



## Ruppersberger's Coin Bill Passes Senate

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*Star-Spangled Banner Coin Bill Headed to the President's Desk*

(Washington, DC) – Legislation authored by Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) creating a special Star-Spangled Banner coin passed the Senate last night and is headed to the President's desk for his signature. H.R. 2097, the Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act, honors Fort McHenry, the War of 1812, and the critical role Maryland played in the growth of our young nation. After a 25-hour British bombardment of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key saw an enormous American flag proudly flying over the fort, which was defending the City of Baltimore. Key was inspired to write The Star-Spangled Banner that eventually became America's national anthem.

“It is a great honor for Baltimore to have a special Star-Spangled Banner commemorative coin minted to draw attention to the important role Marylanders played as our young nation fought for survival. Preparations are already underway for an exciting celebration to honor the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. The Star-Spangled Banner commemorative coin will be a wonderful addition to these festivities and help raise much needed awareness and funds to make these events happen,” said Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD).

“The War of 1812 is often referred to as the Second War of Independence and deserves broad, national recognition,” said Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) who championed the legislation in the Senate. “As Marylanders, we are all proud of the role our state has played in our nation's history and the creation of these commemorative coins will make it possible for us to bring greater attention to this bicentennial celebration.”

H.R. 2097 passed the House of Representatives in May, 2008. The Star-Spangled Banner Commemorative coin will be minted in 2012 in coordination with the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission to support bicentennial activities, assist in educational outreach, and preserve sites and structures relating to the War of 1812.