A Splendid Setting for a National Celebration

William J. Whalen

It is here that the life of George Washington, our beloved first President, is remembered daily by thousands of national and international visitors to the city of Washington, and nearby are remembered the lives of Presidents Lincoln and Jefferson.

At the National Park Service we believe that parks represent our nation's greatest features and resources. The parks serve not only to protect the best of our natural and cultural resources but also provide all Americans with matchless opportunity for human enjoyment, education, and inspiration. Certainly, it is these opportunities that visitors experience at the Folklife Festival.

The Festival has always been marked by growth; and this encourages our participation. The National Park Service is a people-serving agency, and our involvement in programs such as this one is typical of our commitment to provide new areas and facilities and existing ones for active outdoor recreation and reflection, regardless of whether the park population lives in or near urban centers.

Your participation and interest are to be applauded as well. We are grateful for the continuing and active support you have shown in the Festival and hope you find harmony and delight during your visit.

Welcome and enjoy yourself.

William J. Whalen is the Director of the National Park Service.