

“Abraham Lincoln: a

savior to his country”

By Sydnie McGue

The day was Thursday, November 19, 1863 in Gettysburg, PA. This was almost 5 months after the bloodiest battle in American History. The battle of Gettysburg lasted 3 short days and left the town with over 50,000 deaths from the Northern and Southern armies. Even after 5 months there were still dead bodies in their fields and streets. The town needed a savior and someone to help them move on. The town needed President Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln was invited to Gettysburg to help dedicate the Soldiers National Cemetery. This cemetery wasn't only made to bury the dead, it was also made to honor the people who fought for their country. Even though Edward Everett was the main speaker, Lincoln's speech will always be remembered. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was less than 250 words and nearly 5 minutes long. We all know the beginning, “Four score and seven years ago...”. And how can we forget the ending, “...government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address became one of the greatest speeches in American history. The words of the Gettysburg Address healed the people of Gettysburg and the people of our nation. Our God, flag and country were all there that day, assuring us that “these honored dead, shall not have died in vain.”

God, Flag and Country speeches

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, February 18, 2013 9:44 AM - Last Updated Monday, February 18, 2013 10:59 AM



“Why?”

By Bridget Martin

Why do we get into wars? Why do people shoot each other? Why do people do drugs? Why do people get really sick? Why do people get in car accidents? Why do these things happen to us? Well I don't know but I know someone who does. His name is God.

You know I've experienced some of these things in my life. And they are really scary. When I wasn't even born yet, my Great Uncle Bobby was killed in the Vietnam War. When I first told about it, I was really, really sad. When I was in 4th grade my mom was diagnosed with M.S. which stands for Multiple Sclerosis (it's a brain disease). But, the worst of them all is when my

God, Flag and Country speeches

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, February 18, 2013 9:44 AM - Last Updated Monday, February 18, 2013 10:59 AM

cousin Collin Stockwell died. He was in a bad car accident. It was very sad.



But my point is that through all these things you just have to trust Got. From a bruise on your knee, to the shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. God said “Life might not be easy but I’m always by your side.” We just have to trust God.

“God, Flag & Country”

By Courtney Teman

“O say can you see by the dawn’s early light.” This is our National Anthem written by I, Francis Scott Key, during the War of 1812. I am a lawyer, author, and an amateur poet from Georgetown. The war began in August when the British attempts to restrict U.S. Trade on the Royal Navy’s impressments of American soldiers and America’s desire to expand its territory.

God, Flag and Country speeches

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, February 18, 2013 9:44 AM - Last Updated Monday, February 18, 2013 10:59 AM

I, Francis Scott Key, am one of the many who witnessed the War of 1812. I was captured by the British and held hostage on a boat. While I was there I saw the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, and that gave proof that our flag was still there. Our flag represents the stripes for the 13 original colonies and the stars stand for the 50 states. Oh say does that star spangled banner yet wave?

On September 14, 1814 soldiers in Baltimore at Fort McHenry raised a huge American Flag. This war was also known as the Forgotten War and I am proud to be an American where I know I am free!

“Stars and Stripes”

By Lauren Mox

Hi everybody! My name is Betsy Ross. You may have heard of me. I made the first American flag. I was born January 1, 1752 and I was the eighth child of eighteen children.

I still remember the day General George Washington asked me to make the flag. That was quite a day! Picture this! I was sitting in my sewing shop in Philadelphia with my girls. Then three men strolled in. These three men were George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross. They asked me to make the first American flag. Of course, I said yes. If you had an opportunity like that would you take it? I knew George Washington because he was a personal friend of mine from church. George Washington showed me the design that Continental Congressman Francis Hopkinson came up with. The original design had six points but I argued that it should be five points because I could cut it in one easy snip of my scissors.

In July 1776 the Declaration of Independence was read aloud and my flag was waving during the reading. I was so proud! On June 14, 1777 the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and

God, Flag and Country speeches

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, February 18, 2013 9:44 AM - Last Updated Monday, February 18, 2013 10:59 AM

Stripes as the flag of The United States of America.

