

Gettysburg Address

Abraham Lincoln

November 19, 1863

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this
5 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 con-
ceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great bat-
tlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field
10 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 conse-
crate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead
who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to
15 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
20 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 gov-
ernment of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish
25 from the earth.

Source: The Avalon Project, Yale Law School