



Testimony to the House Appropriations Committee

**Name:** Brigitte Carty, Executive Director  
**Organization:** Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway  
**Issue:** HB 677: Pride of Baltimore II – Appropriations – Increase and Extension  
**Position:** Support

March 10, 2023

The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG) is pleased to support the proposed legislation for America’s Star-Spangled Ambassador: Pride of Baltimore II.

A non-profit certified Maryland Heritage Area located in Harford and Cecil Counties along the Lower Susquehanna River and Upper Bay, the LSHG’s mission is to encourage regional economic development through heritage tourism primarily by supporting public recreation efforts, particularly trail development and public water access, historic preservation, cultural interpretation, and conservation efforts.

In May 2021, the LSHG had the pleasure of supporting Pride of Baltimore II’s weekend visit to Havre de Grace, MD. Blustery weather and limitations due to COVID-19 would not deter an impressive number of people from coming to see this replica War of 1812 privateer schooner grace the Upper Bay shores.

In a time when people were still hesitant to travel, a visit by this floating museum presented a unique opportunity for educational engagement and enjoyment. It was the bright spot the community needed during a challenging time.

The outpouring of community appreciation, both in-person and on social media, was incredible. People stayed through rainfall on Friday to greet them, returned Saturday even though rain fell on and off all day, and, despite wind and cold, returned again in mass on Monday for their departure, following them down the shoreline.

So that they may continue serving the people of Maryland through their unique education and recreational opportunities, please approve Pride of Baltimore II – Appropriations – Increase and Extension.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brigitte C. Carty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brigitte C. Carty  
Executive Director

Attachments:

*"Pride of Baltimore II visits Havre de Grace"*, The Aegis: May 12, 2021

*"Pride of Baltimore II shines despite weather"*, Cecil Whig/Cecil Daily: May 10, 2021

# Pride of Baltimore II visits Havre de Grace



Visitors stop to snap a few photos, talk with the crew, and enjoy the beauty of the Pride of Baltimore II docked in Hutchins Park in Havre de Grace Sunday. Matt Button / The Aegis photos



The *Pride of Baltimore II* was docked in Hutchins Park in Havre de Grace May 7-9.



Some visitors talk with members of the crew, and enjoy the beauty of the Pride of Baltimore II docked in Hutchins Park in Havre de Grace Sunday.



Some people stop and read the information along the walkway as they make their way to check out the Pride of Baltimore II docked in Hutchins Park in Havre de Grace Sunday.

BY AEGIS STAFF

The replica War of 1812 privateer schooner, the Pride of Baltimore II, visited Havre de Grace over the weekend, docking at Hutchins Park.

Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, visitors were unable to board the ship, but plenty of photo opportunities were available during the three-day visit and the public was able to watch crewmembers at work.

A shoreside traveling exhibit and virtual programming, provided through a partnership between the National Park Service's Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Pride II, were set up in the area for visitors to learn about the history of the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake Bay area and highlight the nationally significant connection to the region.

This Pride II visit was sponsored by the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, a nonprofit encouraging economic development through heritage tourism in the heritage area along the Lower Susquehanna River and Upper Bay in Harford and Cecil counties.

## Pride of Baltimore II shines despite weather

Cecil Whig/cecildaily.com: Jane Bellmyer, 5/10/21



The pride of Baltimore II spent the weekend docked in Havre de Grace, giving folks a chance to see the workinof a Baltimore Clipper and hear about its part in the history of the War of 1812.

CECIL WHIG PHOTO BY JANE BELLMYER

**HAVRE DE GRACE** — The Pride of Baltimore II is spending the weekend docked at Tydings Park and the crew is amazed at the steady stream of visitors in spite of the unpredictable weather.

Jan Miles, captain of the schooner, said people came Friday to greet them, and returned Saturday even though rain fell on and off all day.

“They are so enthralled with looking at the boat and they get curious about the things in the rigging that are fuzzy,” he said. “They are called baggywrinkles. It saves the sails from the rigging.”

