

The Banner

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6th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast is Biggest Yet

The Friends of Fort McHenry hosted the annual Bull & Oyster Roast at Cross Street Market. With a huge selection of good food and drink provided by Nick's Inner Harbor Seafood and by meats, the event drew great reviews from the nearly 200 guests. Atten-

dees ranged from members of the Fort McHenry guard who defended the city in 1814 to Maryland's new Governor, Martin O'Malley.

A silent auction was held and many guests left great items donated to support the efforts of the Friends.

Colonel Rick Knauer, chairman of the events committee thanked everyone for their support, "with the ongoing support of Tommy Chagouris (owner of Nick's) and Governor O'Malley this event gets bigger and better every year," he said.

1824- The day the General Marquis de La Fayette visited Fort McHenry

Scott S. Sheads, Historian, Fort McHenry National Monument

For four days in October 1824, the citizens of Baltimore and the garrison of Fort McHenry were honored with the arrival of the young French officer who had accompanied and fought alongside General George Washington during the American Revolution. His Baltimore visit was filled with dinners, speeches, balls, and honorary degrees being bestowed with a high mass at the Baltimore Catholic Cathedral (of the Assumption).

His arrival into Baltimore harbor aboard the steamboat *United States* from Frenchtown, Cecil County followed a similar reception at Philadelphia. His headquarters while in Baltimore (October 7-11) was at Fort McHenry, where he reviewed the troops commanded by Maryland Eastern Shore native Lt. Colonel Jacob Hindman, a famous War of 1812 veteran.

As the party stepped from the boat, glancing towards the old Star Fort, their eyes beheld the original 42' x 30' star-spangled banner that had inspired a new national song in September 1814. This would be the last time the old venerable flag would be seen displaying her stars and stripes 'o'er the ramparts" of Fort McHenry. As La Fayette's entourage made their passage from the dock to the Old Star Fort the road was lined with the 1814 veterans of the battle, wearing the uniforms they had worn during "the perilous fight."

On entering the Sally Port passage of the Star Fort, before him on the parade ground was the identical tent used by General George Washington during the revolutionary (now at the Smithsonian Institution). He was conducted into the tent, where he was cordially greeted by

members so the Maryland Society of the Cincinnati and patriarchs of the revolution. The guests then accompanied the young marquis to an adjacent tent where a French breakfast had been especially prepared for the occasion.

To greet him was Maryland Governor Samuel Stevens, President John Quincy Adams and other War of 1812 notables of Maryland. It was, for those who beheld the gathering, one of the most cordial and memorable moments of their lives. The tent scene was impressive beyond description, all were convulsed into tears at the reception and comradeship of former soldiers-in-arms. The young French aristocrat's tour of America was one of the nation's historical moments and Fort McHenry was a witness.



Design Begins for New Visitor / Education Center for Fort McHenry

The architectural firm of Gueves, Worrall, Wright and O'Hatnick (GWWO) has begun work on preliminary design for a new Visitor / Education Center for Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. The exhibit firm of Haley Sharpe has been contracted to integrate exhibit features into the design of the building from the initial phase.

After years of effort by the Park Service managers and the Friends and with support from our congressional representatives and the City of Baltimore, the

project has finally begun in earnest and the new building is projected to open in 2009 or 2010.

The new building will replace the old visitor center which was built to serve 250,000 visitors per year. Today, over six hundred thousand visitors come each year and thousands of school children take part in educational programs at the Fort. The new building will be able to much better serve this growing demand and will feature exhibits which enrich the visitor experience and highlight the pivotal

role the Fort played in American history.

Alan Walden, Chairman Emeritus of the Friends of Fort McHenry says, "finally we will be able to create a facility that can serve the needs of the visitor and orient them to the rich history of this sacred spot in American History."

GWWO and Haley Sharpe will present concepts in early 2007. In addition to federal and city funds, the Maryland State Department of Tourism has provided support for the development of the preliminary design.

Existing Visitor Center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine



Chairman Remarks

It has been a great year at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. The Fort has hosted nearly 650,000 visitors. Close to a thousand students from over thirty Baltimore City Schools took part in the Fort McHenry Experience and Young Defenders programs. Our special

events included Civil War weekend, three Tattoo's, the Friends Bull & Oyster Roast, living history programs and one of the largest Star-Spangled Banner Weekend celebrations in history.

Perhaps most importantly, 2006 marked the true start of the pro-

ject to create a new Visitor / Education Center for our Fort. We invite all "Friends of Fort McHenry" to help us make this new facility one that enhances the pride we all feel in Fort McHenry.

Trip Bailey
Chairman



Superintendent Remarks

2007 is already shaping up to be a really exciting year. In 2006, the National Park Service staff worked very hard to increase the number of ranger-led programs and provide many special events and happenings for the public. We also continued efforts to preserve and protect the precious resources of the park. And, of course, we began looking seriously towards the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, now only five years away.

One of our most important projects in 2007 will be to develop the design for the new Visitor Center and Ad-

ministrative Headquarters for the site. Park staff, members of the Friends, and representatives of other key partners including the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland are already engaged in the process. It is our hope to be able to unveil the conceptual design during the summer of 2007. A site has already been selected after extensive planning; the new building will be located in the eastern part of the existing parking lot. We are aiming for a building between 15-20,000 square feet - nearly three times the size of the current center.

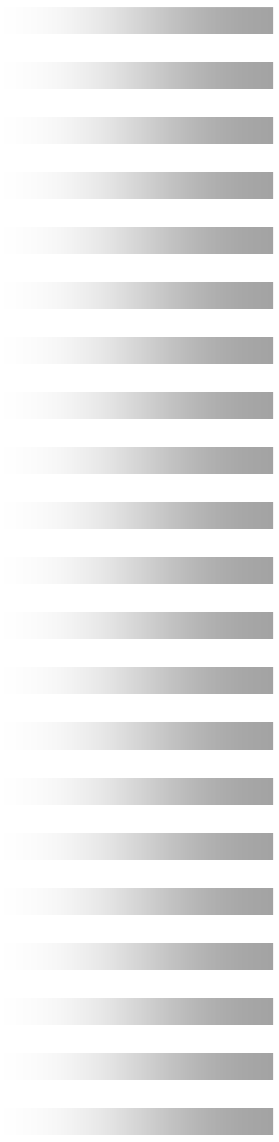
And yes, we are work-

ing on how we can maintain the incredible moment at the end of our film, where the curtain opens and you see the flag flying over the Fort itself.

Stay tuned for more details as they develop, and be sure to check the park's website for events and special programs throughout the year at www.nps.gov/fomc.

As always, thank you for caring deeply about this incredibly important place. We truly appreciate your support and work to serve the public and this national resource.

Gay Vietzke
Superintendent



Mission Statement

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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