

The Gettysburg Address

The Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln's most famous speech and one of the most quoted political speeches in United States history, was delivered at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on November 19, 1863, during the American Civil War, four and a half months after the Battle of Gettysburg.

FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS
AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT
FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A NEW
NATION CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY
AND DEDICATED TO THE
PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE
CREATED EQUAL •

NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT
CIVIL WAR TESTING WHETHER THAT
NATION OR ANY NATION SO
CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED
CAN LONG ENDURE • WE ARE MET
ON A GREAT BATTLEFIELD OF THAT
WAR • WE HAVE COME TO DEDICATE
A PORTION OF THAT FIELD AS A
FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THOSE
WHO HERE GAVE THEIR LIVES THAT
THAT NATION MIGHT LIVE • IT IS
ALTOGETHER FITTING AND PROPER
THAT WE SHOULD DO THIS • BUT IN
A LARGER SENSE WE CAN NOT
DEDICATE~WE CAN NOT
CONSECRATE~WE CAN NOT
HALLOW~THIS GROUND • THE
BRAVE MEN LIVING AND DEAD WHO
STRUGGLED HERE HAVE
CONSECRATED IT FAR ABOVE OUR
POOR POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT •
THE WORLD WILL LITTLE NOTE
NOR

LONG REMEMBER WHAT WE SAY
HERE BUT IT CAN NEVER FORGET
WHAT THEY DID HERE • IT IS FOR US
THE LIVING RATHER TO BE
DEDICATED HERE TO THE
UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY
WHO FOUGHT HERE HAVE THUS FAR
SO NOBLY ADVANCED • IT IS
RATHER FOR US TO BE HERE
DEDICATED TO THE GREAT TASK
REMAINING BEFORE US~THAT
FROM THESE HONORED DEAD WE
TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO
THAT CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY
GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF
DEVOTION~THAT WE HERE HIGHLY
RESOLVE THAT THESE DEAD SHALL
NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN~THAT THIS
NATION UNDER GOD SHALL HAVE A
NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM~AND
THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE
BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE
SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE
EARTH •

There are five drafts of the speech all of them different – in 1922 when they built the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC this was the version they inscribed on the wall.