The white on my flag stands for faith, purity and innocence. The blue stands for determination and justice. Lastly, the red stands for hardiness and bravery. The stripes on my flag stand for the thirteen original colonies and the fifty stars stand for the fifty states. As I say, "Life is a shipwreck but we must sing in the lifeboats."

Next time you look at the flag, I hope you remember how hard I worked on the flag and how great this nation really is.

"The Need for Freedom"

By Trysten Smith

Imagine a world where you are not free to say what you think. What about a world where you cannot choose your religious beliefs or how you worship? Thankfully we do not live in such a world because of the freedoms protected by the creation of the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights was proposed by James Madison in 1789. Madison's original proposal included twenty amendments to the Constitution; however, only ten of them were approved by the states. It took two years for the states to approve the first ten amendments. The Bill of Rights became effective on December 15, 1791.

The most recognized of the Bill of Rights would be the first amendment, which is freedom of speech. This freedom allows us as Americans to say or print whatever beliefs we have without fear of punishment. This also ensures the freedom to practice whatever religion we choose.

God, Flag and Country speeches

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, February 18, 2013 9:44 AM - Last Updated Monday, February 18, 2013 10:59 AM

Another well-recognized and often controversial amendment would be the second amendment. This amendment covers the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. Without this freedom we would not be able to own guns for self-protection and hunting for food and sport.

Of all the ten amendments, I feel the first and second amendments are the most important in today's society. I feel privileged to live in a country that allows its citizens so many freedoms. God Bless America!

The women of World War II

By Samantha Knepper

Women of World War II did the men's jobs as they left for the service. From Rosie the Riveter, to military women, to women staying at home, they all helped during war times. It was hard for these women because they were in charge full time at work and at home. The men were away and they were left with the responsibilities of taking care of the children and the home. It was hard for them to take a break.

When men went to war, they left most factories with no workers, so women had to step in to do their jobs. Big companies fought the idea of hiring women at first. They gave in when they started signing big contracts and men were leaving for the service. Rosie the Riveter was the nickname for women during World War II. My great-grandma Agnes Ulm even worked in a factory making TVs. Women proved they could do a "man's job" and do it well.

Working in factories is not the only thing women were asked to do in World War II. While they rarely let women in battle, they served as nurses, pilots, photographers and journalists. The photographers and journalists helped families realize what it was like at war. The WASP pilots delivered planes to the service men. For their payment of their war efforts, nurses got monthly allowances and scholarships. Even some went away from their families to go play on a professional baseball league to give the country entertainment to keep spirits up.

On the home front, women were asked to ration most of their daily living supplies. The government gave ration coupons to limit the amount of supplies that could be purchased of things from food to gasoline to tires. They were asked asked to, for example, carry groceries instead of using the car to save tire rubber and gas. They also were asked to sew more their families' clothes to repair them instead of buying new and to grow more of their families' food.

I believe the women of World War II are very important in America's history. They led the way for women of America to do any job that they put their minds to. I am proud to be an American woman because if women wouldn't have worked in factories they may have shut down. Their efforts helped us win the war their sacrifices helped the country run smoothly. The women of World War II helped make America the America it is today.

The Stars and Stripes

By Addy Stewart

The United States of America has a flag as a symbol of freedom. The flag stands for the people, the government and the lands of the United States. The flag was well put together by Betsy Ross. She sewed and helped design the first American Flag.

The early American flag did not have any special arrangements. It was designed differently for many years because of the number of states in the country. They had to add a star for every state that was added to the Union. When the state of Hawaii was added to the Union in August 1959, it led to the final design of the flag with 50 stars and 13 stripes in 1960.

