

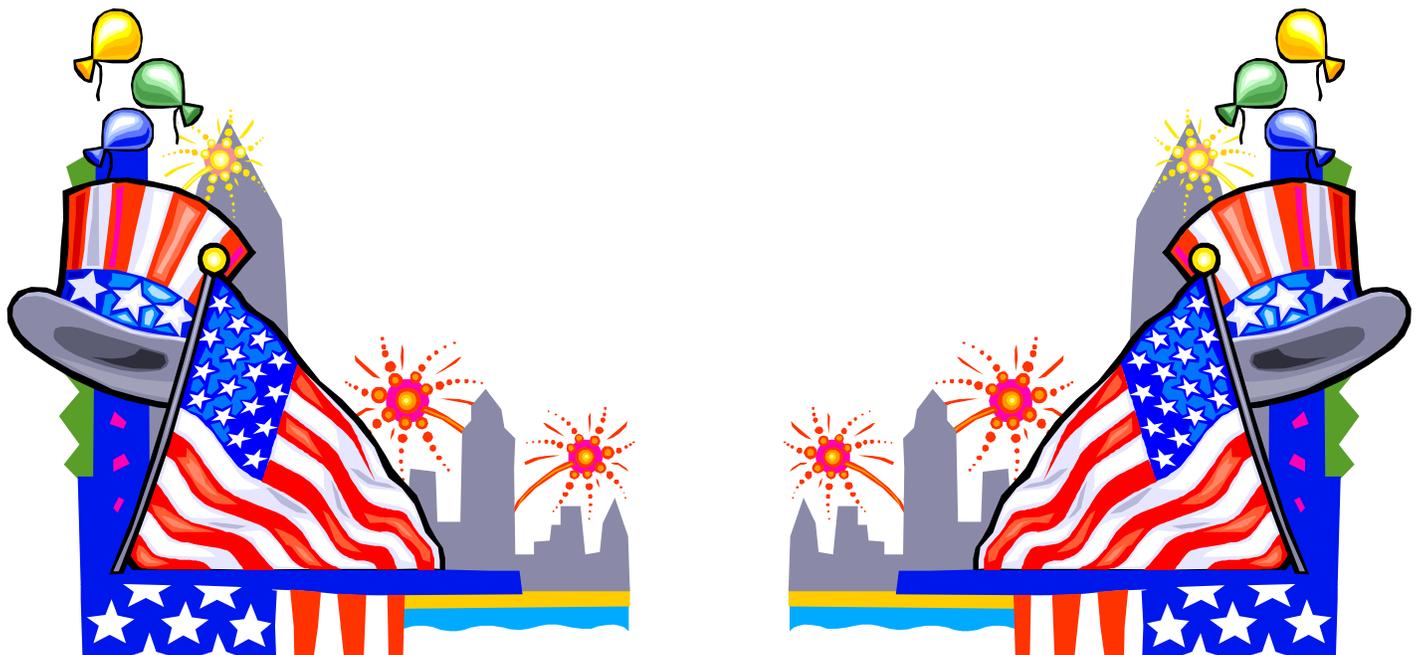
# 2014 Complete Program Contest Winners

## “Three Cheers For The USA”

1st Place - Clifford Gervais, Ekonk Grange #89

2nd Place - D. Emily Alexander, North Haven Grange #35

3rd Place - Susan Pianka, North Stonington Grange #138



# 1st Place - Ekonk Grange

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## "THREE CHEERS FOR THE USA" EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE EXPLANATIONS

1. FIRST READER READS
2. SECOND READER  
WORDS TO SONG INCLUDED IN  
CASE YOU DO NOT HAVE A SOLOIST
3. THIRD READER. (WE USED OUR PRESIDENT; YOU  
CAN USE ANY MEMBER WHO IS A GOOD READER/  
ACTOR!
4. PERSON TO "HOST" DO YOU WANT TO BE A MILLIONAIRE  
WE USED MILK CHOCOLATE "COINS" AS PRIZES; IF  
THEY ASKED ANOTHER FOR HELP & GOT IT RIGHT,  
WE GAVE THEM A "COIN" TOO. 10 DIFFERENT  
PEOPLE PARTICIPATED AS THE "MAIN"  
CONTESTANTS.
5. READER
6. SONG BY ALL: "YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG"-WORDS  
HANDLED OUT AHEAD OF TIME TO EVERYONE
7. WHEEL OF FORTUNE. WE USED 12 OF THE BIGGEST  
SHEETS OF POSTERBOARD. WE WROTE LINES FOR EACH  
LETTER IN THE "PATRIOTIC" PHRASE (answer to be  
guessed). WE HAD 12 MEMBERS HOLD THE  
POSTERBOARDS & TWO MEMBERS TAKE TURNS FILLING  
IN THE LETTERS WHEN GUESSED CORRECTLY. WE HAD A  
"HANGMAN" ON EACH POSTERBOARD TOO, &  
INCORRECTLY GUESSED LETTERS WERE WRITTEN UNDER  
THAT. WE DIVIDED THE HALL IN HALF; EACH ANSWER  
WAS WORTH 100 POINTS. WE HAD A SCOREKEEPER. THE  
WINNING MEMBERS RECEIVED A "PAYDAY"; THE LOSERS  
CANDY KISSES! IT WAS GREAT FUN; LOTS OF  
LAUGHING!

