

Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

2013 Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter - Maryland

Nineteenth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Maryland is featured on the fourth America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2013. The year's set will be completed with the coin for Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota.

Each coin in the America the Beautiful Quarters series features a unique reverse design that honors a National Park or other national site. All 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and the five overseas U.S. territories will all be included on unique limited edition coins that are struck for only about 10 weeks each. The order of issue is the order in which the sites came under federal jurisdiction.

The series was authorized by the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act that was passed by the House of Representatives on July 9, 2008, by the Senate on December 10, 2008, and signed by President George W. Bush on December 23, 2008.

Each America the Beautiful Quarter is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two distinct coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust."

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine is a fort in Baltimore, Maryland, that valiantly withstood a fierce attack from the British on September 13-14, 1814. When he witnessed the American flag still flying over the fort on the morning of September 14, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." Key's poem, when set to music, became the national anthem in 1931.

Fort McHenry was built between 1799 and 1802 in the shape of a five-pointed star. It was named for James McHenry, President George Washington's secretary of war. During the War of 1812, the fort was readied for a British attack. It displayed a giant 15-



star flag measuring 42 feet long by 30 feet high so that the fort would be easily identified as an American stronghold. This is the flag that Key saw on the morning of September 14, 1814. The original flag is now in the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

The reverse of the 2013 Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter shows fireworks exploding over Fort McHenry, together with the giant 15-star flag that motivated Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." Each year, Fort McHenry hosts the Defenders Day celebration that includes a fireworks display. As a result, the fireworks and flag on the coin represent the fort's present and past, and they also illustrate famous lines from the national anthem:

"And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

The Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter was selected from among several prospective designs submitted by the U.S. Mint. The other designs all incorporated views of the fort and the flag, including one from overhead to show the star-shaped fort.

The Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in August 2013.

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