

the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812. That campaign culminated with the British bombardment of Ft. McHenry which inspired our National Anthem.

The second bill, entitled the "Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act", will authorize establishing a national commission to organize, facilitate and encourage observance and commemoration of America's Second Revolutionary War—the War of 1812. The Commission will also seek to protect historic and cultural resources associated with the war.

The War of 1812 tested our young nation to its roots. Shortly after conclusion of the Revolutionary War and the establishment of a federal government for our nation, the English and French entered 22 years of war. Our nation, dependent upon trade to survive, was increasingly drawn into this conflict. Though we struggled to remain neutral traders, essential tools in the English-French conflict were the naval blockade and other trade-restricting efforts. The English, with the most powerful navy, were particularly effective in enforcing blockades, often directly off our shores—frequently intercepting American trading vessels in our own territorial waters. In addition, the British aggressively impressed American sailors. England claimed the right to halt American ships and remove both suspected deserters from the Royal Navy and former subjects of His Majesty though they were American citizens.

From 1793 through 1812, our country sought to establish its neutrality and reduce growing frictions with the British on the seas through diplomacy. But anti-British feelings grew, particularly in the West and South where expansionists were strong. Growing economic pressures also led to young, aggressive Members of Congress from these regions gaining control and declaring war against the British in 1812.

Central to the War of 1812 was the Chesapeake Campaign. The British were depending largely upon their navy to vanquish the Americans and they almost immediately began a very effective blockade of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. In the summer of 1814 the British launched a land and naval attack upon the United States beginning in Southern Maryland. The British engaged with the American Chesapeake Flotilla on St. Leonard's Creek in Calvert County in June. In August they put troops ashore at Benedict, on the Patuxent River and began marching towards the largely undefended City of Washington. After the brief Battle of Bladensburg, the British marched into Washington and burned much of the new federal city.

The British then turned to the greater prize of the era, an attack on Baltimore. The City of Baltimore in 1814 was far larger, wealthier and more important than Washington. Three American warships were under construction in the Baltimore harbor at the time and the City's shipyards were well known for outfitting most effective privateers—the Baltimore Clippers. But Baltimore was well defended. Local leaders had organized defensive efforts, acting independently from the national government. Private donations of more than \$500,000 had been put to good use and militias from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania gathered, joining with many local citizens to defend the city.

The British first met strong resistance at the Battle of North Point, but they prevailed

through greater numbers and then held up just outside the city limits to await the naval co-operation necessary to occupy Baltimore. Thus Ft. McHenry became the crucial battle line. The heroic defenders at Fort McHenry held off the British fleet through the ships' long bombardment, ending the English advance and preserving liberty and independence for our young nation. Our National Anthem, written that fateful night by Francis Scott Key as a poem, well recognizes the historic importance of this battle to our people and nation.

The proud history of this Second War of Independence deserves broad national commemoration upon its bicentennial. The first bill introduced today will designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia as a National Historic Trail. Today, the Park Service has designated 16 National Historic Trails, from the Lewis and Clark trail of exploration, to the trail from Selma to Montgomery. The Star Spangled Banner Trail will recognize the most important sites from the War of 1812's Chesapeake Campaign and the role played by the patriots of these battles in the ultimate defeat of the British by our young nation.

The second bill we are introducing today authorizes the "Star Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission" to plan, coordinate and facilitate programs and other efforts to commemorate the historic events associated with the War of 1812. The Commission will be made up of citizens from 9 key states involved in the War from Alabama to New York, representatives of the cities of Baltimore, Washington and New Orleans, members of National Park Service, and appointees of the House and Senate. The Commission will have broad authority and responsibility for bicentennial events, but will also work to assure that the natural and cultural resources of the war are protected for the long term. As well, the Commission will enable improvements at sites and to facilities necessary to enhance and maximize our citizens' appreciation of this era's proud history.

Several years ago Congressman GILCREST and I worked closely on legislation directing the Park Service to conduct the studies that have led to introduction of these bills. I am pleased that he is joining me today as the original co-sponsor on both. I would also like to recognize all the legislative work of Senator PAUL SARBANES to prepare for the commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. He has introduced companion legislation in the Senate to the two bills we are introducing today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all our colleagues from the regions directly impacted by the War of 1812 and others from across the nation will join us in support of both these bills.

HONORING CHANCELLOR JAMES H. MULLEN, JR. AND HIS SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE AND WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in grateful recognition of Dr. James H. Mullen,

Jr., Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Dr. Mullen, who has served as Chancellor since July 1999, will leave UNC Asheville in July 2005. As an incredible advocate of excellence in liberal arts education and a proponent of community partnerships, Chancellor Mullen leaves a legacy of achievement at the University of North Carolina at Asheville that will surely be missed.

Under his leadership, Chancellor Mullen has advanced UNC Asheville's national prominence in public liberal arts education. UNC Asheville is ranked fourth among the nation's 21 public liberal arts universities by U.S. News & World Report magazine, has been a "best buy" in the Fiske Guide to Colleges for 11 years, and is one of just 81 colleges included in the "America's Best College Values."

Among the notable University initiatives begun during his service the past six years are the Pisgah Astronomical Research, Science and Education Center, a collaboration that has created a national radio astronomy observatory and education center; the National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center, which partners academia, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses in the area of prediction and analysis of air, land and water environmental data; the Craft Campus, that will provide a much-needed facility for its students, will serve as a national model for green building, and add to the region's growing craft economy; and the North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness Promotion, a unique academic and outreach program that will focus on regional problems of childhood obesity, workplace wellness and senior wellness.

During his tenure, the University has also undertaken a \$49 million, bond-funded capital construction program. The new Highsmith University Union opened in Fall 2004 and the new Carmichael Hall classroom building will open in Fall 2005. Under way are the new Zeis Science and Multimedia Arts classroom building, a facilities management complex, and renovations to the Zageir Hall classroom building. Through other funding sources, the University also completed the Governors Hall residence hall and the Reuter Center, home to the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement.

Dr. Mullen has also overseen the development of new and innovative academic and co-curricular programs, such as Integrative Liberal Studies, which is a new and innovative approach to general education.

Perhaps Chancellor Mullen's most valued legacy is his strong personal relationship with students, in whom he vested his confidence, trust and hope for the future. Dr. Mullen has always demonstrated an intense personal interest in all students, attending organization meetings, joining students for lunch in the Dining Hall, for chats on the Quad and for an occasional tag football game.

On behalf of North Carolina's Eleventh District, I would like to thank Chancellor Mullen for his dedicated service to the students at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and wish him the best of luck and success as he becomes Chancellor at The College of Our Lady of the Elms in Massachusetts.