



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Fort McHenry  
National Monument &  
Historic Shrine

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## Fort McHenry NMHS News Release

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### **Veterans Day Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of World War I at Fort McHenry, November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>**

The National Park Service at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine invites visitors to reflect on the sacrifices made by veterans during a special weekend of living history and commemorative programs. This year's event will remember the origins of Veterans day one hundred years ago in 1918, when an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect, bringing an end to World War I. It will also highlight the important role of Fort McHenry during and following World War I as the site of US Army General Hospital No.2.

A special exhibit in the Visitor Center gives a glimpse of this time in history when Fort McHenry served as the largest receiving hospital in the country for wounded soldiers from the European front. General Hospital No. 2 was home to a great variety of innovations in reconstructive surgery, occupational therapy, and the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, and many of the treatments pioneered then, shaped the medical practices of today.

#### **Saturday, November 10**

- **World War I Centennial Programs at Fort McHenry**—Help park rangers raise a 48-star flag above the Fort at 10:00am and explore some hands-on history exhibits in our World War I Centennial Room. Wearing uniforms of the U.S. Army Medical Corps, interpreters will discuss Fort McHenry's busiest era of military service when an expansive 3,000 bed military hospital was constructed there to receive and treat the wounded returning from the Western Front. At 2:15, join us in the Visitor Center for a special presentation on the history and legacy of General Hospital No. 2 at Fort McHenry.
- **Ceremony at Baltimore National Cemetery**—A special ceremony will be held on the grounds of the Baltimore National Cemetery located at 5501 Frederick Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228, Section A. At 10:00am Fort McHenry rangers and volunteers will honor the service of Nurse Emily Raine Williams. Williams served as the Chief Nurse at Fort McHenry General Hospital No. 2 from 1917—1919. On the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI she will be honored with a ceremony including readings, the playing of taps, and the singing of the national anthem.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## Sunday, November 11-Veterans Day

- **Veterans Day-National Park Service Fee Free Day**-There will not be a fee charged at Fort McHenry to enter the historic zone. (This applies to Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> only.)
- **Veterans' Day Ceremony—10:30am**-Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. Join Fort McHenry staff and volunteers, and the Maryland Military Band in a program beginning at 10:30am. The program will feature the music and poetry of the era, beginning with a reading of the poem "In Flanders Fields", written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, hoisting of the 48-star flag, military music of the Great War, a moment of silence and the playing of taps as part of the nationwide program, "Sounds of Remembrance".
- **Sounds of Remembrance-11:00am** As part of the ceremony at precisely 11:00 am (local times), buglers and trumpeters at Fort McHenry will join over 300 others from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War with a worldwide sounding of Taps and The Last Post, sponsored by Taps for Veterans.

<https://tapsforveterans.org/soundsofremembrance>

- **Maryland Military Band Concert-2:15pm** The Maryland Military Band will perform music in the Star Fort from World War I including the works of John Philip Sousa, George M. Cohan, Irving Berlin and James Reese Europe. The all-volunteer membership of The Maryland Military Band includes former and retired musicians from military bands including The US Air Force Band, The US Army Field Band, The US Marine Band, National Guard bands, and The Maryland Defense Force Band, as well as other former and retired members of the US military.

<http://mdmilband.org/>

**Park Event Hours:** Saturday and Sunday November 10th and 11th, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,

**Park Admission:** Admission to enter the Star Fort is \$15.00 per adult (age 16 and up). The Visitor Center movie, exhibits and grounds are free. Children age 15 and under are free. November 11, 2018 is the last National Park Service Fee Free Day of 2018.

**About Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine:** *During the Battle of Baltimore, September 13 – 14, 1814, the valiant defense of the star-shaped Fort McHenry against the might of the British navy inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." The 15 broad stripes and 15 bright stars still fly over the Fort twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. 2400 E. Fort Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21230* [www.nps.gov/fomc](http://www.nps.gov/fomc) Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/FtMcHenryNPS> Twitter: @FortMcHenryNPS