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HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

269-3744

DANIEL J. MINNICK, JR.
EIGHTH DISTRICT
SPEAKER PRO TEM

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
PROTOCOL CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ben Womer
7711 Fairgn Road
Dundalk, Maryland 21222

HOME: 282-4650
2421 FAIRWAY
DUNDALK, MARYLAND 21222

BUSINESS: 284-4929
7100 SOLLERS PT. RD.
DUNDALK, MARYLAND 21222

Dear Mr. Womer,

I am writing to inform you that Delegate Minnick has sponsored legislation to provide a permanent buoy commemorating the location where Francis Scott Key viewed the bombardment of Fort McHenry. This legislation was introduced in the form of a Joint House Resolution (HJR 92), on February 23, 1979. I have enclosed a copy of the resolution for your scrutiny.

Thank-you for your concern and imput in this matter; if we can be of any further service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best-wishes.

Sincerely Yours,

Ric Chesek, Legislative Intern,
Delegate Daniel J. Minnick Jr.

By: Delegate Minnick	24
Introduced and read first time: February 23, 1979	26
Assigned to: Environmental Matters	28
-----	30
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION	33
A House Joint Resolution concerning	37
Memorial Buoy Marker - Francis Scott Key	40
FOR the purpose of requesting the Department of Natural Resources to place a nonnavigational buoy at the site where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner.	44
	45
WHEREAS, The writing of the Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key is one of the major historical events in the history of both the State of Maryland and the United States of America; and	48
	49
	50
WHEREAS, 1979 is the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Francis Scott Key; and	52
WHEREAS, 1979 is also the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Baltimore City; now, therefore, be it	54
	55
RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the anniversary of these events should be celebrated together; and be it further	57
	58
RESOLVED, That the Department of Natural Resources is requested to place nonnavigational buoy markers at the site where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner; and be it further	60
	61
RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable James R. Coulter, Department of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; to the Honorable James Clark, Jr., President of the Senate; and to the Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin, Speaker of the House.	63
	64
	65
	66

EXPLANATION:

Numerals at right identify computer lines of text.

March 8, 1979

Hon. Daniel J. Minnick, Jr.
7100 Sollers Point Road
Dundalk, Md. 21222

Re: House Joint Resolution No. 92

Dear Delegate Minnick,

Mr. Ben R. Womer has sent me a copy of the above House Joint Resolution requesting The Department of Natural Resources to place a non-navigational bouy at the site where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner on September 14, 1814.

For the Society of the War of 1812 I wish to express its interest in and its support of such action, because of its patriotic and historical importance to Baltimore County, The City of Baltimore and the entire State of Maryland.

This historical event gave our Country its National Anthem and marked the successful defense of the British attack on Baltimore by sea and the successful land battle of the Patapsco Neck. These victories changed the course of our "Second War for Independence" and strongly effected the Treaty of Ghent, which concluded the War.

If there should be any hearing upon this bill we would attend and speak in its favor.

We urge and suggest this worthy and patriotic legislation.

Respectfully,

S. Varnort Chapman

SVC:ac

Copy - Mr. Herbert H. Witz, President
Star Spangled Banner Flag House
844 E. Pratt Street,
Baltimore, Maryland. 21202

March 8, 1979

Mrs. Abraham A. Dash, President,
Maryland State Society of the
Daughters of 1812.
12909 Brunswick Avenue
Bowie, Md. 29715

Re: House Joint Resolution No. 92
Memorial Bouy Marker
Francis Scott Key

Dear Mrs. Dash,

Feeling that your Society and its members will be interested in the above legislation, and would support it enthusiastically, and would express its support by a letter to Delegate Daniel J. Minnick, Jr., 7100 Sollars Point Road, Dundalk, Maryland, 21222, and offer to appear in its behalf should any hearing be held thereon, a copy of said Resolution is enclosed.

The Society of The War of 1812 is taking such a position.

