



CHARLES TASNADI/AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

# America... of the people

“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

This much we pledge—and more.”

—*John F. Kennedy*, 1961

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# America . . . of the people

## LINKING PAST AND PRESENT

**Image:** *Display of the American flag at the Capitol during a candlelight vigil.*

*Friday, September 14, 2001 • Washington, D.C.*

Americans share a long history of standing together in support of the values they hold most dear. In the early 1960s, at the height of the Cold War, Americans understood the importance of supporting and protecting freedom around the world. Today, faced with international terrorism, Americans have come together in the same way.

President John F. Kennedy, in his ringing Inaugural Address, urged Americans to do their part in the struggle for liberty, and the American people responded to his call. In 2001, after the devastating attacks on the World Trade Center towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., Americans have likewise joined together to safeguard the precious ideals of freedom and liberty in the worldwide campaign against terrorism.

—Allan Winkler, co-author, *America: Pathways to the Present*

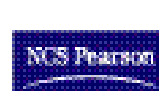
These Pearson Education Web sites provide instructional context to the events surrounding September 11th for teachers who are developing related lesson plans.

[phschool.com/social\\_studies/special\\_report/index.html](http://phschool.com/social_studies/special_report/index.html)

[blestarewe.com](http://blestarewe.com)

[pearsonlearning.com](http://pearsonlearning.com)

[teachervision.com](http://teachervision.com)



# America . . . of the people

## OBJECTIVES

- Identify key aspects of domestic and foreign affairs in 1961, at the time that John F. Kennedy spoke the words on the poster and relate them to today.
- Compare the domestic and foreign situation of 1961 with that of the United States after the terrorist attacks in 2001.

## LESSON STRATEGY

Draw students' attention to the image and quotation on the poster. Tell them that the quotation comes from Kennedy's Inaugural Address, delivered in January 1961. The candlelight vigil took place in Washington, D.C., on September 14, 2001, just three days after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon near Washington. Have them use their textbooks to review key aspects of American life in 1961, such as the growing civil rights movement and the Cold War. Have students summarize the main idea and characterize the mood of Kennedy's speech. Then ask them to compare the main idea and mood to the situation in the nation today.

## ADDITIONAL QUESTION

Read the statement by the co-author of *America: Pathways to the Present*, printed on the back of the poster. What specific actions did Americans take in 2001 to show their support for safeguarding the ideals of freedom and liberty?

## ACTIVITY

**Creating a Collage** Have students use the Internet or news magazines to find pictures that illustrate the idea of "America . . . of the people." Ask them to choose at least five pictures and write captions for each one. Have them create a hard copy or electronic album, using the pictures and captions.