



The American Flag Foundation, Inc.

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

Spring/Summer Issue – 2006

Inside this Issue

Congratulations	2
Walden Ponderings	2
27th Annual Pause	2
Brooks Robinson	3
President's Corner	3
Johnny Appleseed	3
Star-Spangled Banner Outreach Program	3
Happenings at the Fort	4

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 23, 9:00 am

The 23rd Annual Living American Flag Program

FLAG DAY, Tuesday, June 14, 9:00 a.m.

Flag Raising Ceremony

The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House and 1812 Museum

FLAG DAY, Tuesday, June 14, 6:00 pm

27th Annual National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore, MD

Time Date & Location TBA

Volunteer Recognition Event

Thursday, October 17
11:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m

8th Annual Louis V. Koerber Patriotism Award Luncheon

5th Regiment Armory, Baltimore, MD



Willard Scott 2006 Honoree!

In the world of TV weather, you've got Willard and everybody else.

The entire nation fell under the spell of Willard's grin in 1980 when he first appeared on NBC's Today Show, but he's probably best known for the roles everyone loves, including Bozo the Clown. The McDonald's website honors Willard as the first Ronald McDonald.

Honor the Past - Build the Future



The Past

The National Flag Day Foundation, Inc.
Chartered, December 2, 1982

In 1943 The Star Spangled Banner Flag House in Baltimore, where the Flag flown over Fort McHenry during the War of 1812 was made, formed a Flag Day Committee to promote public awareness of Flag Day and its significance. Almost forty years later in 1982 Herbert E. Witz, President of the Flag House Board; Louis V. Koerber, Chairman of the Flag Day Committee; and Richard M. Patterson, Development Committee Chairman chartered the new Foundation which continues to lead the Nation in The Annual National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance program each year on Flag Day.



The Future

The American Flag Foundation, Inc.
Adopted December 14, 2005

In April 2005 the Board of Directors came together at the Spring Board Retreat to adopt new Vision and Mission Statements, thus launching a comprehensive and contemporary focus for the Foundation. We will "Honor the Past" continuing in the traditional programs of our organization and "Build the Future" with our outreach initiatives.

Vision Statement: To make the American Flag the most important symbol for all Americans.

Mission Statement: To encourage patriotism in children and adults, achieved through our education and outreach programs focused on the American Flag.

Living American Flag, May 23, 2006 Creative Chairman Stirs Program



Dominic "Mickey" Mezzanotte, Sr., the 2006 Living American Flag Committee Chair, an Associate Broker with Long and Foster Real Estate, has brought his "upbeat" personality to the Foundation. His lovely wife Kathryn, four children and four grandchildren are not all that keeps him busy. He is an active member of the Sons of Italy and a performing member of the Calvert Hall Alumni Jazz Ensemble, as well as the "Playboys". Mickey's background includes a BSE and MAS from Johns Hopkins and a BS and MM (Jazz Performance) from Towson University; and vast experience including President

of Allied Systems, Inc.; Assistant Chief, Bureau of MIS for the City of Baltimore; Asst Director, Systems Planning and Dev, CSX Corporation. As LAF Chairman, Mickey guided the



restructuring for managing volunteer roles, including job descriptions, and explored supplemental aspects to create a seamless event. As part of the program, which runs from 9 a.m. until noon, students will kick off with self-guided tours

of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and interact with historic characters; students will also experience important aspects of our country's history, enhanced by a drum and bugle corps, drum cadence, color guard presenting the colors, firing of the Fort's cannon, sail-by, patriotic songs, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and hear from the Chief Ranger about the Battle of Baltimore and the role of Fort McHenry, culminated by their participation in the historic event of re-enacting the Living American Flag, creating a replica of the 15-stripe, 15-star banner that flies over Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the national anthem.

Congratulations to Board Member Alan Walden!

The Society of Professional Journalists elected WBAL's Alan Walden as the recipient of its Helen Thomas Award for Lifetime Achievement. Walden joined WBAL in Baltimore in 1988. His daily commentary, "Walden Ponderings," made its debut later that year, and is still heard on WBAL.

Although retired from the morning news, he continues to appear regularly on WBAL and is a permanent guest on the Chip Franklin Show each Friday morning from 9:00 am. to 12 Noon. During five decades, Walden served as reporter, anchor, news director, vice president of news, executive producer and chief correspondent. He has won virtually every major award for broadcast excellence. Walden's career at NBC took him to Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America for major stories including SALT II, the Arab-Israeli crisis, the conflicts in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the Mexico City earthquake, the Falkland Islands War, the invasion of Grenada, and the Panama crisis. Alan is the author of two books: "Walden Ponderings-What's Right, What's Wrong, What Matters," published in 1995 and "Isthmus," a novel based on his experiences in Latin America, believes history is our greatest teacher.

