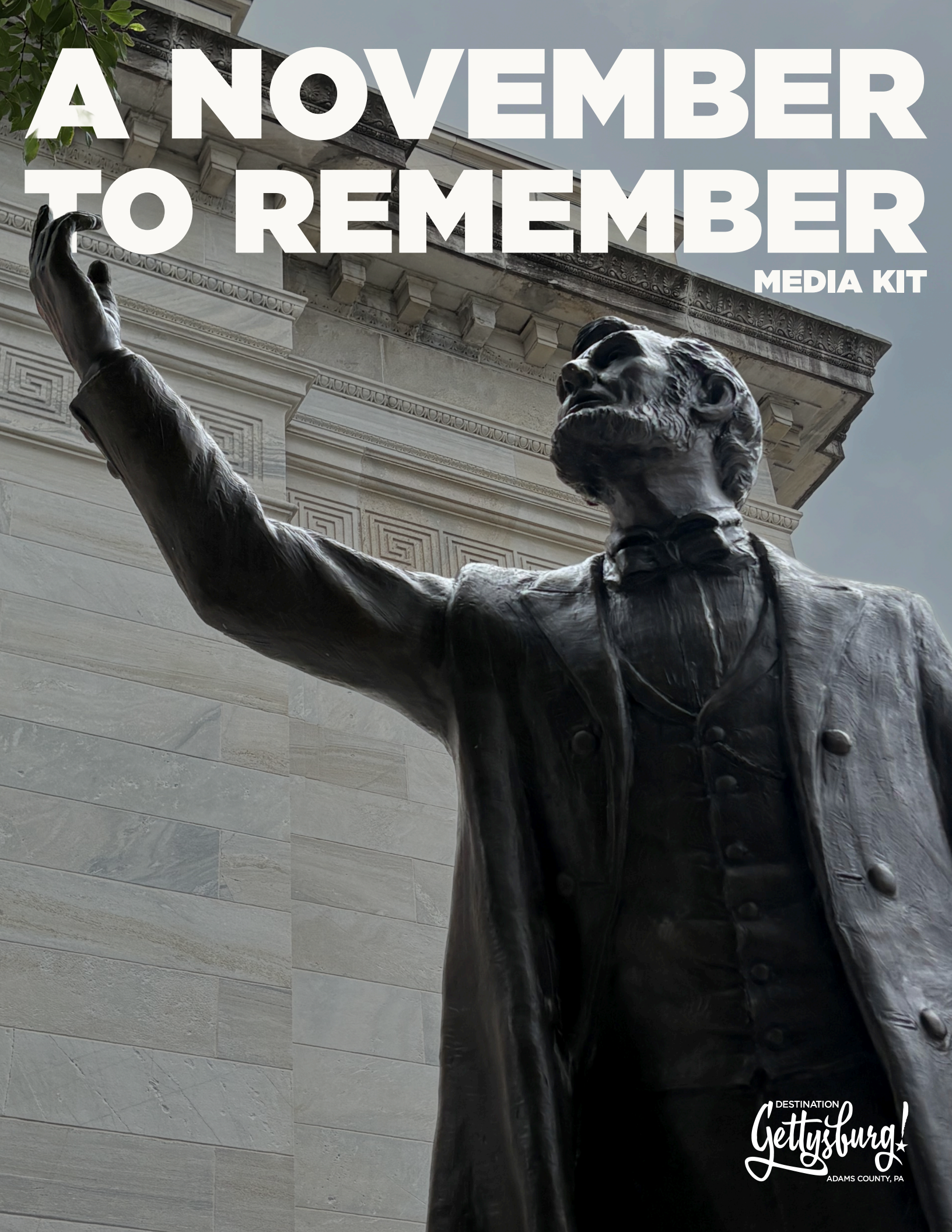

A NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER
MEDIA KIT
DESTINATION
Gettysburg!
ADAMS COUNTY, PA



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# WELCOME TO A
# A NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER

***Where history comes alive, and its meaning lives on.***

In November 1863, President Abraham Lincoln arrived in Gettysburg to deliver what was intended to be a few appropriate remarks at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. His 272-word address would become one of the most enduring speeches in American history, challenging a divided nation to embrace a new birth of freedom.

