



# THE DEFENDER

Lincoln Day Special Edition

March 2026

## The Enduring Anthem of America at 250



“Let Freedom Ring” began as a lyrical celebration of American liberty, first appearing in the 1831 patriotic hymn *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*, written by Samuel Francis Smith. In its opening verse, the line “from every mountainside, let freedom ring” expressed the young nation’s belief that liberty should echo across the land as a defining national ideal. The phrase framed freedom not only as a political condition but as a sound—clear, resonant, and unmistakable—carried from place to place like a bell.

Over time, the phrase grew beyond its musical origins. It became a metaphor for the universal spread of civil and human rights, suggesting that freedom should be experienced by all people, in every community. The metaphor treats freedom as something that must be heard, recognized, and shared, not merely possessed. Its power lies in portraying liberty as both a gift and a responsibility: a call that must be allowed to ring out, unmuted by injustice or indifference.



The phrase reached its most iconic moment in 1963, when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. invoked it repeatedly in his *I Have a Dream* speech. By drawing on the familiar hymn, King connected the nation’s founding ideals with the unfinished work of civil rights. His use of “let freedom ring” transformed the phrase into a moral summons—an insistence that America live up to its promise by extending freedom to every citizen.

Today, “Let Freedom Ring” endures as both a patriotic affirmation and a challenge. It reminds us that liberty is not static; it must be renewed, protected, and extended so that its “ring” is heard by all.

God Bless,  
Rob Linebarger,  
Chair@SpokaneGOP.com



**Defending Faith, Family & Freedom**

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# NATIONAL YOUNG REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



*By Enrique Rico, Young Republicans Chair*

February 19-21 Young Republicans met from around the country in Washington DC for the Young Republican Leadership Conference (YRNF). This was a weekend filled with training, panels, and a private tour and reception at the German Ambassador's residence. This event was not only to train YRs how to become better activists, but also to build lifelong connections.

Washington State Young Republicans annual "Day on the Hill" and annual dinner took place February 26. This allows members who signed up to see the legislative session in action and connect with the republican caucus who are fighting like hell for us in Olympia.

In 2026, the Spokane YRs plan to host many social and community events. If you see our advertisements for "Spokane YR Community" events, these will be open for all to attend. Activism is so much more than politics, it truly is about bringing the community together. Isolated we can do nothing, but together we can become an unstoppable force for good in Spokane.



If you know of any Republicans 18-40 years who love this country and want to get involved, have them go to [WSYR.org](http://WSYR.org) to register, or email us at [spokanecountyrs@gmail.com](mailto:spokanecountyrs@gmail.com)



# FREEDOM'S FRAMEWORK

Artwork created by James Bishop



“Freedom’s Framework” is a uniquely American achievement, born from a people determined to secure liberty not only for themselves but for generations yet unseen. The Founders understood that freedom could not rest on sentiment alone; it required structure, restraint, and a moral commitment to human dignity.

Their answer was a constitutional republic built on limited government, the rule of law, and the belief that rights come from God, not rulers. This framework—separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, and the consent of the governed—was designed to prevent tyranny in every age.

What makes the American experience exceptional is not perfection but aspiration. From the Revolution to the civil rights movement, citizens have

