



Honor The Past – Build The Future

The American Flag Foundation, Inc.

media advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE LIVING AMERICAN FLAG TRAVELS TO BALTIMORE CITY!

The American Flag Foundation (AFF) announced today that John Ruhrah Elementary School (JRES) in Baltimore City, Maryland will host the third in a trio of The 26th Annual Living American Flag(s) on Thursday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon. Some 430 students, parents, Board of Education members, and teachers will participate in building the “Living Flag,” which is traditionally held at Fort McHenry, but will “travel” to Harford County, Baltimore County and Baltimore City this year. This spectacular event reenacts the original “Human Flag” formed on Defenders Day, September 12, 1914 that celebrated the 100th anniversary of the heroic “Defense of Baltimore.”

Event highlights include Fort McHenry’s Ranger Ben Kreshtool recounting the story of “The Battle of Baltimore;” a fly-over by Col. Richard Knauer, Jr., photographer and BG Vernon Sevier, pilot, a picnic lunch; historic character(s) Francis Scott Key played by Alan Gephardt and George Washington by Urban Peters; and a presentation of the Philip F. Haxel, Sr. Patriotism Honor Roll Awards (awarded to a student who has demonstrated patriotism, leadership, citizenship and respect for the American Flag – which is the Mission of AFF). The Haxel patriotic essay contest was established to honor Mr. Haxel, Chairman of the F. W. Haxel Flag, Banner & Flagpole Company, a community leader who has exhibited true patriotism through his sponsorship of the Living American Flag and generous donations of Flags to the community and numerous school activities.

AFF’s Vice President of Operations Bob Delisle has been working with the school to set up an exciting program. JRES Principal Mary Donnelly will welcome all to the program; the Maryland National Guard Freestate Challenge Academy Cadets from Aberdeen Proving Grounds will present the Colors and JRES 6th Grade Student Trinity Bell will lead the National Anthem; additional musical numbers will be presented by the JRES student chorus under the direction of William Ziemski, JRES Music Teacher. The students will hold up colored placards and stars to form an aerial view of the 15-stripe, 15-star Flag that flew over Fort McHenry & inspired Francis Scott Key to write our national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

For additional information, visit our website at www.americanflagfoundation.org or call The American Flag Foundation at 410-563-FLAG (3524) or e-mail linda@americanflagfoundation.org .

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The American Flag Foundation is a 501(c)3 whose purpose is to develop the resources and create the opportunities for all citizens, especially children, to learn the history of our nation, the symbol of our Flag and their role in building the future.

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