

Statement by the Governor

Captain Walter Irving Joyce

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STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

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The death of Captain Walter Irving Joyce, honorary commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, ends a life marked by high patriotism and loyal service. As it was largely through his leadership that the legislation, by which "The Star Spangled Banner" was designated by Congress as the National Anthem, was enacted, it seems eminently fitting that public respect be paid to Captain Joyce.

The song, composed by Francis Scott Key, September 14, 1814, and inspired by the British defeat at Fort McHenry in Chesapeake Bay, preventing the capture of Baltimore, immediately attracted public favor, but was not adopted as the National Anthem until March 3, 1931, and after petitions bearing the names of more than 5,000,000 American citizens had been submitted to Congress.

Captain Joyce, who served in the War with Spain, came of patriotic ancestors. His father served in the Civil War, his grandfather in the War of 1812 and his great grandfather in the Revolution.

In recognition of the patriotic service of Captain Joyce, and in appreciation of his devotion to his country, I hereby order that the American flag be flown at half staff on all State buildings the day of his funeral, November 27.

Lewis O. Barrows
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GOVERNOR

Augusta, Maine
November 26, 1937