

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

I believe the United States is a unique and very special country. July 4th is the date we celebrate the birth of a nation that has changed the planet. To be part of this nation is something for which I am very proud. I want share some facts that began in 1760 with the official song composed for a gentlemen's club. The songs name was "Anacreon in Heaven." At the end of each stanza, the members of the Anacreontic Society would sing a final line.... "the myrtle of Venus with Bacchus vine."

That drinking song was framed around a poem written September 13, 1814 titled, "Defense of Ft. McHenry." The poem's author was Francis Scott Key. For many years the joining of the gentlemen's club song with the poem was used to unofficially celebrate the United States.

On March 3, 1931, the poem and club song became our National Anthem..... The Star Spangled Banner. We usually hear only the anthem's first verse. There are three more stanzas. Each verse documents the witness of a man who watch the British relentlessly shell an American fort during the War of 1812.

Here is the entire poem.

*The Star Spangled Banner (all 4 verses)*  
*Ft McHenry ^ | 1814 | Francis Scott Key 9-13-1814*  
*The Star Spangled Banner*

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream:  
'Tis the star-spangled banner! O long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion  
A home and a country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has wiped out their foul footstep's pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

**This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.**