

Draft Resolution  
(May 22, 2004)

**Whereas**, our National Anthem, the “Star Spangled Banner” is a stirring and patriotic song; and

**Whereas**, in the year 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered all of the armed forces to use the “Star Spangled Banner” as the National Anthem, and

**Whereas**, the Department of Defense chose the key of B-flat for its official arrangement paralleling the most common rendition at that time, and

**Whereas**, on March 3, 1931, the “Star Spangled Banner” was adopted by Congress and President Herbert Hoover as our National Anthem; and

**Whereas**, when, at both formal and informal occasions, it is played and sung in the key of B-flat, the high notes are unreachable for the vast majority of people; and

**Whereas**, if it is played in the key of G-major, it remains stirring, but can also be comfortably sung by the vast majority of the assembled people; and

**Whereas**, there is no law or statute designating an official key in which it is to be played; therefore,

**Be it resolved**, that whenever audiences are asked to sing our National Anthem, it be played and sung in the key of G-major.