

## The Pledge of Allegiance By Red Skelton

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.

I—Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge—Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance—My love and my devotion.

To the Flag—Our standard; Old Glory; a symbol of Freedom; 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 of America—Individual communities that have united into forty-eight 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 is love for country.

And to the Republic—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 for which it stands

One Nation—meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible—Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty—Which is Freedom; the right or power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice—The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.

For All—which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

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.