

# O Say Can You See?

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9/14/1814 – Francis Scott Key, an attorney and amateur poet writes *Defense of Fort M’Henry* after American troops survive 25 hours of bombing by British troops during the war of 1812. The poem would be placed to the tune of a popular English drinking song and later renamed *The Star Spangled Banner*. Key was a slaveholder from a Maryland plantation family and as an attorney, argued several important cases against the movement to end slavery in the United States.

5/15/1862 – The first recognized playing of *The Star Spangled Banner* at a sporting event occurs in Brooklyn, New York at the dedication of a new baseball field.

9/5/1918 – During the seventh inning stretch of game one of the World Series at Comiskey Park in Chicago, the future national anthem is played. A newspaper writes the story of the stadium coming back to life in support of the Cubs and of the nation as it battled through World War I. The playing of *The Star Spangled Banner* becomes a tradition from that point on, and the song is declared the country’s national anthem in 1931.

10/16/1968 – Tommie Smith and John Carlos face the U.S. flag and raise black gloved fists during the playing of the national anthem while standing on the Olympic podium in Mexico City. The gesture is considered one of the most political statements in Olympic history.

8/26/2016 – Colin Kaepernick refuses to stand during the anthem prior to an NFL preseason game stating, “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color [...] this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way.”

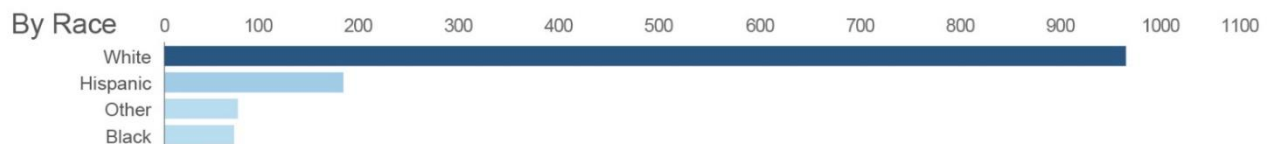
2/27/2017 – Then President Donald Trump raises the issue of kneeling during the anthem at a support rally in Atlanta. A day later he posts on Twitter that players should be fired if they protest during the song, the first of many tweets he would offer on the subject.

9/17/2018 – The Public Religion Research Institute begins collecting data for its American Values Survey. Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement “Professional athletes should be required to stand during the national anthem at sporting events.”

3/10/2021 - Statistical analysis of the results show opinions divided along racial, religious, and political lines. Whites and people believing that America should be a “Christian nation” are over 4 times as likely to agree with the statement than others and Republicans are more than 20 times more likely to agree than Democrats.

9/14/1814 – Francis Scott Key ends the first stanza of his poem with a question mark; “O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?”

## Survey Respondents Believing that Athletes Should be Required to Stand



## By Belief that America Should be a Christian Nation



## By Political Affiliation

