



## CITY OF SOLANA BEACH

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December 6, 2004

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

On June 15, 2004, our city council, recognizing that the vast majority of citizens cannot reach the high notes of our National Anthem, unanimously passed a resolution asking the Federal Government to consider establishment of an official key of G-major to be used whenever audiences are asked to sing it. This would permit the vast majority of our citizens to be able to sing the stirring high notes of the "Star Spangled Banner."

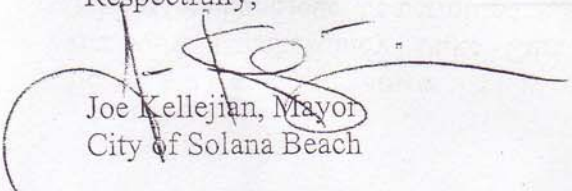
An active member of our community, Dr. Ed Siegel, brought this issue to our attention. For ten years he has led a crusade to lower the key of the Star Spangled Banner. He has had the steadfast support of our congressman, Randy "Duke" Cunningham, who took the proposition to the Speaker of the House asking that Dr. Siegel be permitted to lead the House of Representatives in singing his version during an opening session. Unfortunately there seemed to be some sort of policy or protocol that got in the way.

Since then, "The New York Times" wrote a front-page article on Dr. Siegel's crusade. The response was overwhelming. All of the major television networks, many leading newspapers, national radio stations, and even some media abroad enthusiastically picked up the story. Dr. Siegel, an accomplished pianist and song-leader, has also received the unanimous support of his Rotary Club, our Public Arts Commission, various local schools and retirement communities. Furthermore, Garrison Keillor, on his regular PBS program "Prairie Home Companion," recently promoted the key change by having his audiences sing the "Star Spangled Banner" in G-Major and found tremendous enthusiasm for the idea. "The New York Times" intends to include his idea in a year-end article on important new ideas put forth in 2004. (For more background, you can go online under Ed Siegel National Anthem, or check his web site at [www.singournationalanthem.com](http://www.singournationalanthem.com))

We hope that you can move this worthwhile idea forward. Its time has come. *We should be able to sing our own National Anthem.* This is something very positive you can do for our nation.

We thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Joe Kellejian, Mayor  
City of Solana Beach

Attachment: City Resolution No. 2004-102.