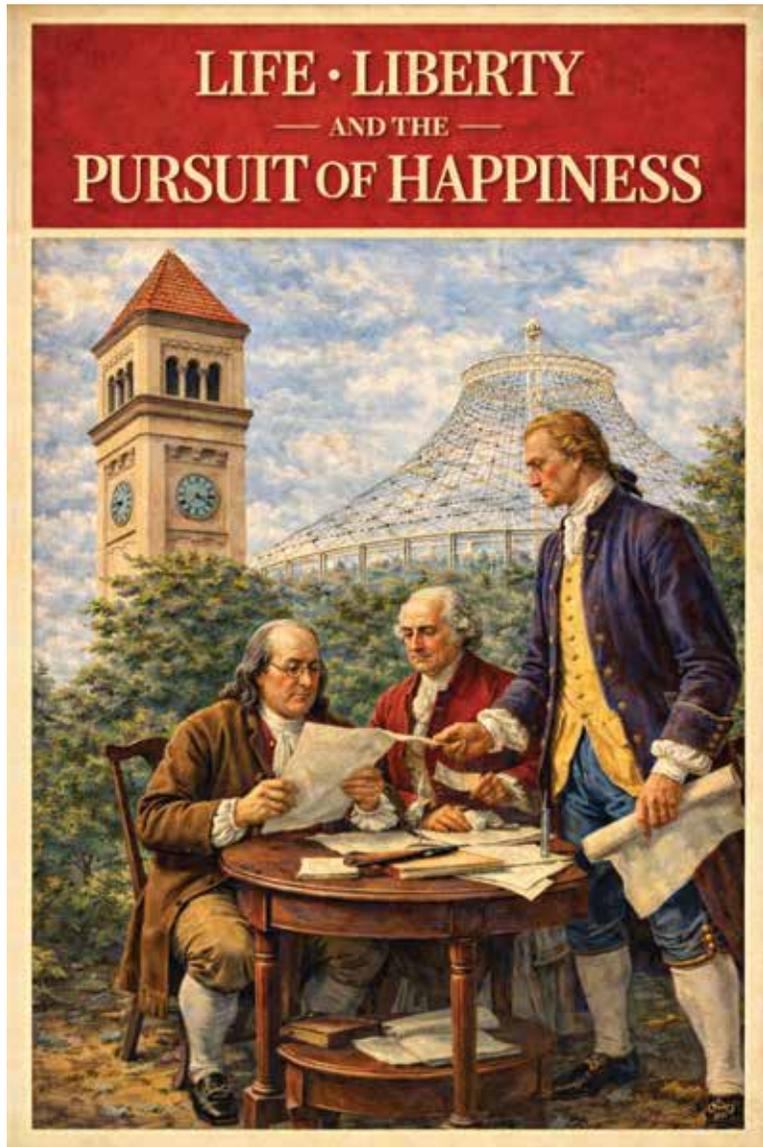
invoked the Constitution as a promise worth fighting to fulfill. The framework endures because it invites participation: ordinary people shaping their communities, holding leaders accountable, and guarding the blessings of liberty.

In a world where power often concentrates and freedoms erode, America’s framework remains a bold declaration that free people can govern themselves. It is both inheritance and responsibility. To honor it is to live as citizens—grateful for the past, vigilant in the present, and hopeful for the future of the American experiment.



# LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Artwork created by James Bishop



“Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” emerged as the moral centerpiece of the Declaration of Independence, capturing the essence of what the American Revolution sought to defend.

Thomas Jefferson drew inspiration from Enlightenment thinkers—especially John Locke, who wrote of “life, liberty, and property”—but Jefferson reshaped the idea to express something broader and more humane. By replacing property with the “pursuit of happiness,” he signaled that the new nation would ground its legitimacy not merely in material rights but in the flourishing of the human spirit.

The phrase’s meaning rests on three interlocking ideas. **Life** affirms the inherent worth of every person and the government’s duty to protect that dignity. **Liberty** asserts that individuals

