

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809 - 1865)**

### **SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (1861 - 1865)**

In 1861, the American Civil War, also known as the War Between the States, erupted. The war pitted the union of 23 northern and western states supporting the federal government under President Lincoln against 11 southern states which had withdrawn from the Union. The southern states formed an independent government called the Confederate States of America. The war raged for four years, consuming the entire presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

In July, 1863, the Union army defeated the Confederate forces at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On November 19, 1863, the battlefield was dedicated as a national cemetery. President Lincoln was invited to make a few appropriate remarks. In less than three minutes, Lincoln captured the central idea of the occasion in a speech simply known as the Gettysburg Address.

### **PHOTO OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

### **TEXT OF 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 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.