More than 160 years later, Gettysburg continues to honor that moment and the generations who have carried its meaning forward.

In November 2026, as the United States commemorates its 250th anniversary, Gettysburg invites the nation to return to where those words were spoken.

*A November to Remember* brings together historic commemorations, immersive living history experiences, community events, and opportunities for reflection. From the recreation of Lincoln's historic visit and the annual Dedication Day ceremony to the traditions of Remembrance Day, the community will once again become a place where America's past meets its present.

This is more than an opportunity to witness history. It's an invitation to consider the ideals that shaped a nation, the sacrifices made in their pursuit, and the unfinished work that remains.

***In Gettysburg, history isn't simply remembered. It continues to challenge, inspire, and connect us.***

# One Town. A Nation's Story.

***Many moments. One historic November.***

## Lincoln at Gettysburg: Shall Not Perish

*November 18–19, 2026*

As part of America's 250th anniversary commemorations, Gettysburg will recreate key moments of President Abraham Lincoln's historic November 1863 visit.

Through living history, performances, and activities at significant historic locations, the experience will bring audiences closer to the events surrounding Lincoln's arrival by train, his stay in Gettysburg, and the delivery of the Gettysburg Address.

The November 19 programming also incorporates the historic Dedication Day commemoration, honoring the anniversary of the Soldiers' National Cemetery's dedication and Lincoln's enduring words.

## Remembrance Day

*November 14 & 21, 2026*

Gettysburg's Remembrance Day traditions honor those who fought and died during the Civil War.

Through the annual parade, living history experiences, and solemn cemetery illumination, the community continues to preserve the memory of those whose sacrifices helped shape the nation's future.







## Field of Remembrance

*November 12-23, 2026*

Presented by the Gettysburg Foundation, *A Field of Remembrance* will transform the grounds near Gettysburg's Eternal Light Peace Memorial into a powerful visual tribute to the more than 51,000 soldiers killed, wounded, captured, or missing during the Battle of Gettysburg.

With a goal of 17,760 commemorative American flags, the installation connects the sacrifices of 1863 with the nation's founding in 1776. Visitors can experience the field throughout the November commemorations, while flag sponsorships support historic preservation and educational initiatives at Gettysburg.

## Beyond the Commemorations

Throughout November, additional exhibitions, performances, tours, educational programs, and community activities invite visitors to engage with Gettysburg's history in meaningful ways.

For the complete schedule of events, visit Destination Gettysburg's A November to Remember event hub.



# AMERICA 250TH

***A nation's founding.***
***A defining battlefield.***
***An enduring message.***

In 2026, the United States commemorates 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a document founded on the revolutionary assertion that all men are created equal.

Eighty-seven years later, that promise faced one of its greatest tests.

The Civil War challenged the nation's survival and exposed the profound contradiction between America's founding ideals and the institution of slavery.

Following the Battle of Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln returned to the principles of 1776 in a speech that would redefine the meaning of the war and the nation's future.

Standing before a cemetery established for Union soldiers who had died at Gettysburg, Lincoln called upon the living to continue the unfinished work of those who had sacrificed their lives.

His words transformed a moment of remembrance into a challenge for future generations.

As America marks its 250th anniversary, Gettysburg offers a powerful place to reflect on the nation's origins, the struggles that have shaped it, and the responsibility of carrying its founding ideals forward.

**The story of America's independence cannot be separated from the ongoing pursuit of its promises.**

And few places tell that story quite like Gettysburg.



# LINCOLN'S HISTORIC VISIT TO GETTYSBURG

**Twenty-five hours that helped shape American history.**

On July 1–3, 1863, Union and Confederate armies clashed in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in what would become the bloodiest battle of the American Civil War.

An estimated 51,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, captured, or reported missing. When the fighting ended, the community was left with devastated farms, damaged homes, overwhelmed hospitals, and thousands of fallen soldiers.

Recognizing the need for a dignified burial ground, Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin tasked local attorney David Wills with securing land for a cemetery for Union soldiers.

