

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.

ded·i·cate

1.

to set apart and consecrate to a deity or to a sacred purpose: *The ancient Greeks dedicated many shrines to Aphrodite.*

2.

to devote wholly and earnestly, as to some person or purpose: *He dedicated his life to fighting corruption.*

3.

to offer formally (a book, piece of music, etc.) to a person, cause, or the like in testimony of affection or respect, as on a prefatory page.