

THE ROEPER SCHOOL ARCHIVES

“The Flagpole Ceremony”

June 6, 1969

By George A. Roeper, Headmaster, City & Country School

© Roeper City and Country School, Inc.

The Roeper School Archives, Bloomfield Hill, MI

ABSTRACT

In this dedication speech for the first flagpole on the school's campus, George expresses his hope that the flag will become one known for peace.

FLAG POLE CEREMONY

By George Roeper

It took us a long time to raise this flagpole. The students raised money for it, the PTFA gave money for it, parents worked at getting it. Students got this flag which was raised on the flagpole of the Capitol Building in Washington.

Whenever we look at the American Flag, we should ask ourselves: What does it stand for? It is a symbol for our country. Everybody in the world knows it stands for the United States of America. It is also a symbol for beliefs, for goals, for our constitution. I have some personal thoughts on what I hope this flag of ours should stand for. I hope it will one day stand for peace and looked upon by everybody as the flag for peace. Today, the American flag is not looked upon in the world as the flag for peace. Today, our flag is hated by many other countries because of the Vietnam war and because of aggressive exploitation. We have to do a great deal in order to prove that our flag stands for people and we have to act very convincingly before the world will believe in our peaceful intentions. I hope this flag will not stand as a symbol that leads us into disastrous, bloody battles. Instead, I hope this flag will lead us into a world of lasting peace, a world in which violence is passionately abhorred and rejected, a world in which there is no greater sin than aiming a gun at any man, whatever kind he is. If our flag stands for harmony, for friendship, for peace, then we will regain the love of the world and be in peace with ourselves.

With this hope I salute the flag: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stand, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."