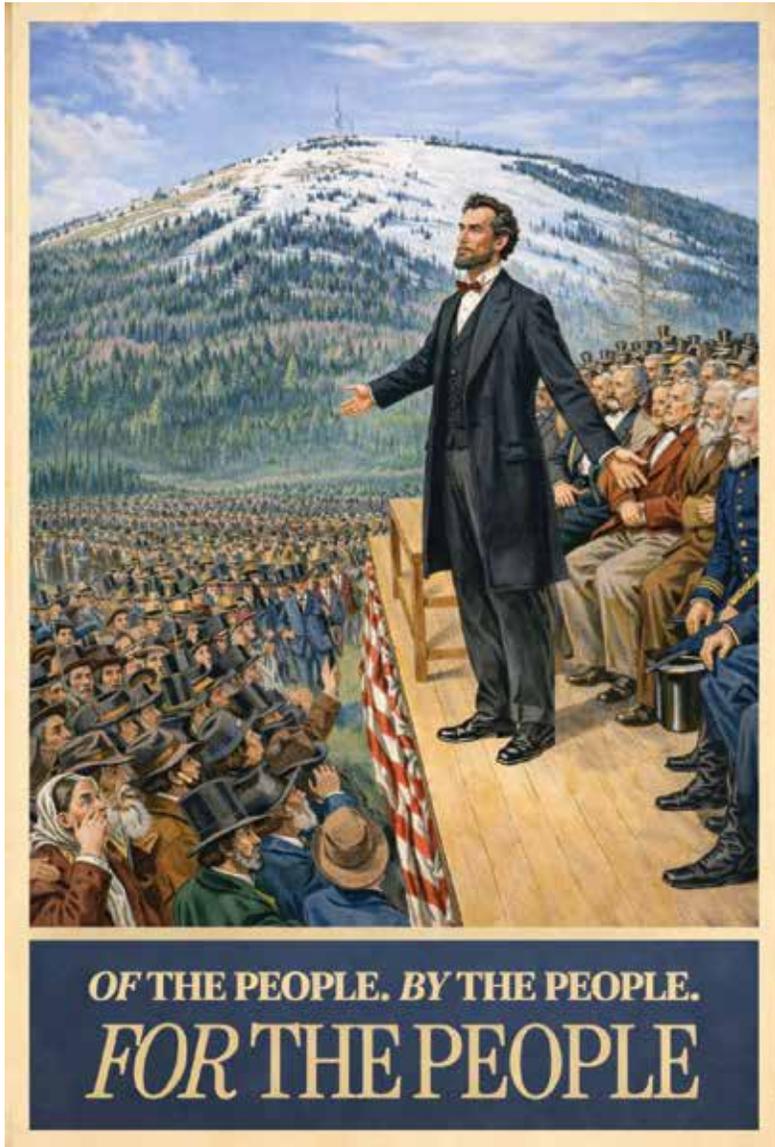
are born free, not granted freedom by rulers, and that self-government is the natural condition of a moral people. The **pursuit of happiness** elevates the right to seek fulfillment—through family, faith, work, community, and conscience—without coercion. Together, these principles form a creed that transcended the politics of 1776 and became a universal promise.

This triad endures because it expresses both aspiration and obligation. It calls Americans to safeguard the rights they inherited and to extend them more fully across generations. In doing so, it remains the guiding star of the nation’s democratic experiment.



# OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE

Artwork created by James Bishop



“Government of, by, and for the people” expresses the American conviction that political power originates in the citizenry, is exercised through their participation, and must ultimately serve their well-being. The phrase reached its most enduring form in Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, but its roots stretch back to the Revolution.

The Founders rejected the Old World model of subjects ruled by monarchs and instead embraced the idea that legitimate authority flows upward from the people themselves. This was the animating spirit behind the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution’s opening words, “We the People.”

The meaning of the phrase unfolds in three layers. “Of the people” affirms that government is created by ordinary citizens, not imposed by elites or inherited rulers. “By the people” insists

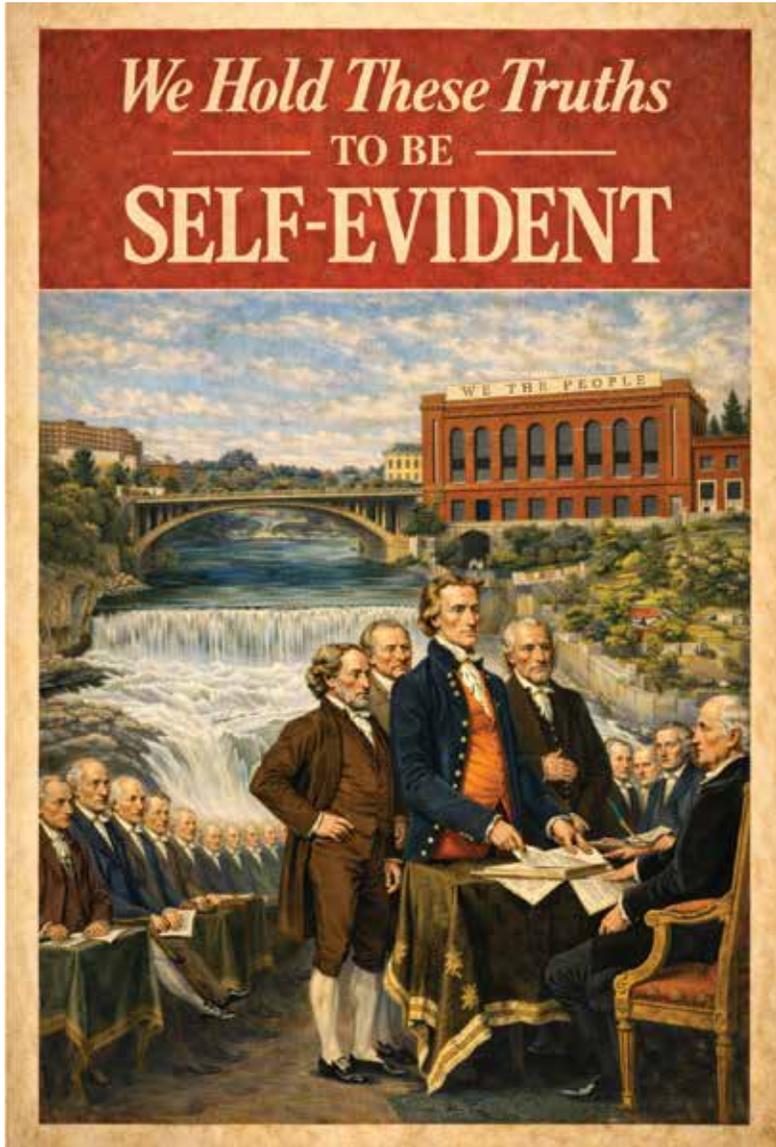
that citizens must actively participate—through voting, debate, service, and accountability—to keep the system honest and responsive. “For the people” declares that the purpose of government is the common good, not the enrichment of a privileged few.