Cordially,

SVC:ac

S. Vannort Chapman

March 8, 1979

Mrs. Niles B. Hopkins, President,
Charter Chapter of the Daughters
of the Society of the War of 1812
38 Shawnee Lane
Bel Air, Maryland

Re: House Joint Resolution No. 92
Memorial Bouy Marker
Francis Scott Key

Dear Mrs. Hopkins,

Feeling that your Society and its members will be interested in the above legislation, and would support it enthusiastically, and would express its support by a letter to Delegate Daniel J. Minnick, Jr., 7100 Sollers Point Road, Dundalk, Maryland, 21222, and offer to appear in its behalf should any hearing be held thereon, a copy of said Resolution is enclosed.

The Society of The War of 1812 is taking such a position.

Cordially,

SVC:ac

S. Vannort Chapman

March 9, 1979

Mr. Ben R. Womer
7711 Fairgn Road
Dundalk, Maryland. 21222

Re: Francis Scott Key Bouy

Dear Mr. Womer:

Enclosed are copies of my letters on the above matter for your
information and use.

Sincerely,

SVC:ac

S. Vannort Chapman

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 1979, Legislative Day No. 6

RESOLUTION NO. 25-79

Mr. O'Rourke, Councilman

By the County Council, March 19, 1979

A RESOLUTION requesting the Department of Natural Resources to place a nonnavigation-
al buoy at the site where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner.

WHEREAS, all citizens of Maryland are deeply proud of Fort McHenry and of
Francis Scott Key who wrote the Star Spangled Banner during the bombardment of this
historical site; and

WHEREAS, the Star Spangled Banner became the National Anthem of our great land
and is revered by all peoples of the universe; and

WHEREAS, 1979 is the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Francis Scott
Key as well as the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the City of Baltimore.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Baltimore County Council that in com-
memoration of these famous events, a nonnavigational buoy marker be placed at the
site where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner, and it hereby urges
that such action be taken by the Department of Natural Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable
James R. Coulter, Department of Natural Resources.



HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

269-3744

DANIEL J. MINNICK, JR.
EIGHTH DISTRICT
SPEAKER PRO TEM

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
PROTOCOL, CHAIRMAN

HOME: 282-4650
2421 FAIRWAY
DUNDALK, MARYLAND 21222

BUSINESS: 284-4929
7100 SOLLERS PT. RD.
DUNDALK, MARYLAND 21222

March 30, 1979

Mr. S. Vannort Chapman, President
605 Maryland Trust Building
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Mr. Chapman,

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 1979, concerning HJR 92. I am sorry for the delay in answering your letter, but the mail has been rather heavy.

I appreciate your support on this legislation. I don't think HJR 92 will require any further legislation to make it a reality. The hearings have already been held. At this time the buoy is at Curtis Bay being sandblasted and painted. We also have a commitment for placement of the buoy. We do not have a commitment for the maintenance of the buoy at this time.

I will keep your organization in mind should we require any further assistance in this matter. Again, thank you for your support on this legislation. If I can be of any help in the future, please contact me.

Truly yours,

Daniel J. Minnick, Jr.

Daniel J. Minnick, Jr.
Eighth District

DJM/pac

April 17, 1979

Hon. Daniel J. Minnick, Jr.
7100 Soller's Point Road
Dundalk, Md. 21220

Re: Star Spangled Bouy

Dear Delegate Minnick,

Thank you for your letter of March 30th advising that the Star Spangled Banner Bouy which was the subject of your H.J.R. Bill 92 was successful and that the Bouy is presently at Curtis Bay Coast Guard Base being sandblasted and painted for future location at the approximate spot where Francis Scott Key wrote our National Anthem while being held on a British Ship as an emissary to procure the release of Dr. Beans held prisoner by the British.

This is an important contribution to the memory of Maryland's great day in the defense of our Country and the victory that spelled out the defeat of the British on North Point, Baltimore County, and the bombardment of Fort McHenry.

I regret that I could not appear at the Hearing but I was in Court that day.

I can assure you that The Society of the War of 1812 will cooperate in every possible manner.

