

California State Senate

SENATOR

DARRELL STEINBERG

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE



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MEDIA AVAILABILITY

STATE CAPITOL WELCOMES HOME STATUE OF CIVIL WAR ORATOR

Steinberg to Join Relatives of Thomas Starr King at Capitol Park Dedication Ceremony & Unveiling of New Capitol Exhibit

(SACRAMENTO)-- In collaboration with the California State Parks State Capitol Museum, the California State Legislature will dedicate the statue of Unitarian Minister Thomas Starr King, which until recently represented California for 78 years in the United States Capitol's Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C., at a ceremony in Sacramento's Capitol Park, this Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. King's bronze likeness will now occupy a space of honor in the Civil War Grove section of Capitol Park.

King was a Unitarian preacher often cited as one of the major contributors to keeping California from seceding from the Union at the height of the Civil War. His ceaseless advocacy for the Union cause would earn him the title "the Apostle of Freedom" and is hailed as "the orator who saved the nation."

Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) will welcome family members of Thomas Starr King who will speak during the ceremony. Joining them will be Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks, and other special guests who will speak of King's achievements and his role in California's history.

Immediately following the dedication ceremony, a new exhibit devoted to Starr King's life and legacy titled, "Apostle of Liberty: Thomas Starr King," will debut in the State Capitol Archives Exhibit Room to invited guests and family members. It will remain open to the public until June 30, 2010.

The new exhibit joins two additional exhibits currently on display in the State Capitol Museum relating to California's Civil War history. "Carried with Courage: Historic Flags from the Capitol Collection," and "Our Union Forever: California's Role in the Civil War," are open until May 23, 2010. Starr King's vibrant association with California and the Civil War allows all three exhibits to complement each other and further enrich the visitors' experience. The California State Capitol Museum is operated by California State Parks and supported by the California State Legislature. The museum, exhibits, self-guided and guided tours are free and open to the public seven days a week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Thomas Starr King's statue leaves Statuary Hall, which is comprised of statues donated by individual states to honor persons notable in their history, by means of California State Senate Resolution, SJR3

(Hollingsworth), which ruled for its replacement with a statue of former United States president, Ronald Reagan. Reagan's bronze image was unveiled at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on June 3, 2009, where he now represents California along with Father Junipero Serra in Statuary Hall.

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Time: 1:30pm -2:30pm

Location: Capitol Park, Civil War Grove

Note: In case of inclement weather the ceremony will be held in the Archives Exhibit room, 1st floor, Historic State Capitol

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