

A lifetime of failures?

5 Abraham Lincoln is regarded as one of America's greatest heroes due to both his incredible impact on the nation and his unique appeal. His is a remarkable story of the rise from humble beginnings to achieve the highest office in the land; then, a sudden and tragic death at a time when his country needed him most to complete the great task remaining before the nation.

10 Lincoln grew up in a log cabin in rural Kentucky and went on to become the 16th President of the United States. On January 1st, 1863, having obtained enough votes to pass the 13th amendment, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery and, by doing so, brought about the end of the Civil War. He was assassinated on April 15th, 1865.

20 Lincoln distinctively human and humane personality and historic role as saviour of the Union and emancipator of the slaves create a legacy that endures.

25 The 2013 Steven Spielberg film *Lincoln* focuses on Abraham Lincoln's greatest successes. However, before having achieved those historic exploits in 1863-1865, Lincoln had endured a significant number of setbacks, personal sufferings, struggles, disappointments and failures.

Here's a brief chronology:

1818 His mother died when he was 9
1832 Lost his job
1832 Defeated for the legislature
1833 Failed in business
1834 Elected to legislature
1835 Sweetheart (Ann Rutledge) died
1836 Had nervous breakdown
1838 Defeated for speaker of the House of Illinois
1843 Defeated for nomination for Congress
1846 Elected to Congress
1848 Lost re-nomination
1849 Rejected for Land Officer
1854 Defeated for the Senate
1856 Defeated for nomination for Vice-President
1858 Again defeated for the Senate

30 Abraham Lincoln was elected President two years later in 1860. He went on to lead his country through its greatest crisis – the American Civil War. He was able to preserve the Union while ending slavery, and charted a course for rebuilding the war-torn country.

35 Has it ever crossed your mind that "failures" are perhaps a necessary part of living a successful life? Lincoln refused to let any one of his failures stop him from fulfilling his mission. In fact, it may well have been because of his failures that he was able to lead his country at such a difficult time.

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