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NEWS

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White Welcomes George Washington Exhibition to Illinois State Library

SPRINGFIELD — Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has announced that the Illinois State Library in Springfield will host a major traveling exhibition on the life and legacy of President George Washington from August 15 to September 26, 2002.

"The Great Experiment: George Washington and the American Republic" is a free panel display containing elements of Washington's early life, the American Revolution, the Constitutional Convention, his presidency and his life after serving as the nation's first President. The 1,000 square foot, 30-panel exhibition is based on original manuscripts, rare books, prints, engravings and historic artifacts. The exhibition is made possible by a \$1,000 grant awarded to the State Library by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"The Land of Lincoln is delighted to be hosting this landmark exhibition on another of our nation's greatest Presidents," White said. "Springfield is one of only 40 cities nationwide that is hosting this exhibition that has received tremendous praise since it began touring the country in 2000. I hope that teachers and students will take time to visit this important display, so that our young people may better understand Washington's life and historical significance and learn about events that shaped our great nation."

"The Great Experiment" is based on a major exhibition of original documents mounted by the Huntington Library in San Marino, California in 1998-1999 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Washington's death. It offers a fresh perspective on Washington's life by examining the destinies of

Washington and the people of the new American Republic. Visitors will discover the man behind the myths, and learn more about his legacy as well as and other 18th century revolutionaries.

The free panel display will be located in the first floor atrium of the State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, in Springfield. Patrons are invited to view the exhibition during normal library visiting hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.