

PATRIOTIC

OPENING CEREMONY

With the approach of the July 4th holiday, the following reading from The American Legion provide an inspirational opening ceremony. Several Scouts could spotlight the American flag with their flashlights as your best speaker does the reading from the back of your darkened meeting hall. Then follow it with the Pledge of Allegiance.

I am proud to be an American. I love my country and I believe in the dreams of its Founding Fathers. Those patriots of 200 years ago knew of tyranny, of obligation and duty, and of sacrifice firsthand.

Fifty-six of them laid their lives, the lives of their families, their liberty and their fortunes on the line when they signed the Declaration of Independence.

A free nation was born because of that act of courage. But it was not an easy birth. Nine of those who signed lost their lives in combat; five died as prisoners of war; twelve saw their homes burned to the ground; seventeen lost everything they owned; and two lost their sons in the desperate fight for freedom.

Each suffered in his own way because he believed in the dignity of the individual and the destiny of America. They and people like them through the years have become part of our sacred heritage as Americans.

The blood of patriots flows in our veins. They have preserved our rights, privileges and honor by their sacrifices in time of war . . . Yes, I AM PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN.

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