

A Speech to Remember

In the twenty-first century, it's hard for us to believe that President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was not universally respected at first. He was not the keynote speaker at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania that November day in 1863, but his short speech is by far the best-remembered. One of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War had been fought at Gettysburg, and his speech resonated with listeners as he paid homage to more than 3,500 Union soldiers who had died there a few months earlier. Less than five years later, on May 30, 1868, many of them observed the first national Memorial Day.

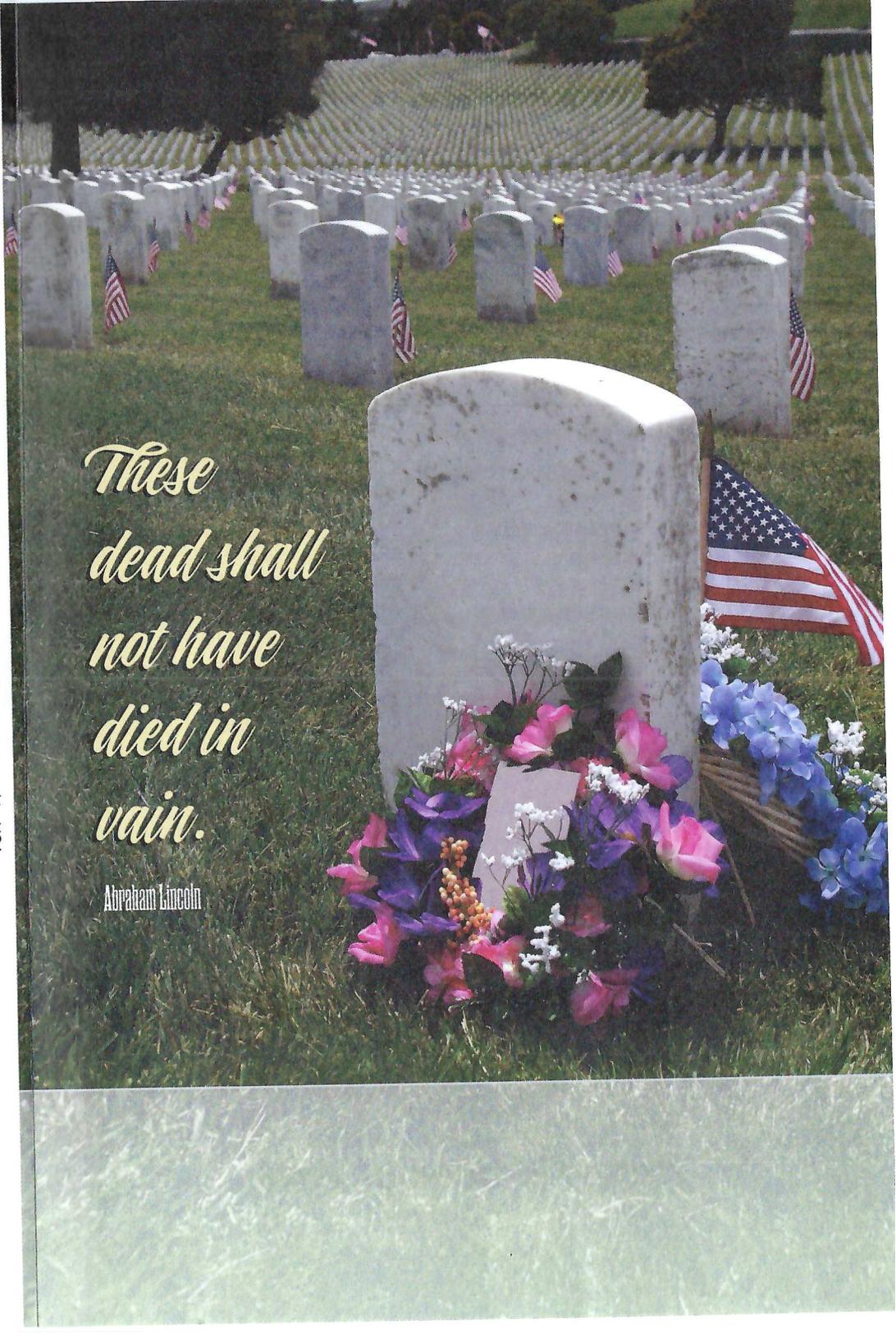
The *Patriot-News* of nearby Harrisburg was opposed to the President himself, and therefore not impressed with his speech, describing it as "silly remarks" that deserved a "veil of oblivion." But in 2013, as Gettysburg prepared to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the famous battle and Lincoln's address, the editorial staff of the newspaper issued a retraction of its long-ago opinion, saying it should have recognized the greatness of the speech at the time it was delivered.

The Associated Press reported: "The paper now says it regrets the error of not seeing its 'momentous importance, timeless eloquence and lasting significance . . . By today's words alone, we cannot exalt, we cannot hallow, we cannot venerate this sacred text, for a grateful nation long ago came to view those words with reverence without guidance from this chagrined member of the mainstream media,' the paper wrote, echoing the words of the address."

As President Lincoln concluded his speech, he urged his listeners to resolve "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."

K.E. Horsley

American National Military Cemetery • @ntemerson / iStock • Printed in USA



*These
dead shall
not have
died in
vain.*

Abraham Lincoln

Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

May 25, 2025

Call to Worship

Invocation

Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #807 My Country Tis of Thee

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ron Marks

Worship in Song

Hymn # 804 Battle Hymn of the Republic

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music:

Sermon:

Reverend Don Mauldin

Hymn of Benediction

God Bless America

Pastor Don Mauldin

352-262-5349

Happy Memorial Day!

Covenant News

Today is the last day we will be collecting donations for Arbor House. June's ministry is the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Freedom Isn't Free

by Kelly Strong

*I watched the flag pass by one day it fluttered in the breeze
A young Marine saluted it, and then he stood at ease*

*I looked at him in uniform, so young, so tall, so proud
With hair cut square and eyes alert he'd stand out in any crowd.*

*I thought how many men like him had fallen through the years
How many died on foreign soil? How many mothers' tears?*

*How many pilots' planes shot down? How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, Freedom isn't free*

*I heard the sound of taps one night, when everything was still
I listened to the bugler play and felt a sudden chill.*

*I wondered just how many times that taps had meant "Amen"
When a flag had draped a coffin of a brother or a friend*

*I thought of all the children, Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands with interrupted lives*

*I thought about a graveyard at the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, Freedom isn't free!*