

Lewis and Clark Roundup

New Lewis and Clark Bridge Dedicated



The new bridge with Lewis & Clark Discovery Expedition of St. Charles boats in foreground.

Braving freezing temperatures along the Ohio River on December 18, 2016, dignitaries, local residents, and Lewis and Clark enthusiasts gathered to dedicate the new 2,500-foot Lewis and Clark Bridge crossing the Ohio River from southern Indiana to Louisville, Kentucky. The name is an ode to Indiana and Kentucky's shared historical prominence in the Lewis and Clark Expeditions. The two met in the area in 1803 while organizing their expedition to the West.

"Naming this bridge the Lewis and Clark Bridge speaks to the shared prosperity between Indiana and Kentucky, just as Lewis and Clark together charted a course that would put the United States of America on a path to greatness," out-going governor Mike Pence said in a statement. "As the Crossroads of America and the Bluegrass State continue to play a shared role in our national economy as models of industry and commerce, the Lewis

and Clark Bridge will allow for us to grow, build, create, and move products together and power our economies for years to come."

Pence had originally considered the name Ronald Reagan Bridge. According to Phyllis Yeager, LCTHF member, "I believe Governor Pence had changed his mind by May because of what he said in his address to the NRA Convention held in Louisville—all before he was selected to be Trump's running mate. I believe that the many e-mails, letters, and phone calls from so many people, including LCTHF members throughout the U.S, changed his mind. One of those who did so was Steve Lee, President of the LCTHF. Many others helped. If you contacted him, thank you very much."

At the May NRA convention, Pence recounted some local history and charged those in attendance to take a lesson from Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who embarked

on their journey to explore the Louisiana Purchase from the Falls of the Ohio, located just across the river from Louisville.

"They took with them undaunted courage, faith, and freedom," he said. "I would say in these uncertain times, we too must face this moment with courage, with faith, and with the same commitment to carry freedom forward through this election and beyond."

Yeager expended much effort to lobby for the name change. She put the Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Tourism in touch with Lewis and Clark leaders in Kentucky. "I reached out to Jim Mallory and leaders at DESC, Locust Grove, Frazier History Museum, and the Filson Club (Jim Holmberg). Mark Newman contacted his counterpart in Kentucky."

On December 18th Yeager was honored to be at the opening ceremony and joined other dignitaries on one of the first buses to travel over the new bridge. ■