

## Flag Day Speech

In 15 seconds and with just 31 words, we pledge so much.

We pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

We pledge allegiance to the flag that represents our great nation, a nation committed to liberty and to justice for all of us.

We pledge that we are indivisible. We have different points of view, pray in different ways, vote for different people for President, and yet we are united as one Nation.

We pledge our patriotism, our love of America, and our intent to live up to the ideals for which it stands, to ensure there is liberty and justice for all. That America and this good City of Newton will stand for freedom and insist on the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We pledge to stand up for freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom for people to peaceably assemble and for the due process of law.

We pledge that all women and all men are created equal.

We pledge allegiance to the institutions of democracy and to the ideals of the United States.

What a joy it is to be together, to stand together and honor our flag –

Thank you Ginny for your opening prayer.

I'm grateful to our Newton Police Honor Guard, the Scouts, Firefighter Kevin McNamara and Louise Civetti, City Councilor and President Emeritus Lisle Baker, Newton Veterans Affairs Office Seth Bai and Reverend Tom Reid.

Joining us today are also City Councilors Susan Albright and Lisle Baker.

Let me close with words said on November 19, 1863 at the dedication of a soldiers' cemetery:

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, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Those words by the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, speak directly to me about the meaning of Flag Day. That this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Thank you.