With thanks to you for your successful efforts, I am

Sincerely,

SVC:ac

S. Vannort Chapman.

*Copy: Mr. Ben R. Wormer
7711 Fairgreen Road
Dundalk, Md. 21222*

April 18, 1979

Mr. Donald G. Beetem
617 Arlingham Road
Flowerstown, Pa. 19031

Re: War Cry

Dear Don,

The enclosed xerox concerning the Star Spangled Bouy, may be of some use to you in getting out the War Cry.

I have received information in a letter of March 21, 1979 from the U.S. Coast Guard, saying that this Historical Marker Bouy is now being sandblasted and repainted in anticipation of replacement.

Sincerely,

SVC:ac

S. Vannort Chapman

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland

S. VANNORT CHAPMAN, PRESIDENT
605 MARYLAND TRUST BUILDING
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202



FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 14, 1814

File
Copy
May 16, 1979

The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes,
1518 Federal Office Building
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, Md. 21201

Re: Francis Scott Key
Star Spangled Banner
Historical Bouy Marker

My Dear Senator,

I have received a copy of a letter, dated May 8, 1979, addressed to you from Delegate Daniel J. Minnick, Jr. marked to the attention of Mr. Bruce Gilmore requesting your assistance in accomplishing the placing of a permanent non-navigational historic bouy at the approximate location where Francis Scott Key watched, from an anchored British ship, the bombardment of Fort McHenry and there penned our National Anthem.

A bouy painted with red and white vertical stripes and topped with a blue field with stars has on various occasions been placed at that historical anchorage to call attention of all water traffic to this memorable and patriotic occasion.

A bouy so painted is now in the possession of the Coast Guard at its Curtis Bay Station.

Certainly, there are few locations more historically important in our past, our Nation or our State than the place where our National Anthem was conceived and written, at a time when our Country was fighting its "Second War of Independence", and the City of Baltimore and our State of Maryland were being invaded by the British.

The successful defense and victories at Fort McHenry and in the Battle of North Point was the turning point in the War of 1812 and resulted in forcing the British at the Conference at Ghent to sign an advantageous Treaty of Peace with our Young Nation.

In order to accomplish such a memorial the Maryland Legislature passed HJR, 92 giving the Department of National Resources authority to handle the placement of this Bouy and this legislation was signed by Governor Hughes on May 1, 1979.

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland

S. VANNORT CHAPMAN, PRESIDENT
605 MARYLAND TRUST BUILDING
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202



FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 14, 1814

The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes, #2
1518 Federal Office Building
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, Md. 21201

Re: Francis Scott Key
Star Spangled Banner
Historical Bouy Marker

The rules, regulations, authority and jurisdiction, both State and Federal have become so entangled that only the intervention of some one in your position can accomplish the entangling of the knot.

Certainly no finer memorial and patriotic reminder of the honor and national glory of the State of Maryland's contribution to our ultimate freedom can be established. It would be observed by foreign and domestic water born traffic moving up the Patapsco River to the Port of Baltimore, and if marked on navigational charts of Baltimore Harbor, it would be forcibly called to the attention of all shipping into or from Baltimore Harbor. Its uniqueness would make it memorable.

For these reasons I, and the Society of the War of 1812, request and urge you to assist and help us in accomplishing this worthwhile project to the honor and prestige of our State.

Respectfully,

S. Vannort Chapman

SVC:ac



THE DUNDALK-PATAPSCO NECK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1970

DUNDALK, MARYLAND 21222

7711 Fairgreen Road
Dundalk, Maryland 21222
July 3, 1979

Commander
Fifth Coast Guard District
Federal Building
431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, Virginia 23705

Dear Sir:

The Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society has been trying for the past several years to have the U.S. Coast Guard place a buoy in the Patapsco River four months of the year to mark one of the most historic spots in our history. It's the location where Francis Scott Key wrote our national anthem during the War of 1812.

The Curtis Bay Coast Guard Station, with your permission, has agreed to place the buoy in the water for 30 days, but no longer, as it would be a hazard to small boats when positioned accurately, historically speaking. We would like to suggest, instead, positioning the buoy close to existing, stationery pilings (referred to as the Old Aluminum Pier) which projects into the river for a considerable distance. Placing the buoy adjacent to this pier would avoid a hazardous situation for small boats. It would be only slightly removed from the historical location but still could be seen from the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge where thousands of tourists pass from June to September.

