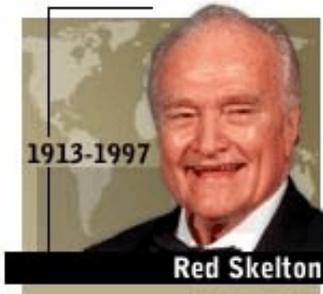


Pledge of Allegiance



On January 14, 1969, Red Skelton touched the hearts of millions of Americans with his "Pledge Of Allegiance", in which he explained the meaning of each and every word. Red Skelton's "Pledge" was twice read into the Congressional Record of the United States and received numerous awards.

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 remember this one teacher. To me, he was the greatest teacher, a real sage of my time. He had such wisdom. We were all reciting the Pledge Of Allegiance and he walked over. Mr. Lasswell was his name. He said, 'I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge Of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word:

I	Me, an individual, a committee of one.
Pledge	Dedicate all of my worldly good to give without self-pity.
Allegiance	My love and my devotion.
To the Flag	Our standard; Old Glory ; a symbol of Courage; and 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 by imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common cause, and that is love of country, of America..
And to the Republic	A Republic - a sovereign state in which power is invested in the representatives chosen by the people to govern. And the 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 for one to live his own life, without fears,threats , or any sort of retaliation.
And Justice	The principle, and qualities, of dealing fairly with others.
For All	For All - that means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

"Now, 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, 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 that is a prayer, and that be eliminated from our schools, too?"