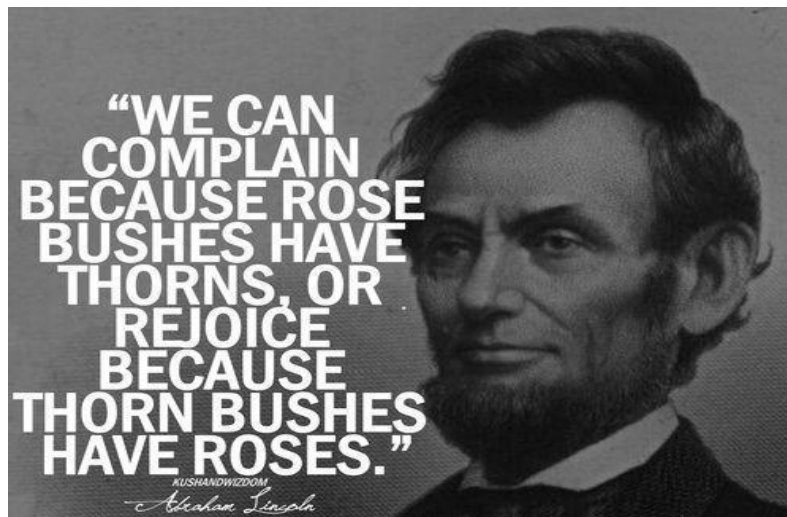


THE THOUGHTS AND PHILOSOPHIES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

“An open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise, and intelligence; that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life....” Is essentially a statement that Lincoln believed in a ‘right to rise.’ Alexander Hamilton and Henry Clay, and then Lincoln believed that government investment could provide the Nation’s citizens with the opportunity to be successful.

“The prudent, penniless beginner in the world labors for awhile, saves a surplus with which to buy tools or land for himself; then labors on his own account for awhile, and at length hires another new beginner to help him. This is the just, and generous and prosperous system, which opens the way to all— gives hope to all, ...and energy, and progress, and improvement of conditions to all.”

The improvements to one generation, are handed to the next through improvement and opportunity. Each in turn has the responsibility, through the system, to take care of the next.



“We proposed to give all a chance; and we expected the weak to grow stronger, the ignorant, wiser; and all better, and happier together.”

Not only did Lincoln believe that there should be a level playing field for all to start in the race of life, but ultimately he believed that equality would improve all of us because the Nation grows by all of us being stronger.