Dear Maryland Educator:

In September 2014, America will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner. Maryland and Marylanders played a pivotal role in the causes, conduct and outcomes of the War of 1812, and created two of the proudest symbols of America—the flag and the anthem—while the Chesapeake was engulfed in War.

Many bicentennial activities are being planned for Maryland in 2014 for the K-12 audience in virtual and non-virtual formats. Some of the most notable and easily accessible opportunities currently operating or planned include:

- Visiting Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, especially to be a part of the Bicentennial Living American Flag on September 9, 2014.
- Discovering War of 1812 sites along the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail in Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia aided with the Chesapeake Explorer mobile app or printed guide, In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake.
- Scheduling a trip for free tours of international tall ships and Navy vessels during Star-Spangled Spectacular in Baltimore, September 11-15.
- Exploring Maryland Public Television’s (MPT) War of 1812 website, on Thinkport, for ample, engaging, internet-based home and classroom resources, including Interactive Battlefield Maps.
- Screening the Emmy award winning MPT-produced film, The War of 1812 on the Chesapeake; Home of the Brave.
- Participating in the Maryland State Arts Council’s National Anthem Sing-Off, or the Maryland Humanities Council’s Maryland History Day/National History Day.

For more information on any of these activities and more, please contact Heather Ersts, Outreach and Partnership Coordinator at the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission (410-767-6974, hersts@choos maryland.org), or Abbi Wicklein-Bayne, Education Specialist, The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail (443-321-3610, abbi_wicklein-bayne@nps.gov).

Thank you for all that you do for the children and families of Maryland.

Martin O’Malley
Governor

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed. D.
State Superintendent of Schools