

The Banner

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Fort Night

A Star Spangled Banner Weekend

September 6, 2007



The Friends of Fort McHenry, a non-profit friends organization, hosted Fort Night. Fort Night was an event that celebrated and honored Senator Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski for their continual support of Fort McHenry. The event took place on Thursday September 6, 2007.

This event was a delightful time with food, drinks, music, and recognition for those who support the Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine. Fort McHenry is the only National Monument and Historic Shrine in the United States. Moreover, it is one of the only five places that flies our flag 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by order of the President.

Understanding the historical and cultural importance of the site, Turner Development, Ports America, Verizon, Kroner Industrial Truck Service, Phillip's, PSPC, Dan & Mary Dent Foundation, Fort McHenry Business Association, BalTerm, Beacon Stevedoring Corp., GWWO, Under-Armor, The Wine Market, Padonia Station, Association of MD Pilots, Clipper City Brewing, C. Steinweg (Baltimore) Inc., Taylor Northeast, T. Parker Host Of MD Inc., and The Terminal Corporation, have generously helped in sponsoring the first annual Fort Night.

The Friends of Fort McHenry have continued their mission by honoring Senators Sarbanes and Mikulski,

and all those who remain valuable supporters of this national historic site. The Friends of Fort McHenry are dedicated to preserving the historical legacy of the Fort, and inspiring all visitors to the "Birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner" through living history, interpretation, educational programs, and facilities. The organization is also committed to involving the community in the preservation and interpretation of the Fort so it is not only a source of national pride, but community identity as well. We are proud partners of the National Park Service and education of Fort McHenry.

(con't on page 3)



Superintendent Remarks

There has been an amazing flurry of activities and accomplishments this summer at Fort McHenry!

Steady progress continues on the planning and design for the new Education and Administration Center. In June, Gay Vietzke, John Gregg from GWWO Architects, and NPS project manager, Joe Crystal, provided a presentation to the NPS Development Advisory Board and necessary approvals were granted to proceed with the schematic design and construction drawings for this project. The next wave of contracts with the architectural firm and the exhibit firm will be negotiated in August. This year's matching funds of \$100,000 from the City of Baltimore have been received. The park is working with the State of Maryland, Office of Public Works, to prepare for a hearing in September to get approval and release of the \$100,000 Bond Bill matching funds from the State of Maryland. Thank you for all your help in providing this project support!

Over 3,700 school children participated in this year's Living Flag program held at the park on May 22. The park provided special Memorial Day programs both in the park and at the Old Saint Paul's Cemetery to honor the War of 1812 heroes and veterans buried there. Innovative new special programs con-

tinued in June and July with a Fife and Drum Weekend and evening tattoo ceremonies honoring Maryland Adjutant General Bruce F. Tuxil, veteran Park Ranger Paul Plamann and B&O Museum Director, Courtney Wilson. All of these programs received wide exposure on major TV and radio stations, as well as, five newspapers. Other programs included Juneteenth – a celebration of freedom commemorating the freeing of slaves at the end of the Civil War.

The installation of a new fire suppression system in the museum collection storage facility was completed in July with the final inspection and approval from the NPS Fire Marshall. Fire Suppression work will continue in the Star Fort with the installation of new systems in the barracks buildings beginning this fall.

In July, we received encouraging news that the U.S. Congress, House of Representatives passed a bill to designate the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. Similarly, a bill to create the Bicentennial Commission of the National Anthem and the War of 1812, passed the Senate. However, neither of these bills has been passed by the other Senate and House, respectfully. We are hopeful that these bills may be passed during the fall session.

