

Resolution
ENDORISING PROTECTION OF THE
NORTH POINT BATTLEFIELD

WHEREAS in mid-September of 1814 the seemingly invincible forces of the British army, navy, and marines, having lately captured Washington and burned the Capitol and the White House, turned their attention to the capture and burning of Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, to their growing surprise, the cocky British generals and admirals found their advances at first slowed and then absolutely thwarted as they encountered the spirited defense of Baltimore by the American patriots-in-arms manning Fort McHenry and the other fortifications in the Baltimore area; and

WHEREAS the failure of British military might to win the “Battle of Baltimore” was a decisive factor leading quickly to conclusion of the peace negotiations in Ghent and the successful end to “America’s Second War of Independence;” and

WHEREAS the defense of Fort McHenry is a well-known achievement in this almost-forgotten war, but another encounter in the Baltimore area was also highly significant to the ultimate American triumph; and

WHEREAS the steady resolve of the Fifth Maryland Infantry and the other American volunteers in holding the line at the Battle of North Point stalled the British advance; renewed American self-confidence; and undermined the British sense of superiority; and

WHEREAS the Battle of North Point set the stage for the sullen retreat of the British two days later without even having tried to engage the American defenders at Hampstead Hill outside Baltimore; and

WHEREAS the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has recently applied for a Transportation Enhancement Program (TEA-21) grant to acquire the last remaining undeveloped, unprotected nine acres of the land on which the crucial Battle of North Point was waged;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission congratulates the leadership by Governor Ehrlich and DNR for their initiative in recognizing and pursuing this opportunity to protect such an irreplaceable historic resource; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission's wholehearted support for this initiative be communicated to all parties who might assist in making it a reality and in preparing the site to be an asset for the forthcoming regional and national bicentennial celebrations to commemorate the importance of the War of 1812 as a turning point in the forging of America's nationhood.

DULY ADOPTED by vote of the Commission
this 14th day of April, 2005

Attest:

Vicki Nevy
Administrator/Secretary