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America... shall not perish

“... [W]e 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.”

—*Abraham Lincoln*, 1863

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Pearson
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U P H O L D I N G T H E A M E R I C A N S P I R I T

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America . . . shall not perish

LINKING PAST AND PRESENT

Image: *Firemen raise the flag in the rubble of the World Trade Center.*

Tuesday, September 11, 2001 • Ground Zero, New York City

'That we here highly resolve . . .' In the midst of a bitter civil war, they came to listen: nearly twenty thousand people crowded onto a field in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It was November 1863. Only a few months earlier seven thousand Americans had lost their lives on this ground.

With his Gettysburg Address, Lincoln transformed a field of sorrow and ashes into a place of hope. He understood how precious it was for a nation to rededicate itself, in a war-torn world, to the twin ideals of liberty and equality. Today, those ideals still stand as our twin towers: beacons to guide us as we strive to fashion a world in which all people may freely live their dreams.

—James West Davidson, co-author, *The American Nation*

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

blestarewe.com

pearsonlearning.com

teachervision.com



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OBJECTIVES

- Identify connections between the Civil War and the events following the terrorist attacks of 2001.
- Define heroism and identify an example of a hero.

LESSON STRATEGY

Draw students' attention to the image on the poster. Tell them that the firefighters raising the flag were standing at Ground Zero at the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, later on the day of the terror attacks. Ask students: What does the raised flag symbolize? What makes this image so powerful? Then have a student read aloud the quotation by Abraham Lincoln. Remind the class that the statement is part of the Gettysburg Address, delivered by Lincoln after one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Ask: How does the quotation relate to the raising of the flag by the firefighters?

ADDITIONAL QUESTION

How would you describe what America means to you?

ACTIVITY

Presentation Divide the class into groups of three or four students. Ask students to think about how they would define "heroism." Then have each group choose a person or group of people to nominate to the Heroes Hall of Fame. The nomination should 1) name the nominee, 2) explain why the group nominated that person or group, and 3) tell how this person has influenced others. Each group of students should present their nomination to the whole class. Then after all the presentations have been made, they should choose the two or three successful nominees for the Heroes Hall of Fame.