

# Aman Memorial Trust



## TESTIMONY TO HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Name: Samuel J. Parker Jr. AICP

Organization: Aman Memorial Trust

Issue: **SUPPORT HB1327 (SB0980)**

**Natural Resources - Maryland Heritage Areas Authority - Funding and Grants**

Date: March 3, 2025

The Aman Memorial Trust is in FULL SUPPORT of the legislative initiative HB1327 which will allow for lifting the cap on Maryland Heritage Area (MHAA) funding to \$12 million from the current cap of \$6 million. There are also recommended changes in the program to increase the maximum grant amount and lower the required cash match that are important to potential grant recipients and that the Aman Memorial Trust supports.

The Aman Memorial Trust has been working jointly with the Town of Bladensburg to restore and create an adaptive use for National Register listed 7.7-acre Bostwick property. The Maryland Heritage Area Authority Grant has been a major resource to help reimagine this historic property into an important community asset and economic centerpiece for the Town of Bladensburg.

The MHAA grant program is remarkable, with community driven projects and initiatives that grow our local economies of communities, just like Bladensburg, throughout the state. The return on investment is stunning, with a \$7 return for every \$1 of state funding! Commutatively, thousands of jobs are supported, and millions in state and local tax revenue are generated through heritage and cultural tourism.

Bladensburg is working diligently to achieve its vision of being a destination for visitors throughout the DMV and a source of pride for the State of Maryland highlighting its Pre-Revolutionary Historic Sites and cultural landscape. MHAA grant funds can and should play an integral part in making this vision come to life.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel J. Parker Jr. AICP

Aman Memorial Trust

Board of Trustees