Wills acquired 17 acres that would become the Soldiers' National Cemetery and helped organize its dedication.

President Abraham Lincoln was invited to offer "a few appropriate remarks" during the November 19, 1863, ceremony. Renowned orator Edward Everett was selected to deliver the principal address.





## November 18, 1863

Lincoln arrived in Gettysburg by train and spent the night at the home of David Wills on Lincoln Square.

## November 19, 1863

The president joined the procession to the cemetery, where thousands gathered for the dedication.

Following Everett's approximately two-hour oration, Lincoln delivered his brief Gettysburg Address, calling for a renewed commitment to liberty, equality, and democratic government.

Lincoln departed Gettysburg later that day, having spent approximately 25 hours in the community.

His visit was brief. Its significance would endure for generations.

From a small Pennsylvania town came a message that continues to resonate around the world.



# WALK IN LINCOLN'S FOOTSTEPS

## Historic Gettysburg Train Station

*Where Lincoln arrived*
*November 18, 1863*

President Abraham Lincoln arrived in Gettysburg by train on the evening before the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery.

The station, completed in 1859, had played an important role during and after the Battle of Gettysburg, serving as a transportation hub for supplies, wounded soldiers, and the war dead.

Today, the historic building remains a tangible connection to Lincoln's visit and Gettysburg's Civil War history.






## David Wills House

*Where Lincoln stayed*
*November 18–19, 1863*

Located on Lincoln Square, the David Wills House served as Lincoln's overnight residence during his visit to Gettysburg.

Wills, a local attorney, was instrumental in establishing the Soldiers' National Cemetery and organizing its dedication.

Lincoln stayed in the home the evening before delivering the Gettysburg Address and worked on his remarks during his visit.

The building remains one of Gettysburg's most significant Lincoln-related landmarks.




## Gettysburg National Cemetery

*Where Lincoln spoke*
*November 19, 1863*

Established as the final resting place for Union soldiers who died during the Battle of Gettysburg, the Soldiers' National Cemetery was formally dedicated on November 19, 1863.

It was here that Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, transforming a cemetery dedication into an enduring statement about freedom, sacrifice, and democracy.

Today, Gettysburg National Cemetery is part of Gettysburg National Military Park and remains a place of remembrance and reflection.



# STORY IDEAS

## 163 Years Later, Lincoln Returns to Gettysburg

A recreation of President Abraham Lincoln's historic visit brings the events of November 1863 back to the streets where they unfolded. Through performances, historic settings, and public commemorations, Gettysburg offers a rare opportunity to experience history where it happened.




## 272 Words That Continue to Shape a Nation

The Gettysburg Address remains one of the most recognized speeches in American history. As the United States marks its 250th anniversary, Lincoln's words offer an opportunity to examine the meaning of freedom, equality, and government by the people.



## The People Behind the Gettysburg Address

Lincoln's speech is remembered around the world, but the story of its creation extends far beyond the president himself. Local attorney David Wills, cemetery workers, Gettysburg residents, and members of the African American community all played important roles in the aftermath of the battle and the creation of the Soldiers' National Cemetery.

Among those who helped shape Gettysburg's history was Basil Biggs, a prominent member of the local Black community who played an important role in the reinterment of fallen Union soldiers following the Battle of Gettysburg.

His story, along with those of other Black Gettysburgians, offers an important perspective on the community's Civil War history and the ongoing pursuit of freedom and equality.

## When History Takes Over a Town

From living history presentations and historic processions to educational programs and community activities, Gettysburg's streets and landmarks become the setting for a remarkable encounter with the past.

## The Traditions That Keep History Alive

For generations, Gettysburg has gathered each November to commemorate Lincoln's Address and remember the sacrifices of the Civil War. Dedication Day and Remembrance Day continue to bring together historians, descendants, living historians, residents, and visitors in acts of remembrance.

## Gettysburg's Unfinished Work

Lincoln's call for a new birth of freedom continues to invite questions about America's ideals and their realization. Through history, education, and community dialogue, Gettysburg provides a setting for exploring how the nation's past continues to inform its future.

