

# This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the delivery of the Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln!

Members of the Utah Bar Association have gathered a coalition of partners to mark this anniversary. The project is called "Getty Ready".

Utah PTA is one of the partners and we are just as anxious to increase awareness of the messages Lincoln left us in this speech. It is short -- but is one of the most well-known speeches in American history. It is considered one of the nation's "founding documents", even though it was produced *four score and seven years* after the nation's founding.

*What can PTA do to commemorate this anniversary?* Brainstorm with your local PTA boards and come up with a way to motivate students, school staff, and even family members to study and memorize this inspiring address. Here are a few suggestions:

- Instead of the "Star Spangled Banner", students could be invited to recite the Address over the intercom one morning each week.
- The students who lead the recitation from memory could be given a reward (school t-shirt, lunch with the Principal, a special pencil, name on the "Getty Ready" (Hall of Fame) bulletin board (see below).
- Have a Getty Ready Bulletin Board in the school main hall, honoring those who can recite the Address from memory.
- Include on the bulletin board items about the themes of the Gettysburg Address, for example:
  - Fun Facts about Lincoln,
  - Respectful Reflections on the Civil War, or
  - Inspiring Ideas for how we can be engaged in our community and government.
- Have a Lincoln-Look-Alike contest for school staff and/or parents
- Have an assembly to honor Abe and those who have memorized the Address
- Place a suggestion (or pledge) box in the school to collect ways students can show "increased devotion to the cause" of preserving liberty, equality, and government for, by, and of the people.
- Publicize that the Reflections theme, "Believe, Dream, Inspire", easily combines with a Gettysburg Address theme. (Note: this year is also the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "I have a dream" speech by Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Find additional information on the Getty Ready website: [gettyready.org](http://gettyready.org)



## The Gettysburg Address

---

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 cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate,  
we cannot 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.