Our state legislature has passed a resolution, signed by the Governor of Maryland, in support of having this buoy placed in the Patapsco River near the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge for four months of the year. The Society of the War of 1812 also endorses the placement of the buoy. We hope that you will reconsider and grant permission for relocating the buoy adjacent to the pier for the months of June, July, August and September on an annual basis.

Sincerely yours,

Ben R. Womer

Ben R. Womer
Founder and Past President
Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland

S. VANNORT CHAPMAN, PRESIDENT
605 MARYLAND TRUST BUILDING
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202



FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 14, 1814

August 7, 1979

Mr. Donald G. Beeten,
P.O. Box 41
Port Washington,
Penna. 19034

Re: Star Spangled Banner Bouy

Dear Don,

Enclosed is a xerox copy of a picture that appeared in the Baltimore Sun on July 26th depicting the placing of a painted bouy, prepared by the Coast Guard to mark the estimated spot where Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner while on the British Ship. This might be of some use in the "War Cry".

I had little to do to bring this about except write some letters. Credit for the accomplished really should go to Mr. Ben R. Womer, President of the Dundalk-Potapsko Historical Society who hound-dogged it, all the way through.

Our next meeting of The Executive Committee of Maryland will be on August 21st. Is there any chance of having the new membership certificates for display at that time?

I hope you have had a pleasant summer and a good vacation.

Sincerely,

SVG:ac

S. Vannort Chapman



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

MAILING ADDRESS:
COMMANDER (oan)
FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
FEDERAL BUILDING
431 CRAWFORD STREET
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 23705

•16500

SEP 24 1979

Mr. Ben R. Womer
The Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society
P.O. Box 9235
Dundalk, MD 21222

Dear Mr. Womer:

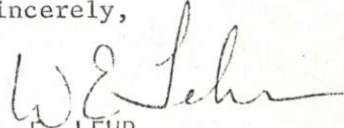
This is in response to your recent letter concerning the temporary commemorative buoy established in the Patapsco River near Dundalk, Maryland.

I am pleased to advise you that the Francis Scott Key buoy marker will be seasonally placed on station from 1 June through 30 September. This schedule will commence in 1980. The buoy will be maintained by the U. S. Coast Guard.

The position of the recently deployed buoy approximates the location of the Francis Scott Key vessel. Your recommendation to locate the buoy close to shore, near the abandoned piling, is being studied and a decision will be made on the final location prior to next summer.

You are commended for your continued interest in this historic event.

Sincerely,


W. E. LEHR
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief of Staff
Fifth Coast Guard District

October 10, 1979

October 10, 1979

Mr. Ben R. Womer
7711 Fairgreen Road
Dundalk, Md. 21226

Mr. Ben R. Womer
7711 Fairgreen Road
Dundalk, Md. 21226

Re: Star Spangled Banner Buoy.

Dear Mr. Womer:

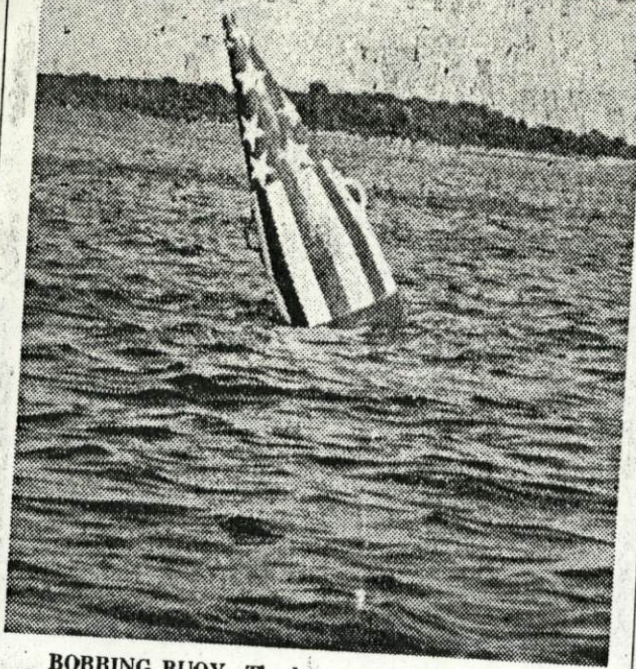
CONGRATULATIONS! I have received the copy of the U.S. Coast Guard letter dated September 24, 1979, addressed to you, advising that "the Francis Scott Key Buoy marker will be seasonally placed on station from 1 June through 30 September. This schedule will commence in 1980. The buoy will be maintained by the U. S. Coast Guard."

