



Address to the 166th Ohio Regiment

Abraham Lincoln

Washington, D.C.

August 22, 1864

Full Speech:

I suppose you are going home to see your families and friends. For the service you have done in this great struggle in which we are engaged, I present you **sincere** thanks for myself and the country.

I almost always feel **inclined**, when I happen to say anything to soldiers, to **impress** upon them in a few brief remarks the importance of success in this contest.

It is not merely for today, but for all time to come, that we should **perpetuate** for our children's children this great and free government, which we have enjoyed all our lives. I beg you to remember this, not merely for my sake, but for yours.

I happen **temporarily** to occupy this big White House. I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here, as my father's child has. It is in order that each one of you may have through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your **industry, enterprise** and intelligence: that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life, with all its **desirable** human **aspirations**.

It is for this, the struggle should be **maintained**, that we may not lose our **birthright** - not only for one, but for two or three years. The nation is worth fighting for, to secure such an **inestimable** jewel.