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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT"**
**YOU REALLY
HAVE NO
CLUE!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  August 30, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

Let me join the huge outpouring of criticism for the 49ers quarterback and his unfortunate leap into political expression.

Here's my response:

You Really Have No Clue!

A writer on August 30 declared that those critical of Colin Kaepernick's "sit down" during the National Anthem are guilty of insincere "uncritical robot-patriotism." He would assign true patriotism to the impetuous Kaepernick.

I would agree that the football player has every right to do what he did and I wouldn't suggest punishment. But exercise of free speech brings with it consequences, which he's now experiencing. I and the writer also have rights to express ourselves – also accompanied by responsibilities and consequences.

We have a lot to be critical of in our society, related to individuals, organizations, and the government itself. But lack of perfection shouldn't be justification for disrespecting our flag. And it saddens me that his efforts are based on the lie born in Ferguson, Missouri.

There was a time I didn't understand that the "Stars and Stripes" doesn't represent just our country – it represents the ideals that the Founders had in mind when they formed this wonderful/imperfect experiment in freedom. If we forget, or ignore, those original ideals, there's no chance we will understand the way things can be, and should be. Without that vision we can't fully define that which we are striving for. Without the vision, knowledge, and respect for what our flag represents, we are lost.

Just as I would say to myself, "way back when," I must say to this writer: "You really have no clue!"