Committee, Chinese American Bridge, and Faegre Baker Daniels.

A special acknowledgment is given to Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Chicago, and Guangdong Province Foreign Affairs Office, and city of Carmel.

Special thanks are given to the following sponsors: Telamon Corporation, Confucius Institute of IUPUI, Indiana Association of Chinese Americans, Indianapolis Chinese Performing Arts, Inc., Jane J Chen DDS PC, M /I Homes, Raymond Wong DDS MSD Family Dentistry, America China Society of Indiana, Carmel-Xiangyang Sister City Committee, Chinese American Bridge, and Faegre Baker Daniels.



Honorable guests on the stage

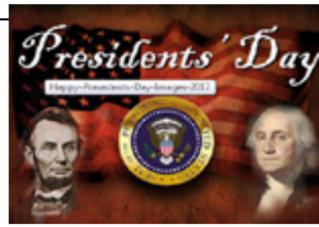


Group dance by Guangdong Performing Arts Troupe



PRESIDENTS' DAY

"In executing the duties of my present important station, I can promise nothing but purity of intentions, and, in carrying these into effect, fidelity and diligence." ~George Washington



Dr. Patrick Lau was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. after high school. He retired from the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System where he served as Chief Radiologist and moved to Florida with his wife in 2011. He was an active member & contributor of IACA and ICMA while in Indiana. Dr. Lau is also a scholar of art and literature and a prolific writer, he has been a dedicated columnist for Indy Asian American Times since 2010.

Presidents' (President's) Day is a holiday honoring George Washington who was born on February 22, 1732. He courageously commanded the American Continental Army in its drawn out and ultimately successful struggle in the Revolutionary War (1775—1783). In 1787, Washington, together with other leading legislators at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, created and ratified the United States Constitution. On April 30, 1789, he took office as the first president of the United States. He successfully guided the new nation through its first eight years, establishing a strong federal government.

Washington diplomatically kept the nation out of the conflict between France and England by staying in a neutral position in 1790s. He is called the "Father of Our Country," and is a symbol of honor, dignity and honesty. In 1885, President Chester Arthur signed a legislation officially making Washington's Birthday a federal holiday.

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. He was sworn in as the sixteenth president of the United States on March 4, 1861. He took a role as commander-in-chief in the Civil War (1861-1865), fought between the North (Union states) and the South (Confederate states). On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, considered as his most significant action as president, which paved the way for the Thirteenth Amendment (Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction). He achieved the remarkable success of preserving the Union and abolishing slavery. On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth; he passed away the next day. Lincoln's birthday was celebrated after his assassination.

In 1968, the congress passed the legislation, "Monday Holidays Act", placing existing federal holidays to be observed on Mondays to create a number of three-day weekends. Consequently, enactment of this act moved the commemoration of Washington's Birthday from

February 22 to the third Monday in February. The name of the federal holiday, Washington's Birthday, however, has never been changed by a Congressional stipulation. And George Washington is the only president whose birthday is legally observed.

Many states have been celebrating Lincoln's birthday as a public holiday; however, it was never proclaimed a federal holiday. After the "Monday Holidays Act" became effective in 1971, it has been gradually and inadvertently believed that the day had been legally changed from Washington's Birthday to Presidents' day for the observance of the two presidents' birthdays together.

Presidents' Day is traditionally regarded as a time of patriotic celebration and remembrance. Around the holiday, schools, particularly grade and middle schools teach students about the presidents of the United States. On Presidents' Day, many communities stage pageants, patriotic parades and reenactments of significant events in the life of George Washington. Alexandria hosts a celebration each year during Presidents' Day Weekend, which includes history tours, open house at several historic sites and a banquet and ball, as well as the largest Washington Birthday Parade in the United States. At Mount Vernon, the cherished home of George Washington, celebration includes breakfast with George Washington and America's Smallest Hometown Parade. Many of the birthday observance activities are also held at The National Park Service.

Washington and Lincoln have still been the two most recognized presidents of the United States. Nevertheless, nowadays the holiday is popularly thought as a day to honor the lives, achievements and legacies of all the American presidents.

In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "I leave you, hoping that the lamp of liberty will burn in your bosoms until there shall no longer be a doubt that all men are created free and equal."