In addition to his broadcasting activities, Walden "serves his country" in many philanthropic capacities. He is Chairman of the Patriots of Fort McHenry, the volunteer organization that supports the National Park Service at the national monument and historic shrine. He is Executive Vice President of the Baltimore Council of the Navy League of the United States, Co-Chairman of the Baltimore Maritime Museum, and serves on the boards of the Living Classrooms Foundation, the B & O Museum, and the Baltimore Advertising and Professional Club.

Further evidence of Alan's patriotism is his service to the National Flag Day Foundation; he serves on several committees as well as the Board of Directors.

Walden Ponderings



I've been pondering AMERICA, BY GEORGE! Several years ago the Arts and Entertainment cable network produced a film entitled "The Crossing" that told the story of a single event that, more than any other, changed the outcome of the war for independence from Great Britain. On Christmas Eve, 1776, George Washington and the tattered and beleaguered remnants of his army crossed the Delaware River in the dead of night and, the following morning, attacked a highly disciplined and professional brigade of 900 Hessian mercenaries the British had sent to occupy Trenton, New Jersey. The Hessians were routed and their commander was killed while the Americans lost no one: not a single man. This nation owes a great debt to its founders. Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison and others all contributed mightily to the creation of the United States. But without Washington none of it would have mattered. He was the backbone, the essence and substance, the indomitable spirit of the American Revolution...

Honor him. We owe him everything.

27th Anniversary of the Annual National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance Observes Foundation's New Name!



On Wednesday, June 14, 2006, The American Flag Foundation, Inc. celebrates its new name at the 27th anniversary of The Annual National Pause for The Pledge of Allegiance Ceremony at

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, where we will Honor the Past - Build the Future.

We are dedicated to continuing this national celebration on Flag Day, June 14th. The program begins at 6:30 p.m., with The National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance Ceremony at 7:00 p.m. EDT and Program ends at 9:00 p.m. with a special ZAMBELLI fireworks display.

There are food concession stands for those who are unable to stop home and pack up "the chuck wagon" for an enjoyable evening under the stars. Another inspiring sight for old and young alike is the military fly-over, drawing gasps from the little ones and a tear to the veteran eye.



Bob DeLisle

"Add to this the laughter of the community around you," says Bob DeLisle, Flag Day Committee Chairman, "a live band and musical groups; witnessing a parade of state flags, the laying of the memorial wreath on the Fort rampart, the fly-over, and finishing up with the bang and dazzle of the fireworks, enjoyed with fellow Americans - *it's a total experience!*"



The picnic-like atmosphere beckons the entire family to come out and celebrate being an American!



President's Corner



HONOR THE PAST-BUILD THE FUTURE.

We've had a few name changes over the past 60 years. Let's take a look.

The beginning, 1939-1943, we were The United States Flag Association, then from 1944 – 1982, The Flag Day Committee of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House. Then when the focus changed from a local celebration to a national image, Herb Witz, Lou Koerber and Dick Patterson, on December 2, 1982, chartered The National Flag Day Foundation, Inc. Our past, we, as well as other organizations at that time pursued Congress to approve a National Holiday in recognition of the Flag. August 3, 1949 President Harry S. Truman signed into law June 14th as a National Holiday. This date, 172 years later, still serves as recognition by the citizens of the United States of the adoption of a National Flag on June 14, 1777.

Over the past 24 years, we have grown into a national educational foundation through our variety of programs focusing on the American Flag. We have updated our website to www.americanflagfoundation.org and continue to educate all Americans, especially the youth, in the meaning of our Flag as a Symbol of Freedom throughout the World.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT.

Johnny Appleseed Foundation-Style!

A native of Baltimore, born on Lincoln's birthday, a graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and MBA from University of Baltimore, Sam began a 34-year career with "Uncle Sam," active duty as a Naval Reserve Officer, then 18 years MD Army National Guard. From 1995-2002, Sam served as the Adjutant General's support coordinator for the Foundation's National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance Flag Day event at Fort McHenry.



Samuel Y. Smith, Jr. (Sam),
CPT (ret.) AUS

In Sam's role as Co-chair of The Star-Spangled Banner Outreach Committee, he went "above and beyond" when he developed the Flag Day outreach event that integrates the National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance, Parade of State Flags, and Living American Flag, then followed it through with enthusiasm and pluck! This earned him the name of "Johnny Appleseed of the Foundation!" Subsequently, Garrett County held its first Annual LAF Flag Day Event. *(see article below)*

Sam has also taken on the ongoing Historic Flags Project, gathering historic information for each flag for a Foundation database. The flags will be stored, preserved and available for loan for Flag Day events, as well as on the Foundation web site for educational purposes. Thank You and Well Done Johnny Appleseed - er, Sam!

