

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leadership:

The Maryland Congressional Delegation is pleased to submit the enclosed items for inclusion in the Semiquincentennial Congressional Time Capsule: 1) a Commemorative Coin for the 100th Anniversary of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and 2) a 15-star United States flag flown over the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House in Baltimore, Maryland on July 4, 2026 in recognition of the Semiquincentennial.

The B&O Anniversary Coin was selected because of the significance of the B&O Railroad, which was chartered on February 28, 1827, and was the first-ever railroad to carry both passengers and freight for a toll. It pioneered railway engineering and spurred industrial opportunity for the United States. Notably, construction of the B&O Railroad started on July 4, 1828, and the event featured Charles Carroll, the last living signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The 15-Star Flag is known as the Fort McHenry Flag and inspired the 1814 penning of the United States national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, by Francis Scott Key. The flag that was flying at Fort McHenry that day was sewn at 844 E. Pratt Street in Baltimore by Mary Pickersgill, members of her family, and indentured and enslaved African-American women. Today, that address is known as the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, and this particular flag was flown over the Flag House on July 4, 2026, on the occasion of the 250th anniversary.

Sincerely,



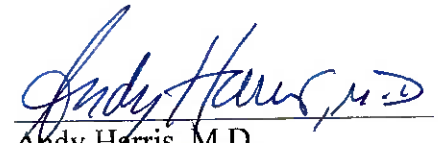
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



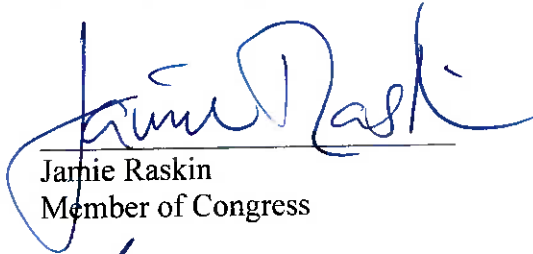
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



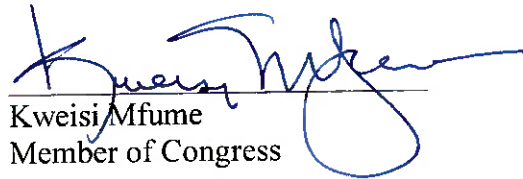
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



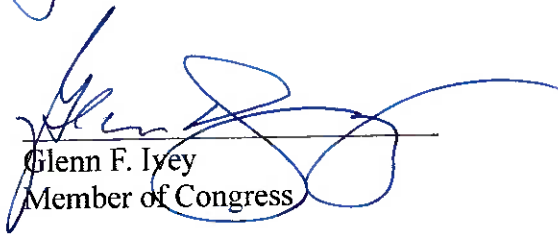
Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



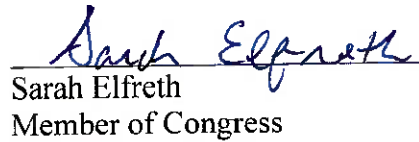
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



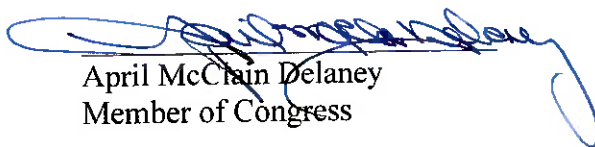
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



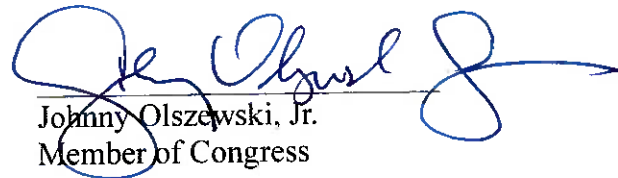
Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Johnny Olszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress

The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House

ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THIS FLAG WAS FLOWN OVER
THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER FLAG HOUSE A
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK SINCE 1970

ON July 4, 2026

844 E. PRATT STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21202

Chin G.L.
Executive Director



Baltimore National Heritage Area
Flag Owner

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Centenary Souvenir Medal, 1927

The nation's first common-carrier railroad, the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O), was chartered in Baltimore on February 28, 1827. 100 years later, on February 18, 1927, the B&O hosted a Centenary Dinner at the Lyric Theater. This souvenir metal was gifted to the attendees of that event. The piece was designed by the renowned sculptor Han Schuler, who was serving as the Director of the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) at the time.

The bas-relief metal measures 2 1/4 inches in diameter and features two railroad-related images. One side shows an image of Peter Cooper's "Tom Thumb," the first American-made steam locomotive. The phrase "The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, 1827-1927" encircles the image. The opposite side features an image of the B&O Capitol Limited accompanied by an anthropomorphic visage representing the Spirit of Transportation. The phrase "One Hundred Years - Safety, Strength, Speed" surrounds the border.

This souvenir metal was donated to this time capsule by the National Museum of Railroad History and Innovation. The museum is located at historic Mt. Clare in Baltimore - the birthplace of the B&O and the American railroad.