## HAVE A STORY IN MIND?

Destination Gettysburg can help connect journalists with historical resources, local perspectives, and relevant contacts to support their coverage.











# MOMENTS WORTH CAPTURING

***Historic settings. Powerful traditions. Unforgettable imagery.***

November's commemorations offer opportunities for photography, video coverage, and visual storytelling throughout Gettysburg.

## Lincoln's Arrival by Train | November 18

A recreation of President Abraham Lincoln's historic arrival in Gettysburg by train, followed by his journey through town to Lincoln Square and the David Wills House.

## Lincoln Square Programming | November 16–18

Public presentations, performances, music, and educational experiences bring the story of Lincoln's visit and the Gettysburg Address into the heart of downtown Gettysburg.

## Historic Procession | November 19

A recreation of the procession from the David Wills House to Gettysburg National Cemetery offers a visual connection between the community's historic streets and the site of Lincoln's Address.

## Dedication Day Ceremony | November 19

The annual commemoration of the cemetery's dedication and the Gettysburg Address provides a solemn setting for capturing the nation's continuing remembrance of Lincoln's words.

## Remembrance Day Parade | November 14

Civil War living historians, period uniforms, flags, and marching units fill the streets of Gettysburg in an annual tradition honoring the sacrifices of the war.

## Remembrance Day Illumination | November 21

Thousands of luminaries illuminate the graves of Civil War soldiers in Gettysburg National Cemetery as the names of the fallen are read throughout the evening.

**MEDIA NOTE**

**Photography and filming access may vary by event and location. Advance media credentials are required for designated Lincoln at Gettysburg coverage areas. Separate National Park Service requirements apply to media activity within Gettysburg National Cemetery.**

**Media representatives should coordinate with the appropriate event organizers before arriving.**

# LINCOLN BY THE NUMBERS

***The people, places, and moments behind the Gettysburg Address.***

## 163 YEARS

Since President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863.

## 51,000

Estimated casualties from the Battle of Gettysburg, including soldiers killed, wounded, captured, or missing.

## 15,000

Estimated attendees at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in November 1863.

## 272 WORDS

The commonly cited length of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

## 25 HOURS

Approximately how long Lincoln spent in Gettysburg during his November 18–19, 1863, visit.

## 17 ACRES

Land originally acquired by David Wills for the Soldiers' National Cemetery.

## 5 COPIES

Known handwritten manuscript copies of the Gettysburg Address produced by Lincoln.

## 2 HOURS

Approximate length of Edward Everett's principal oration at the cemetery dedication.



## ONE ENDURING MESSAGE

A call for a new birth of freedom and the preservation of government of the people, by the people, for the people.

# A LEGACY OF VOICES

## DEDICATION DAY SPEAKERS THROUGH THE YEARS

For generations, Gettysburg's annual Dedication Day commemoration has brought together prominent voices from across American history, government, journalism, entertainment, and academia to reflect on the enduring significance of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

From renowned historians and national leaders to celebrated actors and filmmakers, these speakers have continued the tradition of examining Lincoln's words and their relevance to each new generation.

