

## **Foreword**

**T**HE CURRENT EDITION of the Wisconsin Blue Book is published in the midst of the centennial commemoration of the Civil War, which tested the unity of our nation. Wisconsin can be justly proud of its part as a very young state in that great conflict. Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chicamauga, and Gettysburg are but a few of the many battles in which Wisconsin's sons distinguished themselves.

It is fitting that a painting of "Old Abe" should be used as the frontispiece of this volume. This eagle is one of the great symbols to come out of the Civil War. It spurred on our troops during the years of conflict. It helped our men to establish an identity and to develop a pride which carried them through adversity.

While this edition of the Blue Book recognizes the Civil War and Wisconsin's contribution to it, the military establishment of this state has served with valor in every conflict in which this nation has engaged; and our state's civilian population, despite strong ties to people of our adversary nations, has rallied to the cause with a vigor which is truly American.

To enter battle in the defense of one's country is the great test of loyalty. To accept the rigors of military training, the hardships of the battle zone, and the exposure to danger and death are true measurements of the depth of one's allegiance.

It is time, past time, that we rally to the protection of our basic democratic institutions in periods of peace as well as in time of war. It is time that we exert ourselves to understand our public problems and to participate in their solution. It is

*time that the solid core of volunteers who have long exercised their duties as well as their privileges of citizenship be augmented by a much broader segment of our citizenry. It is time that we all give more active dedication to the principles for which so many of our people gave "the last full measure of devotion."*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gaylord Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G".

Governor