8. CLOSING: WE HAD 23 MEMBERS WHEN WE PRESENTED IT AT RICHMOND RI. WE HAD 4X6" FLAG FOR EACH PERSON. WE HAD A CD OF LEE GREENWOOD PLAYING SOFTLY IN THE BACKGROUND. TOGETHER WE ALL SANG (THE AUDIENCE EVEN JOINED IN) "GOD BLESS THE USA!"
9. TWO MEMBERS THEN DISTRIBUTED A "PATRIOTIC QUOTES MATCH GAME". FOR EACH PERSON TO TAKE HOME. ON THE REVERSE SIDE WERE LISTED COMING EVENTS AT OUR GRANGE!

THREE CHEERS FOR THE USA!!!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHERE FREEDOM IS A WAY OF LIFE. IMAGINE THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE OUR FOREFATHERS FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM FROM ENGLAND AND WROTE THE CONSTITUTION—WHAT WOULD THEY THINK OF MAN ON THE MOON; I-PADS; TELEVISION; CASINOS; PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES!

2. \_\_\_\_\_ THESE UNITED STATES ARE VAST; WE HAVE BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF HILLS, VALLEYS: MOTHER NATURE AT ITS BEST. THE TALL TREES IN CALIFORNIA; THE COLE MINES OF VIRGINIA; THE ROCKY COAST OF MAINE. WE HAVE HUGE CITIES AS WELL AS ACRES AND ACRES OF FARMLAND; WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE VAST FORESTS AS WELL AS DRY, ARID DESSERTS. THROUGH IT ALL, THIS LAND IS OURS AND WE ARE FREE TO ENJOY ITS BEAUTY AS WELL AS ITS CHALLENGES. WE ARE BLESSED TONIGHT TO HAVE WITH US A VERY TALENTED YOUNG LADY NAMED MARIA ANGELONE. MARIA WILL NOW SING A SONG MADE FAMOUS BY WOODY GUTHRIE AND IT IS SO VERY TRUE:

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

3. \_\_\_\_\_ TONIGHT, WE FIND OURSELVES ON THE SET OF "DO YOU WANT TO BE A MILLIONAIRE". OUR PRESIDENT, LINK COOPER, IS THE M.C. ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS CORRECTLY AND YOU MIGHT JUST WIN SOME "MONEY"!! (?) !!

#4

**DO YOU WANT TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?**

1. LINK: OUR FIRST CONTESTANT (pick a person in the audience)

YOUR QUESTION: WHAT "OTHER" NAME IS COMMONLY GIVEN TO OUR NATIONS FIRST PRESIDENT, GEORGE WASHINGTON (NOTE: ASK THEM "IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER"...THEY CAN ALSO PICK ANOTHER MEMBER & CONFER)

\_\_\_\_\_ (CONTESTANT GUESSES)  
ANSWER: "THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY"

2. LINK: (pick another contestant)

YOUR QUESTION: THIS "PERSON" IS TYPICALLY SEEN DRESSED IN RED, WHITE AND BLUE. HE IS OUR SYMBOL OF HARD WORK, HONESTY, LOYALTY AND LIBERTY.

(NOTE ASK THEM "IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER" THEY CAN ALSO PICK ANOTHER MEMBER & CONFER)

\_\_\_\_\_ (CONTESTANT GUESSES)  
ANSWER: UNCLE SAM

3. LINK (pick another contestant)

YOUR QUESTION: WHO WROTE OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM? (NOTE-ASK THEM "IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER" THEY CAN ALSO PICK ANOTHER MEMBER & CONFER)

\_\_\_\_\_ (CONTESTANT GUESSES)  
ANSWER: FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

4. LINK (pick another contestant)

YOUR QUESTION: OUR NATION HAS MANY BEAUTIFUL RIVERS; WHAT IS THE LONGEST RIVER IN THE UNITED STATES, IT IS OVER 2,000 MILES LONG?

(NOTE ASK THEM "IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER" THEY CAN ALSO PICK ANOTHER MEMBER & CONFER)

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\_\_\_\_\_ (CONTESTANT GUESSES)

ANSWER: THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

5. LINK (pick another contestant)

YOUR QUESTION: OUR CONSTITUTION IS THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND. IT WAS SIGNED BY 56 AMERICAN PATRIOTS. NAME TWO?

