

## PRESIDENT JAMES A. GARFIELD TO SPEAK AT **PLACE**

At the invitation of the **place**, President James A. Garfield has agreed to address the people of **city or region** at **time and date**. The public has been invited. President Garfield, portrayed by Dr. Gary M. Gray, will share his "Horatio Alger" journey from the "towpath of the Erie Canal" to the Presidency. This address features his strong convictions regarding slavery, the Union, education of the masses and his guiding principles of "Freedom, Equality and Dignity" for every American.

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, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt (with Erma Stewart as the first lady), and General Douglas MacArthur.

One of America's least known Presidents, James Abram Garfield was among the best equipped and brilliant men ever to assume the Presidency. Born into poverty in 1831 in a NE Ohio log cabin, Garfield was to become a Disciples of Christ minister, an educator, a college president, a two-star general, and the minority leader in the U. S. House of Representatives.

President Garfield will be introduced by Secretary of State James G. Blaine (portrayed by **add name**).

Dr. Gray is a historian, actor and writer 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 Garfield. He studied his writings, interviewed his primary biographer Allen Peskin, visited the site of his birth and burial, his educational institutions, Hiram College in OH and Williams College in MA, and toured his homes in Hiram and Mentor, OH.

Gray feels Garfield wrote with an understanding of the essence of the American spirit that rivals the great giants of our country's history, several of whom are featured in his book *Mr. Presidents*. In looking at his writings, probably these three words, *Freedom...Equality...Dignity*, were the central focus of his thoughts. For example Gray says, look at this July 4, 1860 quote: "*Equality implies that every man shall have an equal right to use the faculties and means of happiness which God has given him, as he pleases, provided he does not interfere with the rights of others. It implies the largest liberty of the individual that would not make liberty minister to anarchy and injustice.*"

Gray plans to feature some of the significant moments in this poverty to president presentation including Garfield's attempt to become a sailor at age 16, and his subsequent entry into formal school. A pivotal moment was his "Creation vs. Evolution" debate in 1858, along with his war experience as a two-star general and Civil War battles of the Big Sandy River, Shiloh, and Chattanooga/Chickamauga. During that speech Roosevelt will tell stories. Finally there is a moment with Abraham Lincoln in 1863 that turns him finally and totally into politics.

Gray says "*I may like Garfield more than any character I have portrayed. He is so happy the day he leaves Washington in 1881, not knowing an assassin is waiting at the train station.*"

**Host directors' name** suggests "*the people of city or area will have a invigorating time at this James A. Garfield presentation. Although Garfield was among the least known of American Presidents, he was among its most brilliant and well-equipped for the position and his is among the most remarkable of American success stories: emerging from poverty, to preacher, to President. Overall, Garfield is great for all ages in that he is "the Log Cabin President."* Please plan to join us on **date.**"