

## Pledge of Allegiance

I grew up on a farm five miles SW of Douglas ND. I was schooled in 2 rural one room schools. The thing that stands out to me is the activity that occurred every morning. We would gather outside around the flagpole, as the teacher raised the flag, then we would place our hand over our heart and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. I am part of one of the last generations to have been taught civics. Fast forward to my senior year when I made the decision to join the Navy and part of making that official is the oath -the promise- we make to be a part of this elite group of Americans. We made that oral commitment so all would know what our country means to us and what we will do to defend it, its values and the right to our way of life.

The pledge or oath taken by individuals joining the military holds immense significance, as it represents a solemn commitment to serve and protect the nation, its Constitution, and its people. This commitment transcends personal interests and signifies a willingness to uphold the values and principles upon which this country was founded.

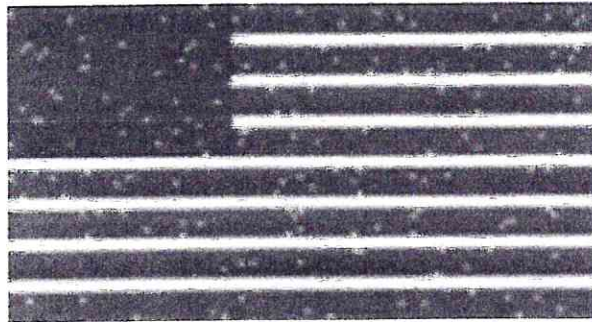
To veterans the Pledge of Allegiance represents a deeply personal commitment to the ideals of the United States, serving as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made to

protect our freedoms and values enshrined in our nation, Basically, it is a tangible expression of the oath we all took to defend this nation and its people at any cost. To us reciting the pledge is more than just words, it represents our personal connection to our service, it's a symbol of sacrifice representing the lives lost by our fellow comrades in preserving our liberties. It honors the Constitution as the pledge is an affirmation of our loyalty to the principles outlined in the Constitution. Lastly it creates a sense of unity in that it signifies a shared dedication to our country and its people well beyond our military experiences. There are many times that I have experienced wet eyes when reciting the pledge followed by the national anthem reminding me how blessed and honored I am to live in this country and to be a veteran.

As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. I would like to close by reading it to you.



Commentary on the  
**Pledge of Allegiance**  
by  
**Red Skelton**



As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by an observation of his own.

I --

Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge --

Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance --

My love and my devotion.

To the Flag --

Our standard; *Old Glory*; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.

of the



**United - -**

**That means that we have all come together.**

**States - -**

**Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.**

**And to the Republic - -**

**Republic--a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.**

**For which it stands**

**One Nation - -**

**One Nation--meaning, so blessed by God.**

**Indivisible - -**

**Incapable of being divided.**

**With Liberty - -**

**Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.**

**And Justice - -**

**The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.**

**For All - -**

**For All--which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.**

**And now, boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:**

*I 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.*

**Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: Under God. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer, and that would be eliminated from schools, too?**