(NOTE ASK THEM "IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER" THEY CAN ALSO PICK ANOTHER MEMBER & CONFER)

\_\_\_\_\_ (CONTESTANT GUESSES)

ANSWER: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN...JOHN ADAMS...JOHN HANCOCK...SAM ADAMS...THOMAS JEFFERSON...WILLIAM WILLIAMS...

ROGER SHERMAN; SAMUEL HUNTINGTON (Just the most well known of the 56 names)

6. LINK (pick another contestant)

YOUR QUESTION: WHAT IS THE 4 WORD "MOTTO" OF OUR COUNTRY—THESE WORDS APPEAR ON ALL COINS AS WELL AS PAPER CURRENCY?

(NOTE: ASK THEM "IS THIS YOUR FINAL ANSWER" THEY CAN ALSO PICK ANOTHER MEMBER & CONFER)

\_\_\_\_\_ (CONTESTANT GUESSES)

ANSWER: "IN GOD WE TRUST"

7. LINK (pick another contestant)

YOUR QUESTION: WHICH PRESIDENT SAID, "FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO, OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A NEW NATION, CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL."

(NOTE ASK THEM "IS THIS YOUR FINAL ANSWER" THEY CAN ALSO PICK ANOTHER MEMBER & CONFER)

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\_\_\_\_\_ (CONTESTANT GUESSES)

ANSWER: ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN THE FAMOUS "GETTYSBURG ADDRESS"

8. LINK (pick another contestant)

YOUR QUESTION: WHO STOOD ON THE STEPS OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL AND GAVE A NOW FAMOUS SPEECH WITH THE THEME, "I HAVE A DREAM...?"

(NOTE ASK THEM "IS THIS YOUR FINAL ANSWER" THEY CAN ALSO PICK ANOTHER MEMBER & CONFER)

\_\_\_\_\_ (CONTESTANT GUESSES)

ANSWER: DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

9. LINK (pick another contestant)

YOUR QUESTION: THIS ONE TON, AMERICAN TREASURE, WAS MADE IN ENGLAND. IT IS IN PHILADELPHIA, PA.?

(NOTE: ASK THEM "IS THIS YOUR FINAL ANSWER" THEY CAN ALSO PICK ANOTHER MEMBER & CONFER)

\_\_\_\_\_ (CONTESTANT GUESSES)

ANSWER: THE LIBERTY BELL (point of interest...After it cracked, it was recast and rung July 4<sup>th</sup> for 80 years. When it cracked a second time, they stopped ringing it. It is now in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, PA.

10. LINK ... My last contestant is Russell Gray

YOUR QUESTION..WHERE WAS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE SIGNED?

RUSSELL: WELL, I THINK IT WAS....HMMM.I REMEMBER NOW: IT WAS SIGNED AT THE BOTTOM!!!!

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5. \_\_\_\_\_ DID YOU KNOW THAT THE STATES OF VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND GAVE LAND THAT BECAME OUR NATIONS CAPITAL. GEORGE WASHINGTON CHOSE THE SITE WHERE THE CAPITAL WAS TO BE BUILT AND LAYED THE CORNERSTONE HIMSELF. ROCKS FROM QUARRIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AT THAT TIME WERE USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION. THE ROTUNDA, USED FOR PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATIONS. IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR. IT IS A CIRCULAR ROOM WITH A DIAMETER OF 96 FEET. THE DOME OF THE CAPITAL TOOK 11 YEARS TO COMPLETE. CONGRESS MET IN THE CAPITAL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NOVEMBER OF 1800.

OUR FLAG, AS WE KNOW IT TODAY, IS THE 27<sup>TH</sup> FLAG THIS COUNTRY HAS FLOWN SINCE BETSY ROSS DESIGNED OUR FIRST ONE IN 1776. ORIGINALLY DESIGNED WITH 13 ALTERNATE RED AND WHITE STRIPES AND A STAR FOR EACH OF THE 13 STATES; A STAR HAS BEEN ADDED AS NEW STATES JOINED THE UNION. OUR FLAG HAS BEEN CARRIED AROUND THE WORLD BY OUR MILITARY; IN PARADES; ON MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND WAS EVEN FLOWN ON THE MOON! THE RED REPRESENTS VALOR; THE WHITE PURITY AND THE BLUE PERSEVERENCE.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ SONG BY ALL  
YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG!