Together, these ideas form a uniquely American framework: a republic grounded in consent, sustained by civic virtue, and judged by how faithfully it protects liberty and opportunity. The phrase endures because it captures both the promise and the responsibility of self-government.



# SELF-EVIDENT TRUTHS

Artwork created by James Bishop



“We hold these truths to be self-evident” announces the Declaration of Independence’s boldest claim: that the American Revolution rested not on preference or grievance alone, but on universal moral principles accessible to all people through reason.

Jefferson’s original draft read “sacred and undeniable,” but Benjamin Franklin suggested “self-evident,” a shift that grounded the argument not in religious authority but in rational truth.

This phrasing reflected Enlightenment ideas circulating among thinkers like Franklin and David Hume, who distinguished truths that require proof from those that are immediately recognizable as inherent to human nature.

The phrase introduces the Declaration’s core propositions: that all people are created equal, endowed with unalienable

rights, and justified in altering any government that violates those rights. These truths are presented not as innovations but as realities the British Crown had ignored.

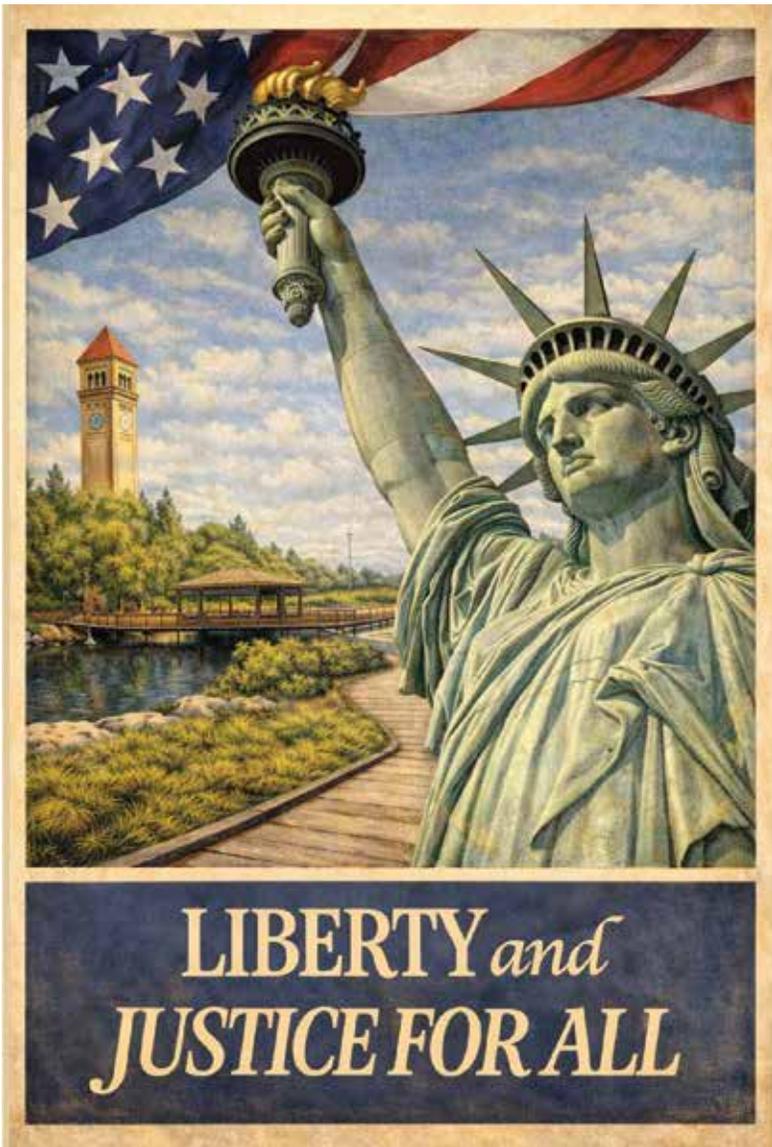
By framing them as self-evident, the Continental Congress asserted that legitimate government rests on natural rights and the consent of the governed—principles that require no king’s approval to be valid.

