

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation to host *Coolidge and the American Project* conference at the Library of Congress, February 16-17, 2023**

**“We need more of the Office Desk and less of the Show Window in politics. Let men in office substitute the midnight oil for the limelight.” – Calvin Coolidge**

Plymouth Notch, Vt. -- The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation is pleased to present *Coolidge and the American Project*, a national conference in Washington, D.C. on February 16-17, 2023. The event is co-hosted by the Library of Congress, where the gathering will take place. The Library of Congress holds Coolidge’s presidential papers.

Media wishing to cover the conference are asked to complete a media interest form at this [link](#). Media must register and receive credentials in order to attend.

The year 2023 marks the centennial of Coolidge’s inauguration as America’s thirtieth president. Silent Cal, as he is often called, exemplified civic virtues we admire today: thrift, bipartisanship, civility, and an abiding commitment to the Constitution and the Framers’ vision for America. Though Coolidge was U.S. President, he sought to underscore the importance that towns and states play in civic life. His notion of government was one of service: “We need more of the Office Desk and less of the Show Window in politics. Let men in office substitute the midnight oil for the limelight,” Coolidge said. A determined budgeter, President Coolidge, who served five and a half years, balanced the federal budget each year of his presidency and paid down a considerable share of the national debt. In a decade that started with Americans divided, Coolidge brought the country together. “No matter by what various crafts we came here,” he reminded citizens, “we are all now in the same boat.”

*Coolidge and the American Project* will feature two days of panels and discussions of Coolidge’s work and philosophy. The conference will follow Coolidge from his boyhood in the small hamlet of Plymouth Notch, Vermont, to a long period of service in state government in Massachusetts, through his vice presidency and presidency. Scholars, business leaders, policymakers, public servants and Coolidge and Harding descendants will reflect on Coolidge’s life and legacy and his relevance for today. Speakers will examine the American philosophies, laws, rhetoric, faith traditions and rural life that shaped Coolidge. Panelists will also reflect on how two decades in state politics prepared Coolidge for the White House. Discussion of Coolidge’s presidency will highlight his commitment to making America friendlier to commerce through disciplined budgeting, tax reduction, and the encouragement of innovation.

“The Coolidge centennial gives the nation an opportunity to learn from our thirtieth president’s legacy of civility and trust,” said Coolidge Foundation vice-chair and former Vermont governor James Douglas. “Coolidge’s record of integrity offers powerful lessons for our country today.”

Featured addresses at the conference will highlight important aspects of Coolidge’s life and career. U.S. Senator Peter Welch will open the conference speaking about Coolidge’s Vermont upbringing. Former Indiana governor Mitch Daniels will also speak at the conference opening, as will Library of Congress historian Margaret McAleer.

Calvin Coolidge acceded to the presidency from the vice presidency at the death of President Warren Harding. Vice President Michael R. Pence, who made a surprise visit to Coolidge’s boyhood village of Plymouth Notch, Vermont in 2018, will address the conference during lunch on Thursday, February 16, with remarks on the meaning of public service, the gubernatorial experience, and the vice presidency. It was in South Dakota during the summer of 1927 that President Coolidge shocked the nation by announcing “I do not choose to run for president in nineteen twenty eight.” Last year, the state of South Dakota welcomed Coolidge biographer and Foundation chair Amity Shlaes to discuss Coolidge’s time in South Dakota. South Dakota governor Kristi Noem will appear at the conference to honor Coolidge and deliver a featured address during lunch on Friday, February 17 on work ethic and the importance of workers in a strong economy.

The conference will also include the national premiere of the new documentary film, *Coolidge: Rediscovering an American President*. The documentary screening will take place the evening of Thursday, February 16 as part of the “Live! at the Library” event series. A special, one-night display, curated by the Library of Congress, “Calvin Coolidge and the 1920s: Where Tradition Met the New Modern,” will be available for viewing as well. The Library’s Manuscript Division holds the presidential papers of Coolidge, which are [available online here](#), along with the papers of twenty-three early U.S. presidents. Additional official papers and artifacts of Calvin Coolidge are held by the Forbes Library of Northampton, Massachusetts, and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

Although Coolidge was president a century ago, this conference sets its sights on the future. More than one hundred high schoolers and college students -- many of them alumni of Coolidge Foundation programs -- will attend.

A conference agenda is available at this [link](#). For more information, please contact Matthew Denhart, Coolidge Foundation president at [mdenhart@coolidgefoundation.org](mailto:mdenhart@coolidgefoundation.org).

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### **About the Coolidge Centennial**

On August 2, 1923, Vice President Calvin Coolidge was vacationing in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, when word came that President Warren Harding had suddenly passed away. Coolidge’s own father, Colonel John Coolidge, was a notary public and justice of the peace. By this authority, the father swore the son into the highest office in the land at 2:47 a.m. the next

morning. This lamp-lit inauguration, unique in America's history, became a symbol of Coolidge's humble and principled service to America.

The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation is leading a year of celebrations in honor of the centennial of the Coolidge presidency. The Foundation, founded in 1960 by President Coolidge's son, is headquartered in Plymouth Notch, Vermont and maintains a second office in Washington, D.C. It seeks to share President Coolidge's legacy and values with Americans across the country. Learn more about the Coolidge Foundation at [Coolidgefoundation.org](http://Coolidgefoundation.org).

#### About the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States – and extensive materials from around the world – both on site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at [loc.gov](http://loc.gov), access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at [congress.gov](http://congress.gov) and register creative works of authorship at [copyright.gov](http://copyright.gov).