



September 10, 2014

America's Secret City Celebrates our National Anthem's Bicentennial

Oak Ridge, TN---The City of Oak Ridge announced today that a celebration of the 200th Anniversary of our National Anthem will be held on Sunday, September 14 at 4:30 pm at the Oak Ridge Civic Center Amphitheater. The Oak Ridge Civic Center complex is located at 1403 Oak Ridge Turnpike. A short program honoring the national anthem will begin at 4:30 and the national anthem will be sung at 5:00 p.m.

"We'd like to invite families across Tennessee to join America's Secret City in honoring this important national anniversary," said Jane Miller, Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Oak Ridge. "This will be a wonderful event as we celebrate the birthday of our National Anthem and pay honor to the great United States of America."

The event is jointly sponsored by the City of Oak Ridge, Anderson County, Roane County, the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Knoxville/Oak Ridge Staybridge Suites Hotel, and the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association. Everyone is invited to this community event. Families are welcome to bring their own chairs and blankets to sit on.

"Anderson County is honored to co-sponsor this event to celebrate our national anthem and all it signifies in American history," said Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank. "I hope everyone will attend".

"This Sunday is an excellent time to honor our wonderful country," said Roane County Mayor Ron Woody. "This should be great fun for the entire family."

On September 3rd, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam issued a proclamation honoring the Anthem's Bicentennial and declaring September 14, 2014 to be "Sing It America" Star-Spangled Banner day. The non-partisan group, Sing It America, is asking people across the country come together to sing the National Anthem at 5:00 pm on that date (www.singitamerica.com).

The Governor's proclamation was the result of an initiative by four Oak Ridge state legislators who jointly requested the recognition. The four Oak Ridge legislators are Senator Randy McNally, Senator Ken Yager, Representative John Ragan, and Representative Kent Calfee.

"We wanted Tennessee to become a part of this wonderful anniversary," said Senator McNally. "We really appreciate the Governor's support."

"The National Anthem's words carry hope around the world," said Senator Yager, "I hope citizens throughout Tennessee can join us in honoring the song."

The Star Spangled Banner commemorates the events of September 13 and 14, 1814 at Fort McHenry during the pivotal Battle of Baltimore. At "dawn's early light" on September 14th, Francis Scott Key anxiously watched to see Fort McHenry continued to resist a heavy British naval bombardment.

To his great relief, he saw a large American flag proudly waving over the fort. He expressed his thanksgiving "that our flag was still there" in an immortal poem. The poem was later set to music and formally adopted as our national anthem in 1931.

"Had America not prevailed in the War of 1812, our nation would have likely divided into a group of smaller independent entities---with far-reaching results," said Martin McBride, of the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association.

During the program, the Anderson County School Navy Junior ROTC Color Guard will formally present the Colors and the Oak Ridge High School Ensemble will lead the public in the National Anthem at 5:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Mayor Pro Tem Jane Miller at (865) 482-9727, Debi Boody of the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau at (865) 482-7821, or Martin McBride of the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association at (865) 482-5386.

Visit the City's website at www.oakridgetn.gov

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STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, this year marks the two-hundredth anniversary of the inspiring sight that greeted Francis Scott Key “in the dawn’s early light” of September 14, 1814 during the Battle of Fort McHenry; and

WHEREAS, his immortal description of the Fort McHenry flag was incorporated into The Star Spangled Banner which Congress recognized as our national anthem in 1931; and

WHEREAS, the War of 1812 was an important test of America’s determination to exist, when it appeared the light of our new nation might be extinguished; and

WHEREAS, singing the National Anthem is an important reminder of what “the land of the free and the home of the brave” continues to stand for in the world; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is proud to join in support of a nationwide celebration of the Bicentennial of America’s National Anthem;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 14, 2014 as

“Sing it America”
Star-Spangled Banner Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this third day of September, 2014.

Bill Haslam

Governor

