

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we gather to remember and recount the events of one of history's most pivotal battles -- the Battle of Gettysburg. This significant confrontation took place over three days, from July 1st to July 3rd, 1863, during the American Civil War.

This battle unfolded in the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On the first day, Confederate forces, led by General Robert E. Lee, clashed with Union troops, commanded by General George G. Meade. The Confederate army initially gained ground, pushing Union forces back. However, the Union held defensible positions on the high ground, notably Cemetery Hill and Little Round Top.

The second day was marked by fierce fighting as Lee attempted to outflank the Union army. Despite intense Confederate assaults, the Union lines held strong, bolstered by strategic positioning and fierce resistance. On the third day, Lee launched a bold attack known as Pickett's Charge, directing thousands of men across open fields towards the Union center. The assault ultimately failed, resulting in heavy Confederate casualties and marking a turning point in the war.

The Battle of Gettysburg ended in a decisive Union victory, with significant losses for both sides. This battle marked a turning point in the Civil War, as it halted Lee's invasion of the North and contributed to the eventual Union victory.

As we reflect on these events, we honor the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought and recognize the lasting impact of this monumental battle in shaping the course of history.

Thank you.