Having sailed around the world on The Pride of Baltimore, Miles has noticed that there are always the questions about the ship, but its history leans toward the host port.

“You get the natural questions, but then in Canada they’ll say, ‘We won the war,’” he said.

The original Pride of Baltimore was a private ship called into service during the War of 1812. Letters of Mark were issued to put these ships into service in what amounted to privateering.

“The US Navy was pretty small compared to the British Navy at the time,” said Mark Durbin with the Maryland Park Service.

Actually named "Chasseur," a newspaper of that time nicknamed it The Pride of Baltimore and the name stuck.

Durbin stood next to Colin Flack, who was wearing the uniform of the Volunteers of the Chesapeake Independent Blues. During the War of 1812 US men 16- to 60-years old were required to be in their local militia. While the primary job would be to protect their own community Durbin said these hometown platoons could be dispatched elsewhere.

"They were very similar to the National Guard," he said of these boys and men.

They would be issued uniforms, guns and ammunition and would train and drill together.

"Because it was the local community you could be serving next to your son or uncle, all your neighbors, family and friends," Durbin said.

"When Baltimore was attacked in 1814 these regiments were told to report to Baltimore," Durbin said. "Maryland basically had to be self-sufficient because the federal government sent most of the troops north."

While more rain was forecast for Sunday afternoon, it didn't stop David Piccone, who brought his family to the dock to see the replica of the Pride of Baltimore. In fact the Havre de Grace family was there Friday night to see the ship arrive.

"We saw it come in with the sails up," Piccone said. "My two boys are 4 and 6. They loved the cannon firing. They jumped a little. I think I did too."

Sydney Ringsaker, a self-confessed lover of math and history, shared what she knew about Havre de Grace's contribution to the War of 1812 including the role of John O'Neill. As the British troops advanced closer, the 12-year-old said residents of the waterfront town were getting worried.

"They called John O'Neill and he used the Potato Battery," Ringsaker said.

The Potato Battery cannons were along the waterfront at Concord Point Lighthouse. She also knew the story of O'Neill's kidnapping and how his daughter secured his release.

The original Pride of Baltimore, a Baltimore Clipper, sunk in a storm in 1986. Her captain and three crew members died.

Pride of Baltimore II was built with a combination of private and public money. The \$2.5 million collected covered the cost of the new ship and set up an endowment. Pride II was launched in April 1988 and commissioned later that year. While it looks true to the Baltimore Clipper style that was the original Pride, Pride II is modern inside and safer in a storm.



That doesn't make it any easier to sail, however.

"It's a powerful rig," Miles said.

The trick, he said, is knowing the balance.

"You have to know ... or you're going to create an out of balance situation."

Studying the masts and all that rigging, Piccone admired the replica of the ancient vessel.

"These old wooden sailboats, all the lines. I love it," Piccone said.



As The Pride of Baltimore II approached the city of Havre de Grace under sail Friday afternoon its cannon fired off the port side.  
Photo Courtesy of Patrick Smith/Pride II



Mark Durbin with Chesapeake Independent Blues and Friends of Maryland's War of 1812, explains how Maryland militias such as the Independent Blues would be conscripted in their home towns to protect their own community. In full replica uniform is Colin Flack.  
CECIL WHIG PHOTO BY JANE BELLMYER



Sydney Ringsaker, 12, tells Betsy Swanback, a Maryland Park Ranger attached to the Star Spangled Banner National Trail, what she knows about John O'Neill and his role protecting Havre de Grace from British attack. Ringsaker was one of hundreds that came to Tydings Park over the weekend to visit the Pride of Baltimore II.  
CECIL WHIG PHOTO BY JANE BELLMYER



Even though a light rain was falling folks still came to see the Pride of Baltimore II moored at Tydings Park in Havre de Grace over the weekend. The regal sailing vessel made a good backdrop for a family photo.

CECIL WHIG PHOTO BY JANE BELLMYER



On the approach to The Pride of Baltimore II were a series of panels giving the history of the original Baltimore Clipper ship and its role in the War of 1812.