

THE RECORD

Cannon monument rededicated in HdG

Staff report

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The War of 1812 Cannon Monument to John O'Neill was rededicated at Concord Point Lighthouse Sunday. The public ceremony was preceded by a reception for Save the Cannon donors and guests.

The ceremony was opened by cannon fire and the National Guard Challenge Academy Color Guard led by bagpipes and drum. The U.S. Army Material Command Band provided music. Attendees were welcomed to Havre de Grace by Mayor Wayne Dougherty and County Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti, who is executive director of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. Representing Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, Jennifer Riggs presented a certificate of special recognition to the Friends of Concord Point Lighthouse.

The upcoming Bicentennial of the War of 1812 was addressed by Bill Pencek from Maryland's Department of Tourism and Suzanne Copping, project manager of the Star-Spangled National Historic Trail.

Harford County Executive David Craig and National Park Ranger Scott Sheads from Fort McHenry captivated the crowd with the story of John O'Neill and the May 3, 1813 British attack on Havre de Grace. The Maryland Historical Society brought and exhibited the sword given to O'Neill by the City of Philadelphia in 1813 during the ceremony.

Secretary Edward Chow Jr., Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and chair of the Military Monuments Commission, presented a citation from Gov. Martin O'Malley and the state of Maryland to the Friends of Concord Point Lighthouse for their preservation of the monument. Details of the conservation of the cannon came from Nicholas Daub, head conservator of the Maryland Archaeology Conservation Laboratory.

Descendants of John O'Neill, Virginia Colburn, Mary Campbell and Jane Kirkendall unveiled the newly restored cannon, which was adorned with a wreath recreated by Amanda's of Havre de Grace. The ceremony was closed by Suzanne Chadwick, mezzo-soprano, singing "America the Beautiful" accompanied by the AMC Band.