You can chalk up another victory in behalf of Francis Scott Key and our National Anthem. It was your battle and you have won it.

Sincerely,

SVC:kms

S. Vannort Chapman



BOBBING BUOY—The buoy marks the Key spot.

Through Smog

*Balt. Sun
Sept 14, 1972*

Buoy Marks The Spot Where Key Saw Flag

By Wayne Hardin

A red, white and blue Star Spangled Banner buoy bobs brightly in the Patapsco River off Sollers Point at or about where in 1814 Francis Scott Key saw the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air and the flag over Fort McHenry still there.

Nowadays, handicapped by pollution-filled air, you couldn't even begin to see Fort McHenry and the flag-waving sight that inspired Mr. Key to write what was to become the National Anthem.

But the place not far from modern Dundalk where Mr. Key is supposed to have stood aboard a British ship watching the bombardment, couldn't even be knowingly seen up close until this week when a Star Spangled Banner nun buoy was lowered into the water by the Coast Guard buoytender, White Pine.

Steelworker's Idea

The Coast Guard put the long, conical-shaped buoy into the water after a Dundalk steelworker-turned-historian named Ben R. Womer got the whole thing started. And, the Society of the War of 1812 took up the cause.

Mr. Womer, 61, a still-active 44-year employee of Bethlehem Steel Corporation, is co-founder of the Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society and a man dedicated to spreading the word about history in his area.

As Defenders Day neared, Mr. Womer, chief society researcher, said he thought it would be nice to have a buoy placed at the Key spot. So he wrote Gordon M. F. Stick, Sr., of Guilford, national president of the Society of the War of 1812 and chairman of the Constellation Restoration Committee.

Instigated By Womer

"Mr. Womer is the man that instigated the idea," Mr. Stick said. "He brought it to my attention 6 to 8

weeks ago. After I heard from him, I tried to get action on it and eventually got the Coast Guard to arrange to supply the buoy."

The Coast Guard was helped in the placement because other buoys spent some time there in 1914 for the Star Spangled Banner centennial and after World War II and the location was still marked in its records.

Then, the Maryland Naval Militia got into the act and painted the buoy into the 15-star, 15-stripe design of the American flag of the time, Mr. Stick said.

An Appropriate Time

After that, all that remained was the appropriate time, Sunday in this case, for the planting of the buoy.

Mr. Womer, Mr. Stick, the naval militia and a few other interested observers watched.

Now that the buoy is in place, the next step for Mr. Womer and Mr. Stick is to keep it there, they say.

CWO 3 John Meekins, the aide to navigation officer for the Baltimore Coast Guard group, said the buoy is there on a "temporary basis" and can remain for up to three months.

"If they want it to remain there permanently, a request will have to be made to the commander of the 5th Coast Guard district in Portsmouth, Va.," Mr. Meekins said.

Could Stay There

"It's not in the channel so I don't see why it can't stay," Mr. Stick said.

Meanwhile, Representatives Paul Sarbanes (D., 4th) and Clarence Long (D., 2d) are being asked to help.

But, regardless of how long it stays, Mr. Womer says the new buoy is an event of significance for the good people of the Dunkalk area.

"I can't tell you what a tremendous thing this is to the people in the Patapsco Neck," he said. "They're really proud of it."