### Past Speakers

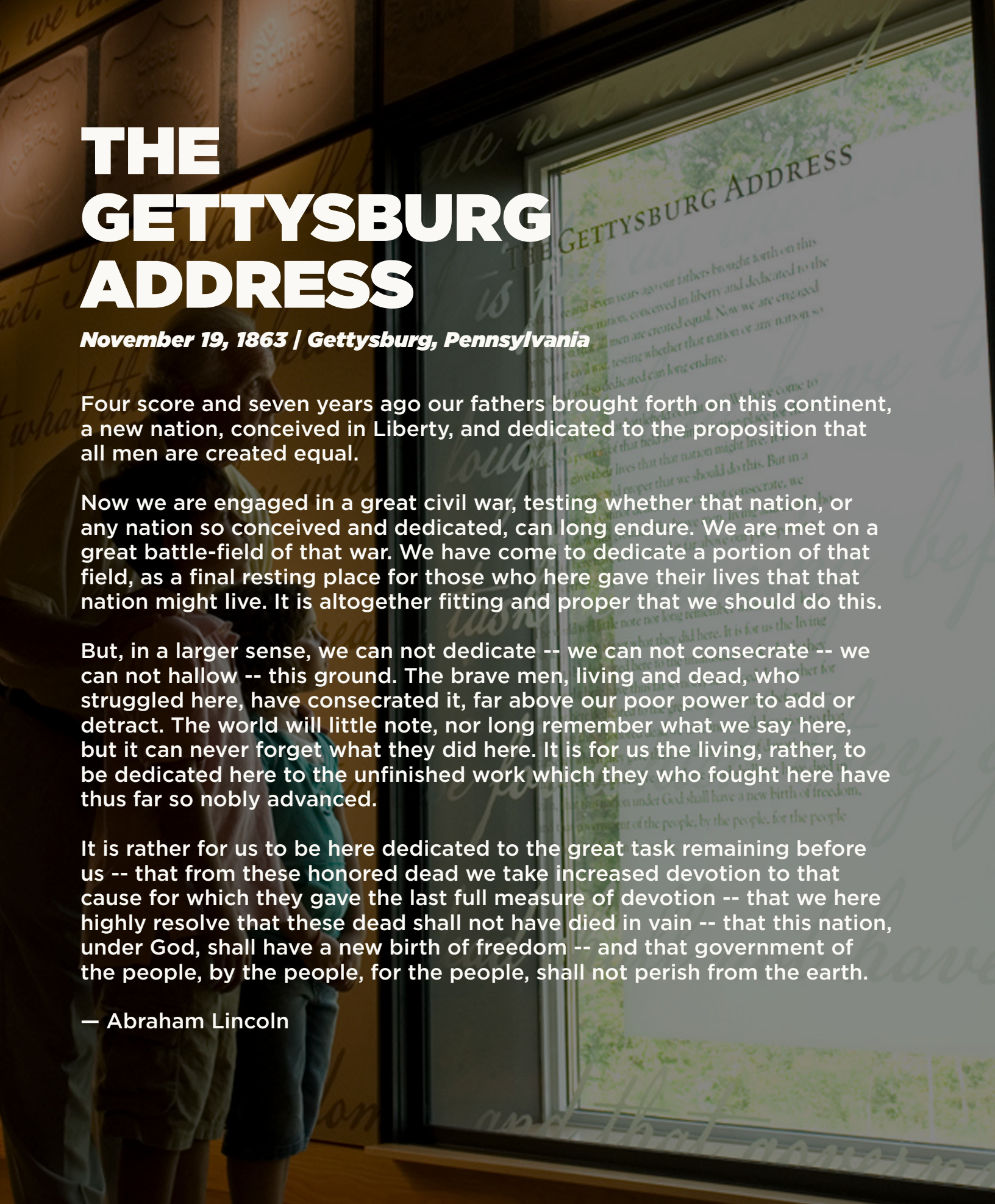
**2016 | LeVar Burton** — Actor
**2015 | Garrison Keillor** — Author and Radio Personality
**2012 | Steven Spielberg** — Film Director
**2010 | Sam Donaldson** — News Correspondent, ABC News
**2009 | Richard Dreyfuss** — Actor
**2008 | Ken Burns** — Director/Producer of Documentary Films
**2006 | Tom Brokaw** — Special Correspondent, NBC News
**2003 | Tom Ridge** — U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security
**1996 | Sandra Day O'Connor** — Associate Justice for the U.S. Supreme Court
**1992 | Gen. Colin Powell** — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
**1988 | William H. Rehnquist** — Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

### A Tradition That Continues

More recent speakers have included Dr. Jonathan White (2025), Dr. Craig Symonds (2024), Susan Eisenhower (2023), Allen Guelzo (2022), and Gary Gallagher (2021), continuing the commemoration's longstanding connection to historical scholarship and public reflection.

As Gettysburg commemorates the 163rd anniversary of the Gettysburg Address in 2026, this tradition remains a powerful reminder that Lincoln's words continue to resonate far beyond the place where they were first delivered.

**Explore the full list of past Dedication Day speakers.**




# THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

***November 19, 1863 | Gettysburg, Pennsylvania***

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 dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field 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 can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not 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.

