

First Raising

Of The

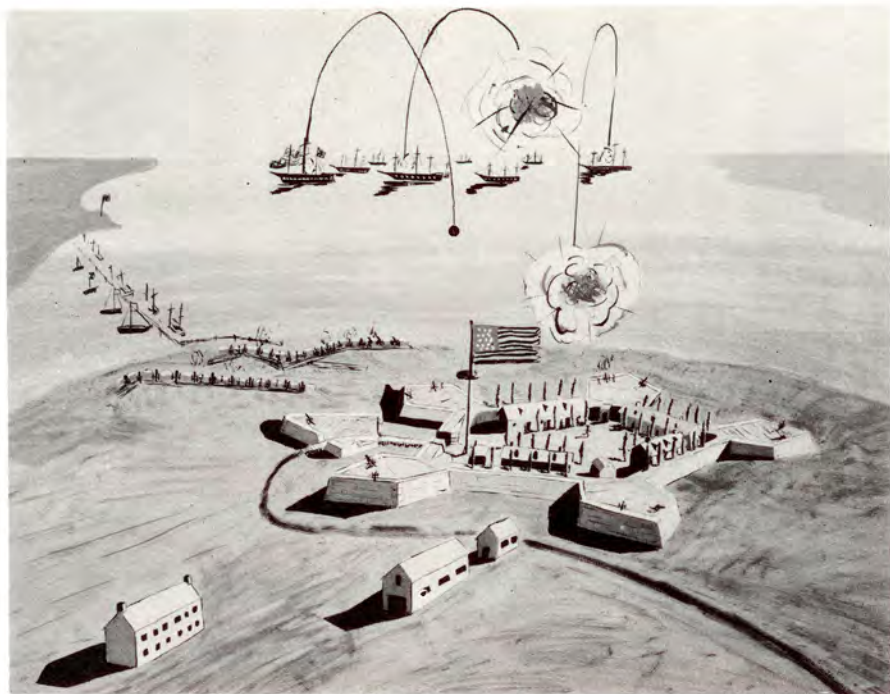
49-Star Flag

July 4, 1959



FORT McHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE
BALTIMORE 30, MARYLAND

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Artist conception of Bombardment of Fort McHenry, September 13-14, 1814

FOR FLAG AND COUNTRY

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine is unique among the areas administered within the National Park System because of its close identification with the flag of the United States of America.

Here, it was a glimpse of the American flag waving defiantly over the ramparts of this fort at the end of a 25 hour bombardment by a British fleet that inspired Francis Scott Key to compose our national anthem. The significance of this event received national recognition March 3, 1925 when Fort McHenry was set aside by Act of Congress as a "perpetual national memorial shrine as the birthplace of the immortal 'Star-Spangled Banner.'"

It is because of Fort McHenry's special meaning in American history and as evidence of regard for the new State of Alaska that Fort McHenry was designated early this year by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as the site first to raise America's 49-star flag at 12:01 a.m. of July 4, 1959. This flag is being raised on a newly constructed replica of the 1814 flagpole from which the flag flew that inspired the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

**FIRST OFFICIAL RAISING OF THE 49 - STAR
FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES AT FORT McHENRY
NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE**

July 4, 1959

Conrad L. Wirth
Director of the National Park Service
Presiding

July 3, 1959—11:00 p.m.

Musical Selections -----The United States Marine Band
Lieutenant Colonel Albert Schoepper, Director, Conducting

Invocation by -----Rev. R. Bruce Poynter, Pastor
North Avenue Methodist Church

Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Greetings by the Honorable J. Milliard Tawes, Governor of Maryland

Reenactment of the Bombardment
By United States Navy Vessels and units of the
United States Army Field Artillery

Address by the Honorable Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior

Presentation of Colors
Combined Services Color Guard

Benediction by -----Rev. William M. J. Driscoll, S.J.
Director, Jesuit Seminary and Mission Bureau

July 4, 1959—12:01 a.m.

First Official Raising of the 49 - Star United States Flag by
Secretary Seaton at the Direction of the President of the United States
"The Star-Spangled Banner" by the United States Marine Band
Fireworks Display



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fred A. Seaton, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*



Acknowledgements

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