In Campaign

Is \$20,989

By David Williams

Annapolis—A substantial difference in the status of the campaign finances of the candidates in the Fourth congressional district was shown yesterday by their federal campaign reports.

Werner H. Fornos, the Democratic candidate, reported a deficit of \$20,989, as of August 31.

His Republican opponent, Mrs. Marjorie S. Holt, reported \$6,340 cash on hand.

Furthermore, Mr. Fornos's campaign debt showed a rapid growth from \$7,125 as of May 31, a figure given June 10, the last previous federal report.

The largest identifiable group of contributions to Mr. Fornos between June 1 and August 31 appeared to come from labor unions and their political arms.

\$3,000 From Unions

These totaled at least \$8,600. The AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education contributed \$3,000, increasing its contribution to Mr. Fornos for the entire year to \$5,000.

He also received \$2,000 from the National Committee for an Effective Congress, a New York group; \$2,000 from the Democratic Study Group campaign fund (a group of Liberal Democratic congressmen); and \$1,000 from the Democratic National Congressional Committee in Washington.

The Lake Shore Democratic Club, which is generally associated with Delegate John J. Fallon (D., Anne Arundel 6B), gave Mr. Fornos \$1,000.

Mrs. Rita Davidson, his former boss at the Department of Employment and Social Services, contributed \$250, boosting her total for the year to \$500.

Dorman Contribution

And Charles J. Dorman, a member of the Democratic county central committee who is circulating petitions against the candidacies of Mr. Fornos and Senator George S. McGovern, was listed as having contributed \$50 to a testimonial July 27 for Mr. Fornos.

The testimonial raised \$7,592. This included the only contributions to Mr. Fornos from a recognizable business group, \$250 from the Olin Executive Voluntary Nonpartisan Political Fund.

The fund is maintained by executives of the Olin Corporation, a diversified company formerly known as Olin-Mathieson Chemical Corporation, according to its general counsel.

Mrs. Holt's largest contributor during the three-month period was the Maryland Medical Political Action Committee, which gave her \$5,550, making its contribution \$10,550 for the year.

Deadline Beaten

Dr. Dewitt E. Delawter, president of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty and former chairman of the committee, said the earlier \$5,000 was contributed to Mrs. Holt before the April 7 effective date of the federal reporting law.

Its current chairman, Dr. Raymond L. Markley, said the committee operates under the

Ben Womer Launches Campaign for Francis Scott Key Memorial Buoy Here

By E. Van Holland

Ben R. Womer, president & founder of the Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society, has that crusading gleam in his eyes again.

This time the local historian is upset because there is no permanent buoy marking the spot off Sollers Point where Francis Scott Key composed the National Anthem when the British were bombarding Fort McHenry during the War of 1812.

Mr. Womer said, "Thousands of tourists cross the Francis Scott Key Bridge every day, & probably not one of them knows that 100 yards from the bridge Francis Scott Key composed our National Anthem."

"This is one of the most historical spots in the country, & it remains unmarked & unhonored!"

Temporary Buoy

Ben Womer's crusade for a permanent buoy honoring this historical site is not a subject that is new to him.

In Sept. of 1972, when the City of Baltimore was preparing to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the launching of the Constellation, Mr. Womer recalled the City's 100th celebration of the conclusion of the War of 1812.

At that anniversary in 1914, a temporary buoy had been placed at the site where



Ben R. Womer
Photo - Echols

Key had composed the National Anthem.

Enlisting the help of many organizations, including the Society of the War of 1812 & the U.S. Coast Guard, Mr. Womer was able to have a duplicate of the 1914 buoy again placed at the same site to help the City celebration in 1972.

This buoy was only temporary because funds for its permanent maintenance were not available. But two events have happened to Ben Womer since 1972 that have aroused him to seek funding of a permanent buoy.

Park Statue

In April of 1974, while visiting Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, Mr. Womer discovered the park's memorial statue to Francis Scott Key erected in 1887.

Mr. Womer said, "When I saw that statue erected that many years ago that far away, I decided that we needed to honor the place where Key composed our national anthem."

