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CELEBRATE THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF “THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER” AT
THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

DETROIT – The Detroit Historical Society and the Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial
Commission are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the writing of “The Star-Spangled
Banner.” To commemorate this historic event, we will sing our National Anthem during
a 2 p.m. ceremony at the Legends Plaza outside the Detroit Historical Museum on
Sunday, September 14. Afterwards, head inside to view the documentary film
“Anthem,” which tells the story of the origins of the song, at 3 p.m. in the Museum’s
Louise C. Booth Auditorium. The event and film screening are free.

The ceremony will feature patriotic music from local ensembles and musicians,
the story of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” tributes from civic leaders, the raising of a
15-star, 15-stripe United States flag by the U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps and the pledge
of allegiance before the singing of our national song. Additional organizations
participating in the event include the U.S. Navy League Metropolitan Detroit Council,
the Star-Spangled Music Foundation, the U.S. Navy Recruiting District Assistance
Council, the St. Basil the Great Choir and the Detroit Firefighters Band Saxophones.

An independent production of Make Your Mark Media, “Anthem” tells the story
behind Francis Scott Key’s creation of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and explores the
role of music and patriotism during the War of 1812. Featuring musical performances
and interviews with historians and music experts from the United States and Great
Britain, this documentary delves into the people, songs and events that influenced Key
to write what would become the National Anthem of the United States of America.
Running time for this film is 61 minutes.

In the early light of dawn of September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key scanned
the horizon to see if the American flag was still flying over Fort McHenry in Baltimore
Harbor after a night of bombardment from the British Royal Navy. Inspired by the sight
of the large 15-star, 15-stripe flag, he drafted the lyrics to the song that quickly became known as “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

The Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Midtown Detroit, is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for all, all the time. Parking in the Museum’s lot is $5 at all times. Group tour pricing and information is available by calling (313) 833-1733. Permanent exhibits include the famous Streets of Old Detroit, the Allesee Gallery of Culture, Kid Rock Music Lab, Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and the Underground Railroad, Detroit: The “Arsenal of Democracy,” the Gallery of Innovation, Frontiers to Factories, America’s Motor City, and The Glancy Trains. For more information, call the Museum at (313) 833-1805 or check out our website at www.detroithistorical.org.

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