As we approach September, the park is busily working with partners and the Friends of Fort

McHenry to prepare for the Star-Spangled Banner Weekend. The weekend was kicked off on September 6th with a presentation of the Francis Scott Key award to Senator Paul Sarbanes and Senator Barbara Mikulski along with the unveiling of the designs for the new Education/ Administration Center. A thousand Baltimore City students visited the Fort on Friday, September 7th for the Young Defenders Program. The parade in Baltimore took place that evening. Saturday events included demonstrations with the Pride of Baltimore II, cannon-firing, and noted authors. The program culminated on Saturday evening with a concert by the Chesapeake Concert Band, the Ship-to-Shore "Bombardment" and fireworks. This year's Star-Spangled Banner Week activities was the most spectacular and we hope you all joined us for the celebrations!



Chairman Remarks

The Star Spangled Banner Weekend is approaching fast. The festivities will start on Thursday evening with a reception honoring Senator's Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski, for their support in getting money to build a new visitor's center at the Fort. We have many local companies that are sponsoring the event and we want to thank them for their support.

The reception will be our first fundraiser held at the Fort, and we encourage everyone to attend. Tickets are \$60.00 each, and there will be plenty of food, beer and wine. We are planning to make this an annual event, getting bigger each year. Our goal is to host a major event at the Fort in 2014, which will be the bicentennial of the Battle of Baltimore and the writing of our national anthem.

Please join us and have an opportunity to meet Senator's Sarbanes and Mikulski, your board of the Friends of Fort McHenry, and your friends and neighbors.

Also remember the other activities throughout the weekend with the fireworks display on Saturday evening.

Trip Bailey
Chairman

Fort Night *(con't)*

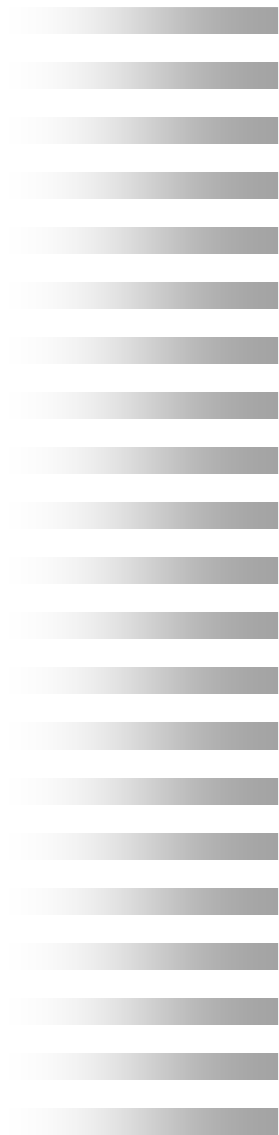


Alan Walden presenting Senator Paul Sarbanes with his Francis Scott Key Award

Rendering of the New Education and Administration Center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.



Education and Administration Center



Mission Statement

Friends of Fort McHenry Board Members

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Charlie Steck
BGEN Warner Sumpter
Patrick Turner
Alan Walden,
Chairman Emeritus

The Friends of Fort McHenry the recognized friends group in partnership with the National Park Service are dedicated to preserving the historical legacy of the Fort and inspiring all who visit the "Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner" through living history, educational programs and the development of facilities which interpret and increase access to this rich history for everyone. The organization is also committed to involving the community in the preservation and interpretation so that Fort McHenry is not only a source of national pride but local pride as well.



Be sure to catch the Special Events at Fort McHenry call for details 410-962-4290 or Online www.nps.gov

Sign-up Now!

You too can play an important role in the preservation of Fort McHenry. Contributions to the Friends of Fort McHenry go towards an improved Visitor Center, enhanced living history programs and special events that are held year round.

Yes! I want to become a member of the Friends to help in the preservation of Fort McHenry.

As a member you will receive:

- An official membership card
- One year subscription of the Quarterly newsletter
- Friends Membership pin or decal
- Invitation to special member only events
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve & protect a National Treasure

Please check the level at which you would like to join .

\$25 Student \$65 Family \$500 Patron

\$35 Individual \$100 Contributor \$1,000 Patriot

Make check payable to : Friends of Fort McHenry
802 South Caroline Street
Baltimore, MD 21231

Your contribution is tax deductible.

We're on the web
www.friendsoffortmchenry.org