7th Annual Louis V. Koerber Patriotism Award Luncheon



Committee Chairman Wendell Leimbach with Brooks

National Baseball Hall of Famer, Brooks Robinson, the 2005 Louis V. Koerber Patriotism Award Honoree, shares a chuckle with Wendell Leimbach, the Committee Chairman during the award ceremony held September 29, 2005 at the Fifth Regiment Armory in

Baltimore, MD. Brooks Robinson's story is written in superlatives. He became known by setting the standard of excellence for modern-day third basemen. Brooks Robinson was elected to the Hall of Fame. Brooks has also proven, time and again, that he strongly believes in the values and principles that had led much of the world to look to the United States for leadership and guidance. He is, in every way, a Hall of Famer as an American as well as one of the shining stars of America's national pastime.

The award, created to honor a citizen who has offered extraordinary service and support for the spirit and legacy of America embodied in its Flag, is named in honor of Louis V. Koerber, founder of The American Flag Foundation. Thank you to the Louis V. Koerber Patriotism Award Committee and its Chairman, Wendell, and Thank You especially to all who sponsored and attended this fun afternoon and stanchion event. Your support provides the resources for the many patriotic and educational programs for our youth.

**Star-Spangled Banner Outreach Program
Bringing the Living American Flag to Flag Day!**

"Were you a Star or a Stripe?"

Those words were heard all over the Deep Creek Lake area in Garrett County in the McHenry community after Flag Day last year. They had just completed their inaugural "Flag on Mountain Maryland" at the Wisp, which drew hundreds of people and participants to honor the symbol of our nation's past, present, and future. That future was on display as approximately 200 children, along with several adult leaders, formed a "living flag" that rippled down Marsh Mountain as the group walked down the hill, and the Garrett Community Concert Band played "Stars and Stripes Forever."



A Star or A Stripe?


The McHenry Community Flag Day June 14th program occurred simultaneously with the AFF's Annual National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance and marked the first time a celebration has brought together Fort McHenry and the community of McHenry, named for Dr. James McHenry, who served in the Revolutionary Army as Secretary of War under presidents George Washington and John Adams, a member of the Maryland Senate and the Constitutional Convention – and, incidentally, was instrumental in raising funds to build the fort in Baltimore, which was named after him.



The American Flag Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 435
Riderwood, MD 21139
(410) 563-FLAG (3524)
Fax (410) 821-1252
www.americanflagfoundation.org
Administrator: Linda M. Bishop



Annual Living American Flag Program
 Fort McHenry National Monument
and Historic Shrine Baltimore, Maryland

Legacy Gifts & Memorial Funds



Planned gifts are a way to continue supporting all that is great in America: our youth, patriotism, and responsible citizenship! Donors will feel the satisfaction of knowing they've helped to keep this country strong.

The American Flag Foundation can continue to educate students, and carry on the Pause for the Pledge across our great nation. In addition, they provide an added charitable income tax deduction.

We invite you to support our many patriotic programs and events by becoming a member.

Membership Club Levels include:

Sponsors	\$25 - \$99
Pledge of Allegiance	\$100 - \$499
Flag Day USA	\$500 - \$999
Red, White & Blue	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Francis Scott Key	\$5,000 - \$9,000
Star-Spangled Banner Circle	\$10,000

For more information, please call Mac Barrett at 410-563-3524.

Happenings at the Fort

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Baltimore, Maryland



Tuesday, May 23rd
Living American Flag

Wednesday, June 14th Flag Day
The National Pause for the Pledge

Sunday, June 18th
Juneteenth - A Celebration of Freedom

Sunday, June 25th
Twilight Tattoo Ceremony
and Concert, U.S. Navy

July 1st
Twilight Tattoo Ceremony
and Concert, U.S. Army

Saturday & Sunday July 1st & 2nd
Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Weekend

Friday-Sunday, September 8th-10th
Defenders' Day
The Star-Spangled Banner Weekend

For more information visit Fort McHenry at
www.nps.gov/fomc/

Volunteer Opportunities

To volunteer for a special program or committee, please leave a message for the chairperson:

Mickey Mezzanotte
Living American Flag

Bob Delisle
Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Greenberg
Star-Spangled Banner Outreach

Wendell Leimbach
Louis V. Koerber Patriotism Award

Phone: 410-563-3524

Fax: 410-821-1252

Email: linda@flagday.org



WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.americanflagfoundation.org