

## PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON TO SPEAK AT **PLACE**

At the invitation of the **place**, President Theodore Roosevelt has agreed to address the people of **city or region** at **time and date**. The public has been invited. President Johnson, portrayed by Dr. Gary M. Gray, will defend his policies since the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and his strong beliefs in the Union, the Constitution, and States Rights.

Andrew Johnson is portrayed on March 22, 1868, the day before his impeachment hearing. President Johnson will address you and a group of invited guests to publicly refute the impeachment charges against him. He also shares his background, from indentured servitude to president with the audience. President Roosevelt will be introduced by Secretary of State Seward (portrayed by **add name**) who has stood firmly behind his president during these politically trying times.

Dr. Gray is the author of *MR. PRESIDENTS: Voices of Freedom, Equality, and Dignity* (Presidential Press, ISBN: 0-9774194-0-1), now available at bookstores everywhere. Along with TR, the book features nine historical “moments in time” featuring George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt (with Erma Stewart as the first lady), and General Douglas MacArthur.

As a historian, actor and writer, Dr. Gray is renowned for his brilliant and historically accurate portrayals of seven of America’s greatest citizens. His performances have received acclaimed reviews and standing ovations. Dr. Gray holds graduate degrees from Phillips University, Southern Methodist and Notre Dame, along with a doctorate in education from Oklahoma State. He has performed/lectured in every state and worldwide, and taught at Phillips University and Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Dr. Gray is the author of eleven books and the former publisher and editor of two national magazines.

Dr. Gray has spent years researching Johnson. He studied his writings, read biographies on him by many authors, visited his home and national memorial site in Greenville, TN, where he interviewed Johnson historian and biographer, Dr. Robert Orr.

Johnson was a southern Democrat patriot serving as president following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Congress was populated overwhelmingly by “Radical” Republicans determined to extract revenge for the Civil War that left 300,000 Northern soldiers dead.

Johnson served as an indentured servant in Raleigh, N.C. during his childhood. He eventually escaped to Greenville, TN where he opened a tailor shop. He married Eliza McCardle who taught him to read and write.

His tailor shop became a gathering place for the working people of Greenville and Johnson soon began to rise, eventually becoming U.S. Senator, and during the Civil War, military governor of Tennessee. In 1864 Lincoln nominated him for vice president as a way to help heal the country as the war ended.

Johnson agreed with Lincoln's policies and tried to continue them after Lincoln's death, but was met with increasing opposition from Republicans who were intent on revenge by making the black man superior to the white man in the south.

Dr Gray adds "*Johnson story is about the most powerful and unique of the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. He is my favorite portrayal, as I can be absolutely angry for forty minutes. Frankly, Johnson had a right to be angry as his impeachment was done for purely political reasons. This presentation is full of extremely interesting and provocative issues.*"

**Host directors' name** suggests "*the people of **city or area** will be riveted by this Andrew Johnson presentation. President Johnson is not well known, but his story was of critical importance following the Civil War, and has echoes that are very much alive today. Dr. Gray's presentation gives people the feel of Johnson's deep love for the Union and the Constitution, even though he was a southerner. You will feel Johnson righteous anger at those who were trying to remove him from the presidency for political reasons. Please plan to join us on **date**.*"