



# *News from The Missouri State Society of Washington, D.C.*

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## **MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF 2009 CHERRY BLOSSOM PRINCESS**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) **The Missouri State Society of Washington, D.C.**, today announced the selection of its **2009 Cherry Blossom Princess**. **Ms. Meredith White**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben White of St. Louis, will represent Missouri during the week-long festival celebrating the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the flowering of the cherry blossom trees in our Nation's Capital. This year also marks the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Cherry Blossom Princess Program. Since 1948, State Societies have selected accomplished young women to share their state's rich culture, traditions and history with national and international visitors and dignitaries at the annual Cherry Blossom Festival and abroad.

"The Missouri State Society of Washington, D.C., is proud to announce Meredith White as the 2009 Missouri Cherry Blossom Princess because she embodies the history and culture of our state," said **Andrew Vlasaty, President of the Missouri State Society**. "Coming from a long line of Missouri heritage, she is the perfect person to share Missouri's culture, traditions and history with national and international visitors and dignitaries during the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C."

The National Cherry Blossom Festival annually commemorates the 1912 gift to the city of Washington, D.C. of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo. The gift was designed to enhance the growing friendship between the U.S. and Japan. The Cherry Blossom Princesses participate in educational, leadership and cultural activities as they serve their nation and respective state. To date, more than 2,500 young women have participated in the NCSS Cherry Blossom Princess Program.

"I'm truly honored to represent my home state as Missouri's Cherry Blossom Princess this year," said **Meredith White, Missouri's 2009 Cherry Blossom Princess**. "I come from a long line of Missouri heritage and am thrilled to be a part of such wonderful events here in the Nation's capitol. Thank you so much to the Missouri state society, my family, friends and all of those that have made this opportunity possible."

Miss. White is a 2003 graduate of Kirkwood High School in Missouri, and a graduate of the University of Delaware where she majored in Political Science. She comes from a long line of Missouri heritage. Miss. White was, born in Cape Girardeau and raised in St. Louis, now resides in Washington D.C., where she currently is a member of Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill's staff. Prior to this, Meredith interned for Missouri Congressman Russ Carnahan during the summer of 2006. Meredith enjoys tennis, Congressional softball, skiing and volunteering on Congressional campaigns.

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The following events are part of the program:

**Fashion Show Luncheon**

Who: The NCSS  
What: The Russian-Inspired "Passion Runway" Fashion Show  
When: Tuesday, March 30, 2009 at noon to 2:30 p.m.  
Where: Fort McNair Officers' Club, Building 60, at 4th and P Streets, SW  
Notes: Tickets \$65 each, email missouristatesociety@gmail.com or ncssevents@comcast.net for Ticket Information

**NCSS President's Congressional Reception**

Who: President's of the State Societies, Members of Congress, Cherry Blossom Princesses  
What: Reception Honoring 2009 Cherry Blossom Princesses  
When: Wednesday, April 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Where: Senate Hart Building, Room 902, 9th Floor  
Notes: Reservation Required, Business Attire

**Grand Ball and Sushi Reception**

Who: 2009 Cherry Blossom Princess, Dignitaries  
What: Coronation of the 2009 U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen  
When: Friday, April 3, from 6:00 p.m. to midnight  
Where: Grand Hyatt at Washington Center, 10000 H Street, NW  
Notes: Black-tie, \$150 per Ticket, Email missouristatesociety@gmail.com or ncssevents@comcast.net for Ticket Information

**Cherry Blossom Parade**

Who: 2009 U.S. Cherry Blossom Princess, Japan Counterpart, U.S. & International Princesses  
What: Parade Featuring Giant Balloons, Floats, Bands, and Specialty Groups  
When: Saturday, April 4 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon  
Where: Constitution Avenue, NW  
Notes: Grandstand Tickets Available at [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com), Free Curbside Viewing

**Sakura Matsuri Festival**

Who: U.S. and International Princesses, Japanese Entertainment  
What: Festival Featuring Japanese Food, Beverages and Entertainment  
When: Saturday, April 4 from Noon – 4:00 p.m.  
Where: Constitution & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Notes: Free Admission, More Information Available at [www.us-japan.org/dc](http://www.us-japan.org/dc)

For more information about the Missouri State Society of Washington DC and the Cherry Blossom Princess program, please visit: [www.missouristatesociety.org](http://www.missouristatesociety.org).