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7. \_\_\_\_\_ WE ARE NOW GOING TO PLAY OUR VERSION OF "WHEEL OF FORTUNE". I WILL DIVIDE THE HALL INTO THIRDS. TEAM MEMBERS CAN CONFER ON SELECTING THEIR LETTER AND GUESSING THE PUZZLE ANSWER. \_\_\_\_\_ WILL BE OUR HOST:

\_\_\_\_\_ EACH GROUP WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GUESS THE PATRIOTIC EXPRESSION HIDDEN BY GUESSING LETTERS-TAKING TURNS...TEAMS WILL HAVE 30 SECONDS IN WHICH TO GUESS THE ANSWER. \_\_\_\_\_ WILL FILL IN THE LETTERS CORRECTLY GUESSED. \_\_\_\_\_ WILL SERVE AS SCOREKEEPER-WITH THE TEAM CORRECTLY GUESSING THE ANSWER RECEIVING ONE HUNDRED POINTS. WHEN ALL 12 EXPRESSIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ANSWERED, THE TEAM WITH THE MOST POINTS WILL BE DECLARED THE WINNERS. GOOD LUCK!

- CLUE NUMBER 1: ANSWER: "UNITED WE STAND"  
CLUE NUMBER 2: ANSWER : "SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY"  
CLUE NUMBER 3: ANSWER: "SALUTE A VETERAN"  
CLUE NUMBER 4: ANSWER: "HOME OF THE BRAVE"  
CLUE NUMBER 5: ANSWER: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"  
CLUE NUMBER 6: ANSWER: "DON'T TREAD ON ME"  
CLUE NUMBER 7: ANSWER: "LET FREEDOM RING"  
CLUE NUMBER 8: ANSWER: "GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH"  
CLUE NUMBER 9: ANSWER: "YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG"  
CLUE NUMBER 10: ANSWER: "LIBERTY FOR ALL"  
CLUE NUMBER 11: ANSWER: "LIVE FREE OR DIE"  
CLUE NUMBER 12: ANSWER: "I'M A YANKEE DOODLE DANDY"

PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM: CANDY BARS FOR EACH!

8. CLOSING NUMBER: EVERYONE FROM EKONK WILL STAND IN FRONT OF THE GRANGE HALL, EACH HOLDING A SMALL AMERICAN FLAG. TOGETHER, EVERYONE WILL SING LEE GREENWOODS "GOD BLESS THE USA!"

OUR MEMBERS, \_\_\_\_\_ AND  
\_\_\_\_\_, WILL NOW DISTRIBUTE A  
"PATRIOTIC QUOTES MATCH GAME". EVERYONE CAN TAKE THIS  
HOME. ON THE REVERSE SIDE ARE LISTED COMING EVENTS AT OUR  
GRANGE TO WHICH YOU ARE ALL WELCOME!

THANK YOU!  
THAT ENDS OUR PROGRAM!

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS SHEET**

12. THEODORE ROOSEVELT
11. NEIL ARMSTRONG
10. PATRICK HENRY
9. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
8. JOHN WAYNE
7. GEORGE M. COHAN
6. GEORGE WASHINGTON
5. ABRAHAM LINCOLN
4. WORDS FROM THE SONG, "AMERICA"
3. JOHN F. KENNEDY
2. DANIEL WEBSTER
1. LEE GREENWOOD

**SUPPLIES YOU WILL NEED  
TO DO THIS PROGRAM**

1. **WORDS & MUSIC SHEETS TO THREE SONGS**  
"This Land is Your Land"  
"You're a Grand Old Flag"  
"God Bless the USA"  
These can be sung with or without a pianist
2. **MILK CHOCOLATE COINS (4 packages)**
3. **2 BAGS OF "PAYDAY" CANDY BARS**
4. **12 SHEETS OF LARGE SIZED POSTERBOARD**
5. **TWO MAGIC MARKERS**
6. **PAD & PEN FOR SCOREKEEPER**
7. **PACKAGE OF CANDY KISSES**
8. **AS MANY 4X6" FLAGS AS YOU HAVE MEMBERS**  
(or you could use any size flags & as few or many members as you had willing to take part)
9. **COPIES OF THE PATRIOTIC MATCH GAME FOR EVERYONE TO TAKE HOME (you can include your own "coming events" - that is up to you)**

HERE EKONK IS PICTURED, FOLLOWING  
OUR PROGRAM, "THREE CHEERS FOR THE  
U.S.A." AT RICHMOND, RI GRANGE.  
SEVERAL OF THEIR MEMBERS JOINED US  
FOR THE PICTURE

Clifford M. Gervais  
Program Director  
Ekonk Community Grange No. 89



## SECOND PLACE - - NORTH HAVEN GRANGE

### 1. Poem - FIREWORKS

Burning stripes and shooting stars  
Explode across this sky of ours.  
The Milky Way may reappear  
But only once the coast is clear.

### 2. Poem - THE FOURTH OF JULY

It's the Birthday of our country  
A real time to celebrate  
The many joys of living  
In a country that is great.

We enjoy the right to decide  
What things we think are best  
We can agree with those we choose  
And differ with the rest.

With freedom is the duty  
To try as best we can  
To do what's right and good  
For all people and our land.