The other event that added to Mr. Womer's drive for a permanent buoy was the opening of the Francis Scott Key Bridge on March 23, 1977.

Naming of Bridge

Before the bridge was finished & as yet unnamed, Ben Womer decided to mount a campaign to have

the bridge named after Francis Scott Key, especially since it passed near the site of his composition of our national anthem.

With the help of the Society of the War of 1812, the Md. Flag House, the Historical Trust Society of Md. & other groups, the State of Md. agreed to name the bridge after Francis Scott Key.

Mr. Womer remembered, with a smile, how then Secretary of Transportation Harry Hughes wrote to him. "We will name the bridge after Key. Please don't send any more letters!"

Now that the bridge carries close to 6 million passengers per year, Mr. Womer believes that they need to know exactly where Key composed the national anthem.

Requested Help

Just beginning his campaign for a permanent buoy marking the site, Mr. Womer is awaiting help from Congressman Clarence D. Long, State Senator Patrick Welsh & Delegates Robert Staab & Daniel Minnick.

Mr. Womer said, "People & organizations can help by writing to their government representatives. I am asking all citizens to support this project."

Those who know Ben Womer believe that he will persevere in this campaign until he obtains action.

Gordon Stick, former president of the Society of the War of 1812, said, "Ben Womer is a staunch citizen & a true patriot. He fought hard for the naming of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, & he will fight hard for the historical buoy commemorating the composition of our national anthem."

"I can't say enough about him. If we had more Ben Womers, this would be a better place to live in."

Historical Date

When the War of 1812 ended on Dec. 24, 1814, news of the peace treaty did not



The "Star Spangled Buoy" marks the approximate spot where Francis Scott Key composed the national anthem on the back of an envelope Sept. 14, 1814. (A few days later Key finished the poem in a Baltimore hotel, & it was soon set to the music of a British tune, "To Anacreon in Heaven.") Largely through the efforts of Ben Womer, the above buoy was placed there on Sept. 10, 1972 for a period of 30 days to help Baltimore celebrate its 175th anniversary of the launching of the frigate "Constellation." Mr. Womer said that the above buoy is a replica of the temporary buoy used in 1914 to celebrate the anniversary of the conclusion of the War of 1812. Mr. Womer is now determined to press for a permanent memorial buoy to be placed in the area. In the background is the Sparrows Point Bethlehem Steel shipyard.

reach Baltimore until Feb. 13, 1815. The City of Baltimore celebrated the end of the war with a great display of fireworks on Feb. 15, 164 years ago today (Feb. 15, 1979).

Ben Womer, historian that he is, agrees that today is an appropriate date to launch his campaign for a permanent floating monument to Francis Scott Key.

Cash, Jewelry Stolen

A piggy bank containing \$25, half gal. bottle with \$25 in coins, man's yellow gold ring valued at \$250 & ladies' solitaire worth \$250 was stolen from the home of Denise Ann Wheeler of Wallace Rd. by a thief who broke into her home on Tuesday of last week.



Sportsman's

4040 NORTH POINT BLVD.

COME JOIN THE SING-A-LONG

PAUL TAYLOR

FABRIC

AT 4701 O'DONNELL

(in the old TRIPLE S Pound Goods)

4 DAYS ONLY THURS., FRI.
FEB. 15, 16, 17 & 19, 9:30 to 5:30

- JUST ABOUT EVERY TYPE OF FABRIC MADE
- BOTH REMNANTS & FABRICS ON ROLLS
- GOOD FABRICS • SOILED FABRICS • SOME

ALL USABLE — ALL SEWABLE
Fabrics In The Riot Room

Sale Price **50¢** lb. or more

The Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today and to-
night. High, 88; low, 77. Yesterday's high,
88; low, 76.



