

Flag Ceremony – Red Skeleton

Scout #1: Comedian Red Skelton once told a story on his television program about one of his teachers, Mr. Laswell, who felt his students had come to think of the Pledge of Allegiance as merely something to recite in class each day. Mr. Laswell 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?"

Scout #2: I

Scout #3: me, an individual, a committee of one.

Scout #2: Pledge

Scout #3: dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self pity.

Scout #2: Allegiance

Scout #3: my love and my devotion.

Scout #2: To the flag

Scout #3: our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there's respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job!

Scout #2: United

Scout #3: that means that we have all come together.

Scout #2: States

Scout #3: individual communities that have united into 48 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's love for country.

Scout #2: And to the republic

Scout #3: 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.

Scout #2: For which it stands, one nation

Scout #3: one nation, meaning "so blessed by God"

Scout #2: Indivisible

Scout #3: incapable of being divided.

Scout #2: With liberty

Scout #3: which is freedom -- the right of power to live one's own life without threats, fear or some sort of retaliation.

Scout #2: And Justice

Scout #3: the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

Scout #2: For all

Scout #3: which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

Scout #1: 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...

Scout #2: UNDER GOD

Scout #3: Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and that would be eliminated from schools too?

Scout #1: Please join us in reciting 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.