### 3. Game - - RING THE CANDLE

Everyone tries to toss rings over a candle. Those that them over won a patriotic prize.

### 4. INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our flag looks a little prouder  
On our Independence Day  
The drums sound a little louder  
As Old Glory leads the way.

The soldiers step a little higher  
On our Independence Day  
Our hearts beat a little faster  
As our guardians pass our way.

Freedom seems a little dearer  
On our Independence Day  
We understand a little clearer  
What our heroes have to pay.

The grass seems a wee bit greener  
On our Independence Day  
The crosses look a little whiter  
Where the unknown soldier lay.

We pause just a little longer  
On our Independence Day  
Praying nations will endeavor  
To settle things a peaceful way.

Patriotism grows a little stronger  
On our Independence Day  
We thank the Lord we are members  
Of the Good Old USA.

5. GAME - - Throw start in a dish. Team that gets most in wins,

6. QUIZ - - Our National Government

What are the three branches of the United States Government?

Answer: Legislative, Executive & Judicial

How many houses are there in Congress?

Answer: Two - Senate and House of Representatives

How many United States Senators are there?

Answer: 100 - Two from each state

Does the President of the United States hold any other office other than that of Chief Executive?

Answer: Yes, Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy

May the President of the United States be elected more than two terms?

Answer: No

May a naturalized citizen of the US become President or Vice President?

Answer: No, only a native citizen of the US

How are the judges of the US courts elected?

Ans. Judges are not elected. They are appointed by the President for life.

7. SONG - HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

8. CLOSING POEM - Be Thankful for America

Be thankful for America  
For all the beauties of the land  
For every state where freedom rings  
The blessings found on every land

Be thankful for America  
The Flag that waves so proudly too  
The country that means so much to us  
Protecting us in all we do

Be thankful for America  
In humbleness we pray  
Please God watch over our dear land  
And keep it safe from day to day.

9. What did one potato chip say to the other potato chip?

Answer: Wanna go for a dip?

10. THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It ain't so much the things we don't know that get us in trouble. It's the things we know that ain't so."

# THIRD PLACE - - NORTH STONINGTON GRANGE

*(Copy-righted information not included)*

2014 State Lecturer's Contest

Three Cheers for the USA

American Exceptionalism – Our People

North Stonington Community Grange #138

March 28, 2014



Alexander Graham Bell, Ben Franklin, Clara Barton, Ernie Pyle, Dolley Madison  
Stephen Foster, The Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, Sandra Day O'Connor  
Will Rogers, Babe Didrikson, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Lou Gehrig, Luther Burbank, Chesley Sullenberger

2014 State Grange Lecturer's Contest  
Three Cheers for the USA  
American Exceptionalism - Our People

**Lecturer:** "American exceptionalism" is the concept that the United States is "qualitatively different" from the European world that it emerged from and holds a unique place and role in human history.

The idea that the United States is special and has a special role in the world was expressed even before it was a country. John Winthrop in 1630 referred to the settlement at Massachusetts Bay as "a city upon a hill" and warned that "the eyes of all people are upon us". The Puritan community of New England should therefore serve as a model community for the rest of the world. Decades later, Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" expressed the belief that America was not just an extension of Europe but a new land, a country of nearly unlimited potential and opportunity that had outgrown the British mother country.

**So how IS the United States different?** Proponents of American exceptionalism argue that the U.S. is unique in that it was founded on a set of ideals, rather than on a common heritage, ethnicity, or ruler. In the words of President Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address, America is a nation "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal".

Our Declaration of Independence begins with "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. –That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." In short, sovereignty belongs to the people, not to a hereditary ruling class.

**Why is the United States different?** In a speech given in 1988, President Ronald Reagan stated that "America represents something universal in the human spirit. I received a letter not long ago from a man who said, "You can go to Japan to live, but you cannot become Japanese. You can go to France to live and not become a Frenchman. You can go to live in Germany or Turkey, and you won't become a German or a Turk." but then he added, "Anybody from any corner of the world can come to America to live and become an American."

**So again, why is the United States different?** Various theories have been proposed as to why the country the American settlers created is so different from the countries they left.

(Cut apart)

\_\_\_\_\_ Is it the geographic setting, being separated by oceans to the East and West?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is it because colonial America lacked any feudal traditions, such as established churches, landed estates and a hereditary nobility?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is it the rugged and untamed conditions of the American frontier that is responsible for the American difference?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is it the perceived abundance of opportunities in the American system, the “American Dream” that all immigrants believed in?

\_\_\_\_\_ Perhaps it is, as the French writer Alexis de Tocqueville wrote in his 1831 work, “Democracy in America”, “democracy itself, which infuses every aspect of society and culture”.

