



LINCOLN UNITES

BY MICKEY STRAUB



“Four score and seven years ago...” Those six words and the ones that follow, echo in every American’s memory. They are embedded in our culture and our psyche and roll off our tongues as if we were there to witness them being delivered the first time 150 years ago.

The Gettysburg Address was brief enough to fit on the front page of newspapers worldwide helping it become one of the most famous speeches in history. Containing only 272 words and ten sentences, Abraham Lincoln delivered them in two minutes, in great contrast to the two hour speech that preceded it.

For many reasons, it has become the most memorized in America, but it wasn’t just because it was required in our schools for generations; it was because it was about the soldiers, unity and a cause. Lincoln reminded us that “our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty” and that we are a “nation under God”. He also re-committed us to the “unfinished work”, that “these dead shall not have died in vain” and to “a new birth of freedom”. The word “I” does not appear in the Address, but there are ten references to the word “we”, three to “us” and two to “our”; and he used “nation” patriotically five times and acknowledged the soldiers ten more times.

Abraham Lincoln united us like in no other speech before or since by referring to everyone else but himself Thirty Times...and he saved the nation. The Gettysburg Address contained within it the formula for our country’s future: God, Liberty, Unity and Patriotism. May it unite us again!

LINCOLN UNITES was written by Mickey Straub shortly after he became the first person in history to recite the Gettysburg Address at every state capitol building during his 50 Capitols in 50 Days trip, for which he also received a CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It contains only 272 words, just like the historic speech it was written to memorialize. Mickey is President of Sales Activity Management, Inc., Mayor of Burr Ridge, Illinois and an American patriot hoping to encourage all Americans to honor Lincoln and our veterans by re-reading the Gettysburg Address and remembering Lincoln’s timeless message of unity. He can be contacted at Mickey@50Capitols.com.