

# THE ANTHEM TALK

*The Anthem Talk is written to provide a patriotic speech promoting DeMolay's Seventh Precept. It may be delivered during any public occasion.*

*Required Part: The Speaker: Spk.; should be an Active DeMolay with a mature voice with good projection.*

*Required Paraphernalia: A US Flag and flag stand. CD, MP3 or other media with the National Anthem (if singing at the end of the ceremony).*

*The flag should be placed in a stand at a prominent area of the room, preferably centered in front of the audience or presented at the altar if lodge/Chapter room. The speaker will begin the ceremony standing with the flag on his right side.*

*Optional: The flag may be carried into the room by an Active DeMolay along with other flags such as the state flag or DeMolay Flag. The US Flag must be carried in front, and higher, with any additional flags following. If the flag is carried, it is suggested it be held, per figure 7 in the DeMolay Ritual, throughout the ceremony.*

**Spk.** During the War of 1812, the British attacked U.S. Fort McHenry near Baltimore Maryland. An American lawyer, Francis Scott Key, watched the bombing and worried whether our soldiers could withstand the attack. The bombardment lasted all night and in the early morning Key wrote:

“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 rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh say does that star-spangled banner yet waive  
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?”

At 8 o’clock the bombing stopped. As the smoke cleared, Key could see the flag still flying and concluded his poem by writing:

“Oh thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and the war’s desolation!  
Blest with vict’ry and peace by the heaven rescued land  
Praise the Power that had made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause 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.

The Order of DeMolay instills in every member the virtue of patriotism but let me urge upon you this thought; that there is a patriotism of peace as well as a heroism of war and that good citizenship is the only opportunity peace afford for the display of this virtue.

As we gaze upon this banner of red, white and blue, never lose sight of the brave young men and women gave up their lives in defense of our freedoms. Their blood dyes this glorious banner a richer hue of red and serves as a constant reminder of the supreme sacrifice many have made. May each of us stand fast and protect our country each and every day remembering never to lose sight of those who serve our beloved country,

*Spk. will turn and face the flag. If audience is seated, Spk. will direct the audience to rise or in a Masonic setting, give three gavel raps.*

*Spk. may choose to replace the Pledge of Allegiance with the singing of the National Anthem.*

**Spk.** Join me in saluting and pledging allegiance to the flag.

*- or -*

**Spk.** Join me in singing the National Anthem.

*All recite the pledge or sing the national anthem in unison. Upon conclusion, the Speaker will direct the audience to be seated or give one gavel rap. Spk. will retire to his seat or leave the room.*