Individual freedom and human equality are always upheld in the United States. It is a place where everyone is treated with respect and has equal rights in life, yet there are still regulations in place to keep people safe and under control. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th US president, assisted them in this endeavor. President Lincoln helped shape America into what it is today because of what he did and the countless acts of freedom he accomplished, so Abraham Lincoln is a symbol of the country's people with their desire for liberty and equality.

 First, my impression of Abraham Lincoln is that he was clever and diligent when he was a child. Abraham Lincoln grew up in a poor family in Hardin County, Kentucky. He worked hard as a boy and performed many of the household chores, which taught him patience, hard work, and responsibility, so I believe this is a good illustration of how his boyhood prepared him for his presidency. In 1831, he relocated to New Salem, Illinois, after many years of working at the family home. Since that, he developed an interest in politics, and he finally won the election to the Illinois House of Representatives. Afterward, he ran for the Senate of the United States; he did not win, but his anti-slavery comments in the debates gained him national attention. Slavery, he claimed, was against the Founding Fathers' principles. Additionally, in 1857, Dred Scott, a black slave, sued his owner, John Sandford, claiming that because they had moved to a free state, Scott should be free as well. Scott had no standing to sue his owner since blacks were not citizens, according to the Supreme Court. Lincoln (1857) said in his famous speech that he believed the authors of that historic document intended to include all males, but not in every way. They did not mean to imply that everyone was the same regarding color, size, intelligence, moral growth, or social capacity. They defined what they regarded to be all men created equal—equal to certain fundamental rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in a respectable way. This is a clear indication of how he truly considered everyone as equal and desired to transform the world. Slavery was terrible in his opinion, so he was against it.

Second, I think he was one of the most courageous presidents because he stood up to something so morally awful as slavery, even though half of the country detested everyone who tried to stop it. His hatred for slavery began so early in his childhood that he could not recall when it started. Lincoln (1864) stated, “I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong.” He chose to run for president in order to transform the US, and he was eventually elected.  The South thought it was improper of him to do so, and they banded together as The Confederates, forcing Lincoln to consider his options thoroughly. On April 12th, 1861, he dispatched troops to Fort Sumter to examine what was occurring, but the Confederates opened fire on the Union, triggering the bloodiest conflict in history, the Civil War. A struggle for slavery and state rights was about to start, but Lincoln was unfazed because he was always optimistic about the abolition of slavery. According to Durden (1965), slavery was considered an ethical issue by Lincoln, who campaigned to abolish it. He was equally opposed to slavery's expansion, but his attitude appeared to be motivated by both economic and moral considerations. He wanted to protect Midwestern farmers and free laborers from competition from southern planters and slave employees. In Lincoln's opinion, liberty meant that no man, Black or White, should ever be forced to submit to another man regarding the personal or economic submission. His most important mission is to free people from the yoke of concentrated riches and power.

Finally, I believe he was heroic because he was unfazed when the American Civil War arose, and he never gave up. Lincoln had to consider his options carefully to win the Civil War without ruining the nation. Furthermore, all he wanted was for the United States and the entire world to be equal. Lincoln (1858) insisted, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." He maintained that the government could not continue to operate in a half-slave, half-free state permanently. He certainly did not suppose the Union to be disbanded or the House of Representatives to collapse, but he did expect it to cease to be divided. That is why he was brave and steadfast in his convictions. The Civil War raged on for another four years, and Lincoln was re-elected president in 1864. On April 9th, 1865, the Confederates surrendered after one final combat. Slavery was abolished, and the nation would now be equal because of Lincoln's efforts. Another aspect Lincoln contributed to the development of modern-day America, and he was lauded for making America equal, yet not everyone agreed with Lincoln's actions. Slavery was prohibited, but that did not mean the South was pleased about it, and they wanted him to quit. Only several days after the Civil War finished, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth while attending a play at the Ford Theater in Washington DC, and he passed away on April 15th, 1865. Lincoln abolished slavery but was assassinated because of it. Furthermore, he was completely aware that what he was doing could have resulted in him being injured or killed, yet he continued because he supposed it was the moral thing to do. Lincoln contributed to the abolition of slavery and created America as a home of the brave, where everyone was treated fairly.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that Abraham Lincoln was one of the best presidents in the United States because of his significant achievements and sacrifices to abolish slavery. He made a great effort to fight the battle and put an end to injustice. Moreover, he risked his life to make a stand for what most people believed was right. Therefore, Abraham Lincoln is recognized as one of the most powerful symbols of liberty and equality. For his bravery, he has been commemorated in monuments including the Lincoln Monument and Mount Rushmore, and on Presidents’ Day, Americans honor him.