Live at the Orioles’ Game — Passing the Baton of Patriotism!

Bay View Elementary and the Living American Flag (LAF)

Bay View Elementary School in Cecil County, Maryland began their day on May 8th with patriotic music led by Music Teacher, Mr. Sean O'Donnell. Principal Ms. Jenni Hammer welcomed the school to the auditorium and a special day, introducing the AFF LAF Chairman, Mr. Paul Rose. A Parade of Flags, and a presentation of the colors by the Maryland National Guard Freestate ChalleNGe Academy cadets set the stage for their special day. The War of 1812 slide show, the presentation of the Philip F. Haxel Patriotism Honor Roll Awards, and a skit of Life During the War of 1812 preceded the students’ performance (Continued on page 3)

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- AFF Now Has Social Media!
- Gigi Sellers holds the Baton of Patriotism
- Education manuals to be updated by special committee
- AFF an official partner in the Celebration of the War of 1812 Bicentennial

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New Membership Materials Now Available—Become A Member!

The American Flag Foundation is now accepting membership! The kick-off membership campaign took place this past winter, after months of work by our dedicated Membership Committee led by board member Mr. Clay Furtaw, Vice President of Marketing. A lapel pin was designed especially for foundation members; magnetic car decals, certificates, and membership cards were crafted and produced by the committee.

Membership information was placed on the foundation’s website, and membership requests started coming in...

In these dubious financial times, the Foundation is hopeful that its membership program will provide an income stream independent of grants and donations, to keep its mission alive and well.

The Foundation’s specific mission is “to create and distribute educational materials, and facilitate or conduct events in communities across the United States that inspire patriotism and encourage honor for the American Flag.”

Some of those events are found within this publication: The Living American Flag, and observances for National Flag Day, including the Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance on June 16th—the showpiece AFF community programs.

June 16 Flag Day—An Historical American Moment

The Pledge of Allegiance came into existence in 1892. In October of that year, during the National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day, more than 12 million school children in every state said the 23 words of the original Pledge. Since then the Pledge has been recited daily by millions of citizens. On Flag Day, June 14, 1954, during the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower, the words, “Under God” were added, and that is the Pledge we say today.

In 1980, Louis V. Koerber, one of the founders of The American Flag Foundation, conceived the idea of an annual “Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance.”

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation recognizing the “Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance” as part of National Flag Day activities.

The American Flag Foundation is proud of its role in making this historical American moment an integral part of Flag Day for citizens across the nation!

We thank our Chairman COL Rick Knauer, as well as Fort McHenry for the teamwork in providing such a historical venue to hold this event.

Education Handbooks Get Revised!

Committed to a goal of revising the Foundation’s Educational Resource Guide and 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades Education Resource Handbooks, it is the desire of the committee to make the Resource Guide and Handbooks compliant with MSDE Social Studies Common Core curriculum mandate for all Maryland Schools.

A team of teachers from Harford County Public Schools will lead the revision process. The project will be completed by July 2013. The Resource Guide and Handbooks will be available on-line in the AFF store after July 2013.

More updates to follow.
Living American Flag—Bay View (Continued)

that would soon take place outdoors!
Teachers, parents, students and family filed outside to the field behind the school. Students picked up placards from cadets and were guided into their little piece of history, and waited...
Soon all could spot the airplane in the sky beginning to circle above them! Mr. Paul Rose, LAF Chair and Mr. Bob Delisle, Vice President of Operations for the AFF gave instructions for lifting their placards towards the sky.
Finally, flags waving from the youngest students and Moms and Dads, they were given the cue to raise them high and hold! Pilot Gary Daniel from Fallston and Photographer Col. Rick Knauer started circling and clicking...and here is Bay View Elementary, in history, May 8, 2012.

AFF Official Partner—War of 1812 Bicentennial

The year 2012 marks the 200th anniversary or “bicentennial” of the start of the War of 1812. The American Flag Foundation is an official partner in the Sailabration—War of 1812 Bicentennial events.

Visit the Star Spangled 200 website for information on upcoming events throughout the celebration years of 2012—2015. Read about The American Flag Foundation partnering with the National Park Service at Fort McHenry for the recent Star-Spangled Sailabration!

15-STAR, 15 STRIPE FLAGS

President’s Corner

Welcome everyone to this summer edition of our newsletter! As you can imagine, we are busy with our new membership campaign, and I hope that all of you cherish your association with The American Flag Foundation as much as I, and all our volunteers! We are doing great work, and making lasting memories laying the patriotic groundwork for our youth. I can’t tell you what it has meant to me to lead this great organization as it brings the tenets of good citizenship to our youngest citizens as well as the rest of us. Suffice it to say, I am proud to be a part of the good work, and very thankful for your membership, your donations of time and financial support to ensure that this work continues into the future. I also want to thank our educators who have worked with us so enthusiastically for such events as the Living American Flag, as well as our current committee working to revise our education manuals. Thank you all for your service and commitment to America’s remarkable history and values, via our students.
Flag Day Does A Double Take!

This year, Flag Day, June 14th, fell on a Thursday. And...just before the Star-Spangled Sailabration weekend, with all its security arrangements and restrictions!

Faced with blocked-off streets and alternate parking for the performers and equipment, as well as the community, The American Flag Foundation partnered with the National Park Service’s Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine to create some special time to honor our Flag, in advance of the weekend, but on her birthday!

The “Annual National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance” program was held inside the Fort walls on the parade ground at 7:00 p.m., on the balmy evening of June 14th with citizens of all ages in attendance. All had a great time and, after the ceremony, enjoyed taking part in retiring the Colors, holding and stretching before them their small handhold on the generously proportioned Old Glory!

On Saturday, June 16th, The American Flag Foundation was on deck once again—providing the “Celebration of the Flag” program, as part of the Star-Spangled Sailabration. Everyone enjoyed the roars and thunders of the Blue Angels throughout the day, then settled down to enjoy the music and entertainment of the “Celebration of the Flag” and evening fireworks.

Once again, Zambelli did a great job for The American Flag Foundation presenting an inspiring fireworks display. We are assured that the community looks forward to our annual Flag Day fireworks.

Added to the entertainment venue were some new acts such as the ShowTime Singers, Morgan State University and Ballet by Angela Hart. Long-time supporters, Bill Myers’ Maryland Sings and the Heart of Maryland Chorus were also showcased in the line-up.

AFF would appreciate feedback from its members for planning future events. Thanks for your contributions and participation. Please, have your say, email your suggestions today!