



## **Boycott the NFL, Make Them Stand**

*Those who kneel stand for something more important than a flag.*

Yesterday's NFL games witnessed kneeling all over the league despite the threats of coaches and owners, who just don't get it or won't get it. I think Roger Goodall gets it and is trying to walk a fine line between the players and their critics. It's not about the flag, not about the anthem, and certainly not about the military. It's about our country taking a dark turn toward racism and away from our founding ideals. Does any of this sound familiar?

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

It doesn't say "Except for black people or brown people" now, does it. Saluting the flag and standing for the anthem (neither of which are required by law) has value and is important, but the anthem and flag are just symbols standing for the higher goals and values described in the words of the pledge and the anthem. Saluting the flag and standing for the anthem are the shallowest form of patriotism if you don't subscribe to the underlying values. Real patriotism is about commitment our national ideals and to military and community service to and for our fellow man.

Colin Kaepernick is a hero in my eyes, because he risked everything to protest racial injustice in America. He's saying he can't participate in patriotic theatrics while sixty million people of color are denied equal justice and equal opportunity for *Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness* in the country of his birth and the country that he loves. Those who "boo" the players and threaten to boycott the NFL are as shallow as the symbols they defend. *"None are so blind as those who will not see" (Jeremiah 5:21 'Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not')*.

*Gene Ziegler, Chandler Arizona October 2018*

***Letters to The Editor – Arizona Republic - Rejected***