



New Chairman Named For Bicentennial Event

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BALTIMORE -- The governor is naming a new chairman to take over the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

Raymond "Chip" Mason was announced as chairman at a ceremony commemorating the 195th anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and the bombardment of Fort McHenry.

Mason is the founder of Baltimore-based Legg Mason, Inc., one of the largest asset management firms in the world.

"The War of 1812 in Maryland is our most important national heritage story, when diverse Marylanders from every walk of life banded together to defeat the greatest military power in the world," Gov. Martin O'Malley said.

Mason said he was honored to take part in the committee's work and promised help lead in the stewardship of the state's legacy.

O'Malley also announced several other developments in connection with the bicentennial. He unveiled the design for a new standard Maryland license plate that will be available Flag Day, June 2010.

[The state is also launching a new Web site with info about bicentennial news, history, sites to visit, programs and events.](#)

O'Malley said the U.S. Navy is planning several major naval events in several U.S. and Canadian port cities. The events will consist of naval vessels, tall ships and air shows.

The governor said the British, Canadian and other navies will help celebrate the bicentennial during a weeklong event marking the 200th anniversary of the U.S. declaration of war against Great Britain.

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