Four Score and Seven Years Ago - Take The Address with Arizona Public Media at the Tucson Festival of Books!

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Four Score and Seven Years Ago...

Lincoln's words inspired the nation. Now, Ken Burns hopes every American will learn The Gettysburg Address. Visit the Tucson Festival of Books and Arizona Public Media will tape you reciting the address! Visit the AZPM tent, booth #253, on March 15 and 16 on the campus of the University of Arizona. Visit azpm.org for more information.

Ken Burns? new documentary, The Address, airs on PBS 6 on April 15 at 9 p.m.

This 90-minute documentary tells the story of Lincoln?s pioneering use of the telegraph and its impact on the Gettysburg Address. The Address also tells the story of a tiny school in Putney Vermont, the Greenwood School, where each year the students are encouraged to memorize, practice and recite the Gettysburg Address. In its exploration of the Greenwood School, the film also unlocks the history, context and importance of President Lincoln?s most powerful address.

"In his address, President Lincoln said, 'The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here,' and yet 150 years later, the students of the Greenwood School are using his momentous words to overcome adversity," Burns said. "We want to tell this story to inspire everyone across the nation, especially school children, to learn the rich history of American freedom and sacrifice embedded in one of the most important declarations ever made."

The Greenwood School students, boys ages 11-17, all face a range of complex learning differences that make their personal, academic and social progress challenging. The Address reveals how President Lincoln?s historic words motivate and engage these students a century-and-a-half after President Lincoln delivered a speech that would go on to embolden the Union cause with some of the most stirring words ever spoken.

The Gettysburg Address
November 19, 1863

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.
But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate?we cannot consecrate?we cannot hallow?this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us?that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here 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, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.