



A Message From Secretary of State Jesse White

It is my privilege to present this 2013-2014 edition of the *Illinois Blue Book*, the official state manual. Like its predecessors, the 56th edition of the *Blue Book* continues the tradition of providing up-to-date information about state officials, government offices and a snapshot of Illinois facts and history.

The 2013-2014 *Illinois Blue Book* commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with a seven-page feature article. The article pays homage to the organizers and leaders of the march, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Illinoisans Timuel Black, Jr., the Rev. Addie L. Wyatt, Al Raby, Lawrence Landry and Don Rose, who were instrumental in seeing this monumental event come to fruition. Illinois' own U.S. Senator Everett Dirksen was a key player in getting the landmark Civil Rights Act passed, laying the groundwork for equal opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

The title pages for this edition pay tribute to another great Illinoisan — Abraham Lincoln — as the nation celebrated the 150-year anniversary of his famous Gettysburg Address, delivered on November 19, 1863. The text of the speech introduces each section in the *Blue Book* with a close-up of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. It is interesting to note that the Lincoln Memorial also served as the backdrop for the 1963 March on Washington and the 2013 commemoration of that historic event.

As in previous *Blue Books*, this edition includes biographies of our elected officials and legislators, information on constitutional offices and state departments, Illinois courts and the education system, and an updated Chronology of Illinois History. Employees in all sectors of government contributed to this edition, and I thank them for their cooperation in making the *Blue Book* one of the most reliable and respected sources on Illinois government and history.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse White".

JESSE WHITE
Illinois Secretary of State