

Silent Pledge Opening Ceremony

(This ceremony is done after the Colors have been paraded forward and placed. The Leader stands at the front of the room, facing the United States flag. The Reader stands at the side of the room and uses a penlight to read by. Another person shines a flashlight or spotlight on the flag. The houselights are out. All are still standing.)

Leader: As I say the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, repeat them silently to yourselves. Hand salute. If not in uniform, place your hand on your heart.

Leader: I pledge allegiance . . .

Reader: As our founding fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to a new nation, so do we pledge our devotion and our loyalty.

Leader: To the flag of the United States of America . . .

Reader: An honored symbol of a nation's unity, its hopes, achievements, glory, and high resolve—red for courage, white for purity, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Leader: And to the republic for which it stands . . .

Reader: Where sovereign power resides in a body elected by, representative of, and responsible to this nation's citizens.

Leader: One nation under God . . .

Reader: From the Atlantic to the Pacific; from the northern border to the southern; from the tops of the highest mountains across the wide prairies; from the greatest cities to the tiniest villages -- we are united as one under God to whom we turn for guidance, whose blessings we ask, and who watches over us -- as individual citizens, and collectively as a nation -- for in His spirit America was founded.

Leader: Indivisible . . .

Reader: The citizens of this great country come from different ethnic backgrounds, have different traditions, and worship in different ways. Because the people of America are so varied and so rich in heritage, the whole of this nation is far greater than the sum of its parts -- and we stand together to face the world.

Leader: With liberty and justice for all.

Reader: We have both the right of freedom and the responsibility to respect and protect the freedom of others. From Revolutionary times to the present day, American citizens have defended our flag with their blood and with their lives. Our flag is a symbol of the people. All of the people. Us. The people of the United States of America.

Leader: Two. Troop at ease.