The enduring power of the phrase lies in its dual function: it is both a statement of national identity and a moral standard. It calls each generation to recognize inherent human dignity and to measure its laws and institutions against that timeless truth.



# LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Artwork created by James Bishop



“Liberty and Justice for All” originates in the Pledge of Allegiance, first written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy as a unifying civic statement for schoolchildren across a rapidly changing nation.

The phrase distilled the American promise into two inseparable ideals: liberty, the freedom to live without arbitrary restraint, and justice, the guarantee of fair and equal treatment under the law.

Over time, these words became more than a patriotic recitation—they evolved into a national moral standard.

**Liberty** in this context reflects the broad range of freedoms protected in American life: speech, religion, assembly, due process, and the autonomy to pursue one’s own path.

**Justice** complements liberty by ensuring that these freedoms are applied impartially, that the law protects the

vulnerable as faithfully as the powerful, and that every person stands equal before the courts. Together, they form a framework in which rights are both expansive and safeguarded.

The enduring power of the phrase lies in its aspirational nature. It names not only what America claims to be, but what it must continually strive to become.

Each generation is called to measure its institutions, policies, and civic character against this simple but demanding creed: that freedom and fairness belong to everyone.



# LINCOLN DAY SPONSORSHIPS



## Heritage Event Sponsor - \$25,000

### Pre-event Recognition

- Recognition as the Event Sponsor on all marketing materials (print and digital)
- Recognition on the Front Page of the Program
- Recognition as the Event Sponsor in all media releases
- Top recognition on Event website, Spokane GOP website and in our monthly newsletter

### At the Event

- GOBO projection of your logo above the stage
- Speaking opportunity at the event (3 minutes)
- Recognition in the event slideshow
- Full page ad in event program
- Promotional One Minute Sponsor Video
- Two Premium Front-Center tables at the Main Event and Dinner
- Keynote and Featured Speakers seated with the Heritage Sponsor
- VIP tickets for all Heritage Sponsor guests
- Table side bottle service for your guests (wine and beer only)

Half-page Ad in the digital version of the Spokane GOP Monthly "Defender Newsletter" and all Print Editions distributed at events for one year



## Liberty Sponsor - \$10,000

### Pre-event Recognition

- Recognition on all print and digital materials
- Scaled Recognition on the Event and Website, Spokane GOP Website

### At the Event

- VIP Tickets for 10 People and Table Side Bottle Service (Wine and Beer)
- GOBO projection of your Logo above the stage during the event
- Recognition in the event slide show
- Full-page Ad in the Event Program
- Promotional One Minute Sponsorship Video

Half-page Ad in the digital version of the Spokane GOP Monthly "Defender Newsletter" and all Print Editions distributed at events for one year



## Freedom Sponsor - \$5,000

### Pre-event Recognition

- Recognition on all print and digital materials
- Scaled Recognition on the Event and Website, Spokane GOP Website

### At the Event

- VIP Tickets for 10 People and Table Side Bottle Service (Wine and Beer)
- GOBO projection of your Logo above the stage during the event
- Recognition in the event slide show
- Half-page Ad in the Event Program

Quarter-page Ad in the digital version of the Spokane GOP Monthly "Defender Newsletter" and all Print Editions distributed at events for one year.



