

This is your Flag talking

Hey! you with your hat on

Stand to attention

This is your FLAG talking

And they are playing my song

Stand to Attention

Pay me some respect

Iv'e been around for 227 years and

I'm still waving strong

I stood fast at Fort Mc Henry

When the British took their best shots

My buddy Francis Scott Key penned the words that

Still inspire his countrymen to fight wars, and

perform noble deeds to preserve my heritage

Men who put love of country first before life

Men who fought at

Valley Forge

Gettysburg

Belleau Woods

Pearl Harbor

Guadalcanal

Iwo Jima

At Iwo Jima they took my picture and inspired

Monuments that will live forever

Remember Freedom isn't Free

I'm your FLAG and when they play my song

Stand to Attention!

Take off your hat!

I *demand* your respect

This is your Flag talking

To a fellow American

I was at the auto races at Sears Point  
On Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup> when they played our  
National anthem, the Star-Spangled Banner.  
Some men in the next pit didn't pay attention or  
take off their hats. This makes me a little mad  
(Read pissed off)

I wished I had a little card with a message on it to  
give people who fail to respect our flag and pay  
attention when our national anthem is played.

I put pencil to paper and wrote this poem.  
*Someone* was guiding my hand.

I never rewrote a word  
I have had my poem printed so I can give a copy to  
those who fail to respond when the Star-Spangled  
Banner is played.

Each time I hear the Star Spangled Banner played  
I can still see Iwo's Mt. Suribachi with our flag  
unfurled on top over the 'rock that God forgot.'  
I can hear the cheers of Marines and the 700 ships  
offshore blowing their whistles.

***What a Grand Old Flag!***

Semper Fi!

Marine Chuck Tatum

Iwo Jima B-1 27 5<sup>th</sup>1945

Permission to reprint granted in advance

C.W. Tatum 7-8-2001

(209) 478-2790

This is your Flag talking