\_\_\_\_\_ Or the commitment of our Protestant New England ancestors to individualism, equality, and the rights to freedom of religion and opinion, and their emphasis on the work ethic and responsibility **of the individual** for his own success or failure in life.

**Lecturer:** It is all of these, and it is the adaptability and endurance of the world’s oldest Constitution. It is not a coincidence that the United States Constitution begins with the words “We the People”. Beginning with those brave souls who settled in a new country, it has been **the people** that make America unique.

John Wayne, himself synonymous with the word “American” put out an album, “Why I Love America”. One of the songs on it is “The People”. The refrain goes like this:

*What makes the word "America" ring  
With a sound that brightens the air?  
It's people, her people,  
Who have done their "own thing"  
With blood, sweat, and tears, and a prayer.*

It was written a number of years ago, and the song goes on to name, in verse form, some famous people such as Louis Armstrong, Jack Dempsey, Jesse Owens, Jonas Salk, Billy Graham, and many others, along with what they were known for. But he also goes on to say:

*Then there are those, unheralded, whose dedication to our country  
is strong and true: The builders of America--those who make her  
factories hum, the loggers of her great forests,  
the men who labor deep in her mines and the man who works with his hands.*

*The farmer who toils from dawn to dusk, and those who carry her  
bountiful yield to all the states of our Union. The railroaders,  
our merchant sailors, the airline pilots, and those modern knights of the  
road...the truck drivers.*

**Lecturer:** And finally he says:

*These, and others like them, have earned their rights to walk proudly...  
with the knowledge that their goals were achieved through honest toil  
and in the spirit of harmony found in The People...working together...in  
this great land.*

**Lecturer:** A while back, I read a book “Legacy of the Light”. One of the characters in the book reads words on a display in the National Archives, describing what an archive is for. I’d like to quote from that today: Quote: “What’s past is prologue. Our actions and our decisions of today are based on events of the past. How we deal with our world, our fellow humans, cultures, lifestyles, and the ebb and flow of history are all based on what has previously happened. History is like a beach. The big events – wars, pioneering voyages of discovery, revolutions, elections, assassinations, natural disasters – are like large rocks on the beach. We notice them for their prominence. The beach the rocks rest on is made of billions upon billions of separate grains of sand. Likewise, history is made up of the billions and billions of small decisions and actions of everyday people.... . It is we the living who give history meaning and context. It is upon our past that we build our future. What’s past is prologue.” Unquote. We remember the “big people”, but we must remember that it is the billions of “little people” who helped shape their actions.

Tonight our program, *Three Cheers for the USA* is about our American exceptionalism – **our PEOPLE!** And what’s a program without song? Let’s start with *America*, verses 1, 2, & 4; it’s number 12 in the Grange songbook.

*(Sing song)*

**Lecturer:** Now, we’ve all had Social Studies and American History...and we remember many of the people who shaped our country by a specific phrase associated with them. Let’s take 5 minutes to see if you can identify some of those people.

*(Take quiz – Expressions)*

**Lecturer:** *What makes the word "America" ring  
With a sound that brightens the air?  
It's **PEOPLE**, her people,  
Who have done their "own thing"  
With blood, sweat, and tears, and a prayer.*

No matter what period of our story, there are to be found those individuals who by their own “blood, sweat and tears” contributed to the fabric of America. Some were adventurers, some were from wealthy backgrounds, some from the poorest of the poor. Some were statesmen, some were generals, some were in medicine, or education, or manufacturing or literature. Some were writers, some were musical, some were born here, and some came to this country from other lands. Some lives were short, and others spanned the decades. Tonight we’ll hear about a sampling of them across our time.

**Narrator:** Colonial America was a time in which Europeans came to the New World to increase their wealth and broaden their influence in world affairs. France, Spain and England settled here; England predominant on the Atlantic Coast, France centered in now-Canada with

some push southward, and Spain settled Florida and Mexico with some push northward, particularly in the West. With both assistance and resistance from the natives, the colonists managed to flourish. Squanto, Samoset, Myles Standish, Wm. Brewster and “the Pilgrims”, Daniel Boone are just a few of the people we know from this era.

**Lecturer:** Let’s hear from Mary Brewster, passenger on the Mayflower, and wife of Elder William Brewster:

(Lecturer will prompt:)

“the Pilgrims”

Daniel Boone

Ben Franklin

**Narrator:** Americans fought first to hold English identity in the French and Indian Wars, and then a revolution against the English empire. In the era that saw the creation of our new nation, we established a government which balanced the need for a federal system of government with the cherished principle of “states’ rights”; and created a common financial system. We kept our independence from Britain, again defeating them in the War of 1812, and began to establish our interest in the world fighting the Barbary pirates. We looked to future expansion with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Most are familiar with George Washington, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and Paul Revere, but there were also Francis Scott Key, Dolly Madison, Betsey Ross, John Paul Jones, Ethan Allen and Eli Whitney.