In the first years of the Revolutionary War, America fought under many flags. The Grand Union Flag stood over George Washington's headquarters near Boston, Massachusetts. This flag was the first flag to be noticed by another country. The flag was now a symbol of the United States

God, Flag and Country speeches

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, February 18, 2013 9:44 AM - Last Updated Monday, February 18, 2013 10:59 AM

of America.

On June 14, 1777, to be able to establish an official flag of the new nation, Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, that the flag of thirteen United States be the thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." No one really knows who had the idea of stars and stripes. After the flag was adopted by our government, Congressman Francis Hopkinson claimed he had made the first flag. However, most people continue to believe Betsy Ross constructed the first United States flag.

Our flag has grown and changed through the years along with our country. I think that the American flag was a great idea. It is a great way to show unity. Our flag has been, and always will be, the symbol of our freedom and leadership as the United States of America.

By Megan Weitzel

Many great people have shaped our nation into what it is today. One of the most important people to me would have to be John F. Kennedy. He gave us civil rights, stopped a possible World War III, and promised a man on the Moon by the end of the decade. All of these things wouldn't be here today if it weren't for this one man.

In 1962, CIA planes took pictures of the Soviets building nuclear missile sites in Cuba. Kennedy thought the photos posed as a nuclear threat to America, and Kennedy was then faced with a dilemma: either attack and go to war with Russia or be faced with an even bigger nuclear threat. He decided to talk with Khrushchev, which I think was one of the best decisions he's ever made as a president. On October 22nd, Kennedy sent a message to Khrushchev and later announced his decision on television. From then on, the U.S. Navy would stop Soviet ships and inspect them.

In 1954, the US Supreme Court decided that racism in public school systems was wrong. Racial

God, Flag and Country speeches

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, February 18, 2013 9:44 AM - Last Updated Monday, February 18, 2013 10:59 AM

discrimination was everywhere: buses, restaurants, theaters, courtrooms, bathrooms and even beaches. Kennedy supported civil rights for African Americans. In September 1963, James Meredith tried to enroll at the University of Mississippi but was turned down for racial reasons. John F. Kennedy sent 3,000 troops after the situation began to get physical. In November 1962, Meredith was finally enrolled and was able to attend business classes. On November 20th, Kennedy signed an Executive Order making racial discrimination illegal, which I think made many southerners angry even though it was the right choice. This is just one example of many of President Kennedy's dedication to our country and the people living in it.

President Kennedy was excited for the U.S. to lead the Space Race. He announced America's goal of getting a man on the Moon in a speech saying "I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to earth." In another speech at Rice University, he said "No nation which expects to be the leader of other nations can expect to stay behind in this race for space. We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy but because they are hard." Six years after his death, a man was landed on the Moon and returned home safely which wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for him.

All of these pieces of history are with us today even though unfortunately President Kennedy isn't. Picture our country without civil rights, a man on the Moon, and if we had gone through World War III. John F. Kennedy played a huge roll in shaping our country into the great nation it is today. He is one of the many reasons why I am proud to be an American. I love my country and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. God Bless America.

Pictured above: Top: God, Flag and Country oratory contest winners from Landeck Elementary School are, from left, Courtney Teman, Bridget Martin, Sydnie McGue, Lauren Mox and Trysten Smith. The top three were Martin, Mox and Smith. They will represent Landeck Sunday at the Delphos Eagles.

Bottom Pic: Franklin Elementary School recently held its annual God, Flag and Country oratory contest. Seven students were chosen to participate on the merit of their classroom speeches. The students were, from left, Virginia Brotherwood, Megan Weitzel, Shyan Shellenbarger, Ashton Moore, Addy Stewart, Anna Cline and Samantha Knepper. The three finalists who will represent Franklin at the Delphos Eagles on Sunday are Knepper, Stewart and Weitzel. Read

God, Flag and Country speeches

Written by Staff Reports

Monday, February 18, 2013 9:44 AM - Last Updated Monday, February 18, 2013 10:59 AM

speeches on page 3. (Submitted photos)