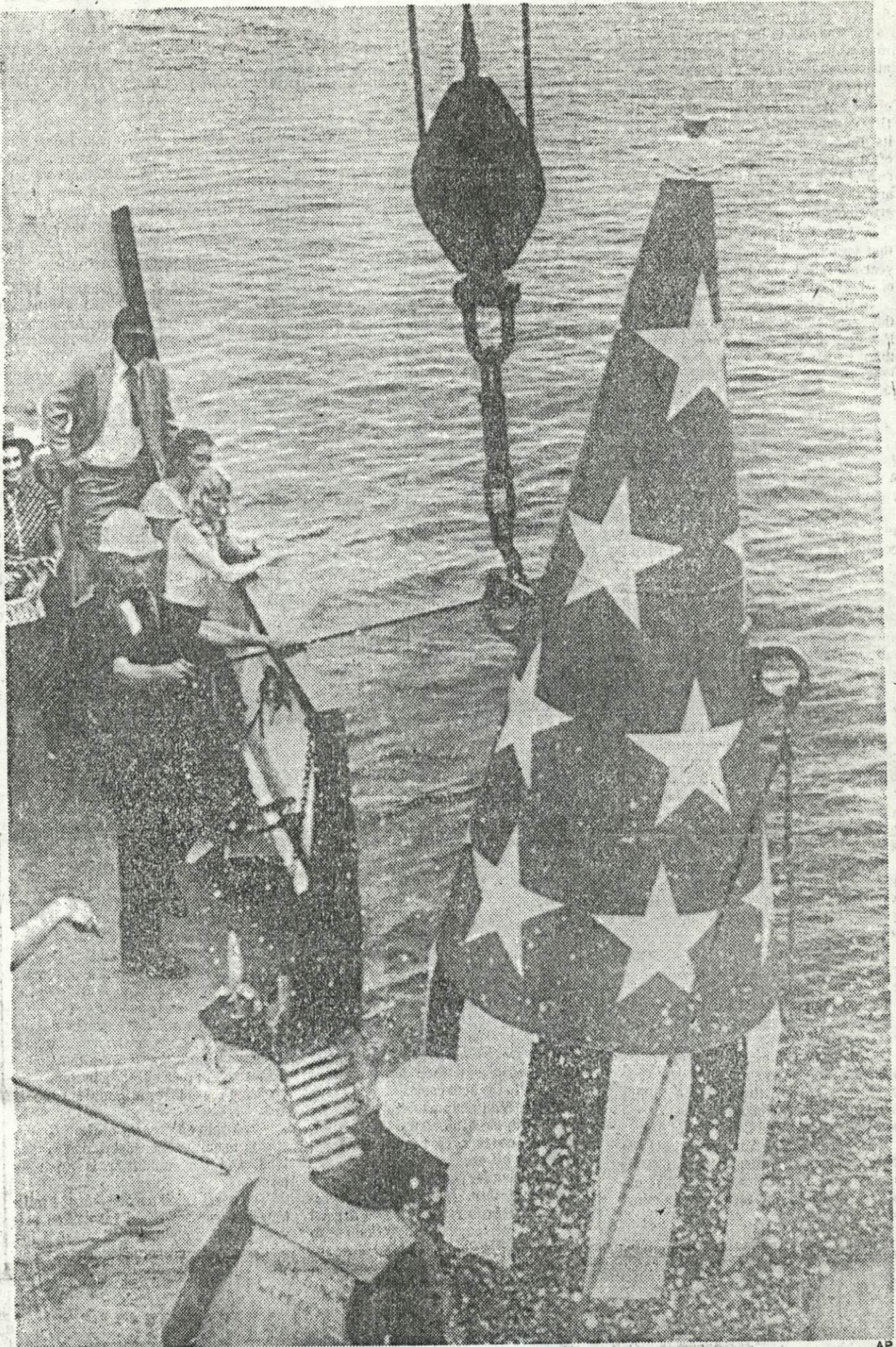
THE SUN



Vol. 285—No. 61—E*

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1979

BALTIMORE,



Oh, say you can see

A special star-spangled buoy was dropped into the Patapsco River yesterday to honor the 200th birthday of Francis Scott Key August 1. The buoy, slightly upstream from the Key bridge and about

four miles from Fort McHenry, marks the spot where it is believed Key watched the 1814 bombardment of the fort. The buoy will be in the water for about two weeks.

AP