



**When the Music Stopped...**

**(For those who are unaware: At all military base theaters, the National Anthem is played before the movie begins.)**

**This is written from a Chaplain in Iraq :**

**I recently attended a showing of 'Superman 3' here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium that we use for movies as well as memorial services and other large gatherings. As is the custom at all**

**military bases, we stood to**

**attention when *The National Anthem* began before the main feature. All was going well until three-quarters of the way through *The National Anthem*, the music stopped.**

**Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-to-22- year-olds back in the States? I imagine that there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments, and everyone would sit down and yell for the movie to begin. Of course, that is, only if they had stood for *The National Anthem* in the first place.**

**Here in Iraq 1,000 soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again, and the soldiers continued to quietly stand at**

7/13/2010

attention. Again, though, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect 1,000 soldiers standing at attention to do?? Frankly, I expected some laughter, and everyone would eventually sit down and wait for the movie to start.

**No!! . . . You could have heard a pin drop while every soldier continued to stand at attention.**

**Suddenly, there was a lone voice from the front of the auditorium, then a dozen voices, and soon the room was filled with the voices of a thousand soldiers, finishing where the recording left off:**

**"And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.**

**Oh, say, does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave,  
o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave."**

**It was the most inspiring moment I have had in Iraq, and I wanted you to know what kind of U.S. Soldiers are serving you! Remember them as they fight for us! Pass this along as a reminder to others to be ever in prayer for all our soldiers serving us here at home and abroad. Many have already paid the ultimate price.**

**Written by Chaplain Jim Higgins, LSA Anaconda is at the Ballad Airport in Iraq, north of Baghdad .**

**Please share only if you are so inclined. God Bless America and all of our troops serving throughout he world.**

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