— Abraham Lincoln

# FAQ

*You have questions.*
We have answers.

## What is A November to Remember?

A November to Remember is Destination Gettysburg's umbrella initiative highlighting the historic commemorations, special events, educational programming, and community experiences taking place throughout Gettysburg in November 2026.

## How does Dedication Day relate to Lincoln at Gettysburg in 2026?

Lincoln at Gettysburg: Shall Not Perish is a special 2026 theatrical recreation of President Lincoln's historic visit. Dedication Day is Gettysburg's longstanding annual commemoration of the November 19, 1863, dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery and President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

In 2026, the commemoration is incorporated into the larger Lincoln at Gettysburg: Shall Not Perish programming, which recreates key moments of Lincoln's historic visit as part of America's 250th anniversary.

## Is A November to Remember one event?

No. It brings together multiple commemorations and community programs under one destination-wide initiative. Individual events may have separate schedules, organizers, admission requirements, and media policies.

## Are the events free to attend?

Many commemorative programs are free, although some require advance tickets or registration. Lincoln at Gettysburg programming is advertised as free, with tickets required for entry to designated event areas. Visitors should consult individual event organizers for admission information.

## Where can visitors find the complete schedule?

Destination Gettysburg's A November to Remember event hub features commemorations and related community programming. Official organizer websites provide detailed schedules and event-specific updates.

## Will there be road closures or parking restrictions?

Yes. Downtown Gettysburg will experience temporary road closures, traffic adjustments, and parking restrictions during portions of November's programming. Visitors are encouraged to use designated satellite parking and shuttle services when available.

## Can media photograph or film the commemorations?

Media coverage is welcome, subject to event-specific credentials, security procedures, and location restrictions. Separate National Park Service requirements apply to Gettysburg National Cemetery and certain federally managed historic sites.

## Who should media contact for interviews or coverage arrangements?

Destination Gettysburg can assist with destination information, local story development, and appropriate organizer contacts. Event-specific media access and credentials must be coordinated with the responsible organizers.

## Where can visitors find accessibility information?

Accessibility details, designated parking areas, shuttle information, and visitor guidance are available through the event organizers and Destination Gettysburg's Know Before You Go resources. Arrangements may vary by location and event.

# MEDIA RESOURCES

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO COVER A NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER.

Destination Gettysburg provides resources to support journalists, photographers, broadcasters, and content creators covering Gettysburg's November commemorations.

### Press Resources

Access available photography, event graphics, background information, visitor maps, and additional materials to support your coverage.

### Event Information

Explore commemorations, community events, performances, and educational programming taking place throughout November.

### Know Before You Go

With significant programming taking place throughout downtown Gettysburg, advance planning is encouraged.

Visitors and media representatives should review current information regarding:

- Downtown road closures and traffic restrictions
- Satellite parking and shuttle transportation
- Accessible parking and event access
- Pedestrian areas and security checkpoints
- Public restrooms and visitor amenities
- Schedule updates and weather-related changes



## Official Event Information

The annual commemoration of the cemetery's dedication and the Gettysburg Address provides a solemn setting for capturing the nation's continuing remembrance of Lincoln's words.

**Lincoln at Gettysburg: Shall Not Perish** — lincolnatgettysburg.org

**Gettysburg National Military Park** — nps.gov/gett

**Destination Gettysburg** — destinationgettysburg.com

## Media Credentials

Media representatives covering Lincoln at Gettysburg should request credentials in advance through the event's official website.

Coverage inside Gettysburg National Cemetery requires separate coordination with Gettysburg National Military Park.



## IMPORTANT

Event schedules, access arrangements, transportation services, and security procedures are subject to change. Media representatives should verify final details with the appropriate event organizer before arriving.

# LET'S TELL THE STORY

From historical background and local perspectives to interviews, photography, and story development, Destination Gettysburg is available to assist media representatives covering *A November to Remember*.


## Destination Gettysburg

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# GETT *SOCIAL*

Follow Destination Gettysburg for destination stories, visitor information, and coverage throughout November. Tag Destination Gettysburg in your coverage and share the moments that make November in Gettysburg worth remembering.



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