# An Unusual Ally

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a nation and the hallmark of our liberty. It is time we stop pointing fingers and fueling division, issuing threats, and denigrating those exercising their opinions. If we don't start talking with each other, rather than talking past each other, our communities and police forces," Turner said.

for the National Anthem last month to conscientiously object to police brutality against African Americans and other issues of racial inequality. The demonstrations came just days after a comment from President condemning the mostly black players' participation in the protests.

"Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out. He's fired. He's fired!" Trump said at a Sept. 22 rally in Alabama.

Opposing that kind of rhetoric, Turner stressed the importance of versation between all representaplayers' rights as members of a tives of the NFL and on a national collective bargaining union.

According to City University of New York Law Professor Marc Edelman in a Forbes op-ed, there is little evidence to support it would the coin," Turner said.

be legal for an NFL team owner to fire a player for this kind for peaceful demonstration, since the players are under contract.

Players' collective bargaining agreement calls for a formal arbitration process in the case of firing a player, so even if owners did level a complaint against a player, the we will never solve issues facing firing would not necessarily happen by the owner, Edelman said.

In 2016, black males aged 15-At its peak, around 200 NFL 34 were nine times more likely players kneeled rather than stand than other Americans to be killed by law enforcement in police actions, according to a racial disparities report, The Counted. They were killed at four times the rate of young white men.

Though the number of deaths Trump to a mostly white audience caused by police has fallen slightly since the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in 2014 -- the unarmed black man in Ferguson, Mo. whose death sparked protests in Ferguson and across the country -- there were 1,091 deaths caused by police recorded in 2016, and 169 of those deaths were people who were un-

> Turner would like to see a conscale to start the process of finding solutions.

> "As an African American and a police officer, I see both sides of



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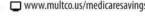


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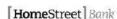
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