

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Star-Spangled Banner was adopted as the National Anthem of the United States in 1931 by an Act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, a recent Harris Interactive Survey discovered that of men and women 19 years of age and older, 61 percent of those surveyed did not know all the lyrics of the first stanza; of those who answered the question correctly, 58 percent had received at least five years of music education while growing up; and

WHEREAS, an ABC News poll revealed that more than one in three Americans (38 percent) do not know the official name of the National Anthem is "The Star-Spangled Banner," less than 35 percent of American teens can name Francis Scott Key as the composer of the National Anthem, and as few as 15 percent of American youth can sing the words to the anthem from memory; and

WHEREAS, school music education ensures preservation of the musical traditions and historical legacies of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the study of music provides a competitive edge for successful educational reform, engages students in individual and group activity, develops creativity, problem-solving, and critical and evaluative skills; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Music Education and the Arkansas Music Educators Association have taken a lead role in promoting the National Anthem through "The National Anthem Project" to help remedy this concern; and

WHEREAS, the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush, has agreed to serve as the Honorary Chairperson of "The National Anthem Project" and is lending her support and visibility to this effort; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas is concerned with maintaining and improving school music programs for all students and teaching the importance of the historical events that created our great nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 14, 2006, as

NATIONAL ANTHEM PROJECT DAY

in the State of Arkansas to celebrate the history of the anthem and urge all music educators and residents of Arkansas to participate in this project.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 5th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2006.



Mike Huckabee

MIKE HUCKABEE, GOVERNOR

Charlie Daniels

CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE