Media Contact:
Ranger Vincent Vaise
Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
W 410-962-4290 Ext. 201
Cell: 443-992-6394
Vince_Vaise@nps.gov

For Immediate Release

Fort McHenry Rangers put the "memorial" quality back into Memorial Day!

Fort McHenry Rangers and Fife and Drum Corps to honor the fallen at historic cemeteries and with special programs at the fort!

Sunday, May 26. 2:00 Mount Auburn Cemetery (2630 Waterview Avenue, Baltimore MD)

Baltimore's oldest African-American cemetery. Honor the graves of African-American veterans from the Civil War, World War I, World War II and Korea. Ceremony involves a short parade with Fort McHenry Guard Fife and Drum corps highlighting the role of U.S. Colored Troops, historic speeches, grave decorating with flowers and flags followed by a community picnic.

Monday, May 27. 9:00 a.m. Loudon Park National Cemetery (3445 Frederick Road, Baltimore, MD) Once, the center of Memorial Day commemorations in Baltimore, Loudon Park National contains thousands of Union Soldiers' graves from the Civil War –including hundreds of U.S. Colored Troops (African-American Union soldiers) and four Medal of Honor recipients. Fort McHenry Rangers will team up with 29th Division veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam for a 30-minute Memorial Day service involving music, musket salute, and wreath-laying.

Fort McHenry ON Memorial Day (May 27):

9:30 – Flag raised to half-staff, Rangers to give special talk on the origin of Memorial Day

Noon – Flag ceremony in Fort. Flag changed from half-staff to full-mast. Large 30 x 42-foot flag to be hoisted (weather permitting) talk on origin of Memorial Day followed by wreath-laying

11:00 Join the staff for a special reading of popular Memorial Day poems such as "Bivouac of the Dead" and "Flanders' Fields" at The reading will be followed by a brief discussion of Memorial Day traditions.

2:30 – Recreation of historic 1880 Memorial Day observance including speech delivered at Fort McHenry cemetery, Oliver Wendell Holmes' historic Memorial Day speech and talk on origin of the holiday. Bugler to play "Taps "at 3:00 p.m. and wreath-laying as part of National Moment of Remembrance.