GETTYSBURG FLAG CEREMONY

SCOUT 1: 150 years ago on July 1 our country fought a terrible and bloody battle at a little crossroads town in Pennsylvania. For three days, the armies of the Union north and the Confederate south battled at Gettysburg. It was the turning point of the American Civil War.

SCOUT 2: Later that year during November, President Lincoln traveled to Gettysburg for the dedication of the new Union cemetery. The first speaker spoke for nearly two hours, and then the president arose. He spoke only 269 words with his speech lasting most likely under two minutes. The first speaker wrote to the president, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

SCOUT 3: President Lincoln reminded us first that we were a young nation, only 87 years old. Then he stated that the nation was built on liberty with the idea that we are all equal, and this war was to test that idea, since not all of us were free and equal under the law.

SCOUT 4: He praised the men, living and dead who had fought on that battlefield for such a noble cause, for they had made the ground hallowed. It was up to the rest of the nation to complete this work so that these men would not have died in vain.

SCOUT 5: He finished by stating that this nation, under God, should have a new birth of freedom--, "and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

SCOUT 6: We are a country now united and with all races and creeds free under the law. Let us honor those brave men who gave their lives that all may be free. Would the audience please rise and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance after me.

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