**Lecturer:** Now we’ll hear from Ben Franklin, and then from Dolly Madison.

(Lecturer will prompt:)

Ben Franklin

Dolly Madison

Eli Whitney

Alexander Hamilton

Francis Scott Key

John Paul Jones

Paul Revere

**Lecturer:** To celebrate our country’s expansion, let’s all sing the *Ballad of Davy Crockett*, verses 1 & 18.

(Sing Song)

**Narrator:** In our period of Westward Expansion, our presidents wanted to expand the borders of America westward. They were not the only ones though. People like Davy Crockett, John C. Fremont, Kit Carson, Lewis and Clark, Sam Houston and Wm. “Buffalo Bill” Cody are remembered for their deeds in exploring the wilderness and leading the way for others to follow. A war was fought to keep Texas, expanding America to the Rio Grande, and “Remember the Alamo” is as synonymous with America today as “Dec. 7, 1941 – a Day that will live in Infamy” or even simply “9-11”. The discovery of gold in California fueled more westward

expansion.

But our struggles for self-government and what “liberty” actually meant caused much internal strife, and we also had Harriet Beecher Stowe, Stephen J. Foster, and Washington Irving to guide our thoughts. Another war was fought, this time among ourselves and leaders such as Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, U.S. Grant, and Abraham Lincoln shaped our thinking. Inventors like Elias Howe and his sewing machine, and Eli Whitney’s modern manufacturing plant for gun works, Robert Fulton’s steam boats, and Samuel Morse’s telegraph made life, war and travel “easier”, and made it easier for those distant parts of the country to keep abreast of events.

**Lecturer:** You know his songs and you’ve probably read “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”; let’s first listen to Stephen Foster, and then hear from Harriet Beecher Stowe.

*(Lecturer will prompt:)*

Stephen Foster

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Robert Fulton

Abraham Lincoln

Wm. “Buffalo Bill” Cody

**Lecturer:** In honor of Stephen Foster, let’s sing “*Old Folks at Home (also known as Swanee River)*”

*(Sing Song)*

**Narrator:** Reconstruction gave Americans the difficult task of re-unifying. Citizenship for the former slaves and re-admitting the Southern states looked fine on paper, but reality wasn’t so easy. The assassination of President Lincoln didn’t help matters. But again, people rose to the occasion. Louisa May Alcott, Mark Twain, James Whitcomb Riley, and Booker T. Washington used their words and their experiences to help heal the rift. Clara Barton, so instrumental in healing in the Civil War, went on to found the American Chapter of the International Red Cross, healing in more ways than one. Thomas Edison made the electric light small and practical enough to be used in homes, and the development of the automobile and Alexander Graham Bell’s invention of the telephone brought us all closer than ever.

**Lecturer:** Let’s hear from “the lady of mercy”, Clara Barton.

*(Lecturer will prompt:)*

Clara Barton

Mark Twain

Alexander Graham Bell

Louisa May Alcott

**Narrator:** In what came to be known as America’s “Gilded Age”, it seemed as if everything boomed. The growth of industry helped the wave of immigrants to “make their fortune”. The production of iron and steel rose dramatically, and western resources like lumber, gold and

silver increased the demand for improved transportation. Railroad development boomed. Technology expanded. Dr. Walter Reed figured out the cause of yellow fever and enabled us to fight it; Luther Burbank developed plants to help feed our burgeoning population, and Orville and Wilbur Wright created an airplane, ultimately making it even faster to move around the country. Robert Peary tried and failed and tried again, each time learning from his experiences and finally reached the North Pole in 1909. And the country made music with Victor Herbert and John Philip Sousa. Mark Twain and Walt Whitman reminded us of our roots.

**Lecturer:** And now, Luther Burbank will tell us of his life.

*(Lecturer will prompt:)*

Luther Burbank

Wright Brothers

Walter Reed

Robert Peary

**Lecturer:** Let's all sing John Philip Sousa's *"The Stars and Stripes Forever"*.

*(Sing song)*

**Narrator:** The "Great War", aka WWI, dominated much of the next era, and foreign affairs began to be a part of our consciousness. When the Mexican Revolution to our south and WWI ended, many people, tired of war, took an interest in women's rights to vote and African American culture. Jazz musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington were universally popular. George M. Cohan, known and recognized by our government for "Over There" and "It's a Grand Old Flag" during WWI went on to provide some of our greatest entertainment. Will Roger's ascerbic wit and wisdom resonated with many, and Harry Houdini's magic continues to amaze today. Lou Gehrig and Knute Rockne showed us the ultimate in courage and sportsmanship on and off their respective playing fields. We took an interest in not just using but preserving our natural resources, with Teddy Roosevelt leading the way.