# MORE TABLES AND TICKETS



## Patriot Sponsor - \$3,500

At the Event

- Recognition in the event slideshow
- Mention with Logo in the event program
- Reserved seating at the Main Event and Dinner for 10 guests
- VIP tickets for all Patriot Sponsor guests
- Table side bottle service for your guests (wine and beer only)

Ad in the digital version of the Spokane GOP Monthly "Defender Newsletter" and all Print Editions distributed at events for one year

## Discounts on Tables and Tickets through February 28



## Reserved VIP Table - \$3,500

Save \$1,000 at checkout with Coupon Code "FREEDOM"

- VIP Reception Tickets for 10 guests
- Reserved seating at the Main Event and Dinner for 10 guests



## Reserved General Admission Table - \$2,000

Save \$250 at checkout with Coupon Code "FREEDOM"

- Reserved seating at the Main Event and Dinner for 10 guests



## Individual VIP Tickets - \$350

Save \$50 at checkout with Coupon Code "FREEDOM"

- VIP Event Ticket
- Admission to the Main Event and Dinner



## Individual General Admission Tickets - \$200

Save \$25 at checkout with Coupon Code "FREEDOM"

- Admission to the Main Event and Dinner

**YOUNG REPUBLICAN AND STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE**  
**Contact [Chair@SpokaneGOP.com](mailto:Chair@SpokaneGOP.com)**



# LINCOLN DAY LINKS

REGISTER TODAY AND SAVE WITH COUPON CODE "FREEDOM"



## SPOKANE COUNTY

— REPUBLICAN PARTY —

THE DAVENPORT GRAND BALLROOM  
6:00PM TO 9:00PM - MARCH 21, 2026

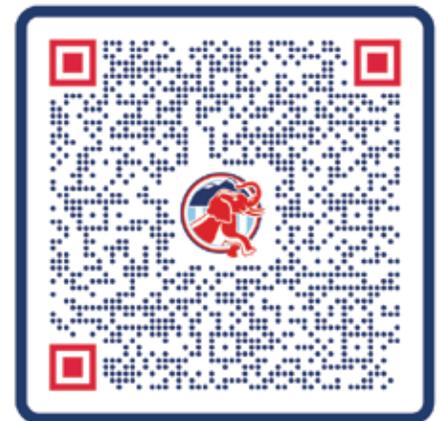
SpokaneGOP.com



Lincoln Day Website



Purchase Tickets  
Sponsor a Table



INTERESTED IN DONATING A DESSERT OR AUCTION ITEM?

SCAN THE LINCOLN DAY WEBSITE QR CODE OR EMAIL [VCHAIR@SPOKANEGOP.COM](mailto:VCHAIR@SPOKANEGOP.COM)



# DESSERT DASH & AUCTIONS



## Dessert Dash – A Sweet & Spirited Competition!

Get ready for the high-energy Dessert Dash. Local commercial bakeries are crafting a stunning spread of beautifully decorated, crowd-worthy desserts, and each table will work together to earn the best pick of the night.

Tables increase their selection priority through their collective sponsorship gifts. When your table's number is called, your designated "dasher" heads to the dessert table to claim your team's choice and bring it back to share.

It's fast, competitive, and one of the most memorable moments of the evening – all while advancing the mission of the organization.

To make the Dessert Dash possible, we're inviting you to help underwrite the desserts prepared by our bakery partners. Your \$75 sponsorship ensures a top-tier display, fuels the fun, and maximizes the impact of the night. Join us in sponsoring the Dessert Dash and help set the table for a great event.

*\*Please note: Due to restrictions by the venue, all desserts must be prepared by a professional establishment licensed to serve food.*

## Live & Silent Auctions – Bid, Win, Support!

Join the excitement at Lincoln Day with both our Live and Silent Auctions! The Silent Auction lets you browse and bid at your own pace on exclusive items and experiences, while the Live Auction brings high-energy competition for the evening's premier offerings.

Whether you're eyeing a one-of-a-kind package or a must-have item, every bid directly supports the Spokane GOP's mission. Get ready to raise your paddle, outbid the competition, and take home something incredible—all while backing the fight for faith, family, and freedom!



**Go to [SpokaneGOP.com/Lincoln-Day](http://SpokaneGOP.com/Lincoln-Day) to Donate**



# LINCOLN DAY SPONSORS



KIEPE WEALTH MANAGEMENT  
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HEALTHCARE SERVICES

