

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

## Maryland announcing plans for 1812 bicentennial

By: [ASSOCIATED PRESS](#) | Richmond Times Dispatch

Published: December 11, 2011

**BALTIMORE** -- Maryland tourism officials hope to draw more than 1 million people to the birthplace of the "Star-Spangled Banner" next summer as they open a years-long bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812 with an international maritime festival.

The June festival along Baltimore's harbor during a Naval fleet week celebration featuring tall ships and gray-hulled ships representing navies from around the world and an air show will coincide with the 200th anniversary of the United States' first declaration of war. Organizers hope to have top representatives of the U.S. Navy and the Royal Navy on hand to mark the occasion, according to Star-Spangled 200 spokeswoman Jill Feinberg.

The event will be accompanied by arts projects including a giant mesh of spangles in the form of a flag that will fly from the Francis Scott Key bridge outside the harbor and a new symphonic work. Maryland Public Television is producing a travelogue and the U.S. Mint will sell gold and silver commemorative coins next year.

The Navy, which sees the war as central to the development of its culture, is taking a large role in the anniversary events in Baltimore.

The Navy and nonprofit Operation Sail are organizing ship visits around the country in 2012 to kick off the commemoration of the war, including fleet weeks in New Orleans, Norfolk, New York, Boston and Baltimore, which has never hosted a fleet week.