# Gettysburg Address

Eighty-some odd years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this land, a new country, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the preposition that all men are created equally.

At this time we are engaged in a big civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can endure long. We are met here on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate some of it as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is very 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 can never forget what they did here.

It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they have, thus far, so nobly carried on. 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 here gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

—Abraham Lincoln