**Lecturer:** And now let's hear about Lou Gehrig.

*(Lecturer will prompt:)*

Lou Gehrig

Will Rogers

Knute Rockne

Woodrow Wilson

George M. Cohan

**Lecturer:** Let's honor George M. Cohan by singing *"Over There"*

*(Sing Song)*

**Narrator:** There's an expression "What goes up must come down" and our next age tested all our people. The Great Depression, a result of the stock market crash; massive unemployment, the dustbowl... these were only resolved with the entrance of the United States into WWII, and that only after we were physically attacked at Pearl Harbor. One of the bright spots of the times, Babe Didrikson showed the world "how to do it" in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. FDR of course comes to mind, known as "the Crisis President" he spanned the times and instituted a "New Deal", and the WPA and CCC offering work relief for thousands. Steinbeck opened our eyes in "The Grapes of Wrath". With the advent of WWII, GI Joe became everyone's hero, Kilroy was everywhere, and Ernie Pyle aka "the foxhole reporter" kept the world informed of what the real fighting soldiers were experiencing. Atomic power was harnessed and used for death and destruction and then for energy production.

**Lecturer:** First we'll hear from Ernie Pyle, and then Babe Didrikson will give us her life story.

*(Lecturer will prompt:)*

Ernie Pyle

Babe Didrikson

FDR

Steinbeck

The Manhattan Project people

**Narrator:** Then we entered the "Modern Era". With all the production we had ramped up for WWII, it seemed once again that we could "do it all". Eisenhower started the interstate highway system, and made it possible for all those new cars and trucks to better move people and goods around the country. Alaska became the 50<sup>th</sup> state. Planes got bigger and faster; JFK gave us the dream that we could go to the moon; Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and others ushered in the Civil Rights movement and equal rights for women. Like him or not, Richard Nixon helped open the door to China.

All was not easy, we've had the Korean Conflict, the "Cold War", Vietnam, and numerous crises in the mid-East. The "Red Scare" of Communism resulted in the McCarthy hearings, and accusations, legitimate or not, led to loss of employment for many. JFK and Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated. Rachel Carson wrote "Silent Spring" and others created the first Earth Day as we became more concerned about our effect on our environment. Ed Sullivan introduced Elvis, Bill Haley and the Comets, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Buddy Holly, and numerous others and rock and roll was here to stay. Movies and television starring the likes of John Wayne, Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, and Doris Day glorified our past and gave hope for the future. Sandra Day O'Connor became our first female Supreme Court Judge. The events of 9-11 reminded us that we are a whole nation – what affects one affects us all. The united efforts of the passengers on United Flight 93 and Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and the "miracle on the Hudson" showed us just what a difference a small group of people or even just one person can do.

**Lecturer:** There are so many people here, but tonight we'll hear from Sandra Day O'Connor, and then Sully Sullenberger.

*(Lecturer will prompt:)*

Sandra Day O'Connor

Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger

Rachel Carson

Rosa Parks

Martin Luther King Jr.

**Lecturer:** Let's honor these people by singing "This Is My Country".

*(Sing Song)*

One more thing about American Exceptionalism: Charles Murray in his book, "American Exceptionalism", draws a distinction between hospitality and neighborliness. Other nations are known for their hospitality to strangers, he explains, but neighborliness is something altogether different and more uniquely American. As Murray writes, "widespread mutual assistance among unrelated people who happen to live alongside each other has been rare." The barn raisings, "workouts", and quilting bees, of Colonial America and the western frontier and the steak fries, walk-a-thons and playground construction projects of today are examples of American neighborliness. Last but not least, let's hear about Oliver Hudson Kelly, who would properly have been included in the era of reconstruction:

**Narrator:** "Mutual assistance among unrelated people who happen to live alongside each other", is a basic principle of the founding of local Granges by Oliver Hudson Kelly and associates in 1867. Mutual assistance to combat the isolation, lack of educational opportunities, and inadequate representation in the government for farm families, and the poverty caused by the economic monopolies of the railroads were goals of the Grange's founding fathers. Their desire for mutual assistance with social and economic issues continues in the many community service projects undertaken by Grangers today.

**Lecturer:** So look around you. What kinds of projects do you support at your Grange? How does your community make use of your Grange? Check out your Pomona, State and National Granges to see the work they are involved in. Look around your community to see what needs doing as well as to see what is good and true. Do we always remember all those people who came before us? No....., but we see the results. We live as a result of their individual and collective efforts to make our community and America better places.

**Lecturer:** What makes the word "America" ring  
With a sound that brightens the air?  
It's people, Grange people,  
Who have done their "own thing"  
With blood, sweat, and tears, and a prayer.

Let's close by singing "God Bless America".

*(Sing Song)*

**Lecturer:** Thank you all for helping with tonight's program. And a special thanks to Kenny Huebner for agreeing to play for us tonight, and to Marguerite for being tonight's narrator.