



Excerpts from remarks made at
Bedford's Pole Capping ceremony

April 11, 2015

Senator Michael Barrett (D, Lexington)

“We may sometimes imagine we share a common story with those who resided in this town 240 years ago, in 1775. But that is not true.

“Those of us in Bedford today can look back on 240 years of self-rule and independence. Whereas, in 1775, the people who lived where we live now could themselves look back only on the experience of subjugation, devoid of even a single year of self-rule, of even a single decade of independence.

“What we share with our ancestors, then, is not a common story but a common set of ideas and ideals. And a self-confident determination that, while we may fall short, time and again, we will move forward, learning from the mistakes we make and striving to become the best possible version of ourselves.

“Let’s not imagine that the history of this country is written. It is not. We are writing it as we speak. We are nation-building, and the nation we are building is our own.

“What we celebrate today, then, is the sheer effort of being American. As we raise a mast on this beautiful morning and set about scaling it, may all of us remember this: It’s not about the pole. It’s about the climb.”