



Laura Vozzella, The Baltimore Sun

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The sweetener

Maryland's congressional delegation sweetened efforts to secure a War of 1812 commemorative coin with a chocolate-topped Baltimore tradition.

"Berger Cookies really helped us," Rep. **C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger** told The Baltimore Sun's **Mary Gail Hare**.

Intense competition from numerous groups vying to put their stamp on a coin led to intense lobbying for the measure, which requires 300 signatures from the House and 67 in the Senate.

Aides to the delegation left Bergers in many an office hoping to sway legislators. But they must have figured Maryland legislators were a lock.

"Some members thought they were taken for granted when we were not offered Berger cookies," grumbled Rep. [John Sarbanes](#).

The efforts paid off when [President Obama](#) signed the bill a few weeks ago. Early in 2012, the U.S. Mint will issue a silver dollar and a \$5 gold piece with a yet-to-be-determined image from the war. Proceeds from the coin sales will help pay for bicentennial celebrations.