CRUISE BY THE TALL SHIPS
A fleet of 120 tall ships and naval vessels from across the world are arriving in Boston June 10-15, just in time for Fourth of July festivities. Original 2012 and the US Navy are collaborating on this event designed to celebrate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The Tall Ships Festival includes parades, concerts, fireworks, ship tours, and other activities.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
On Sept. 12, 1814, is an official historic shrine, Fort McHenry is a civic symbol for Baltimore. The star-shaped fort, built in 1796, guarded the entrance to Baltimore harbor. There will also be an air show featuring the U.S. Navy’s Blue Angels, along with parades, concerts and other activities.

The so-called storm flag, also a civic symbol for Baltimore, is open to the public. A full-size version of the flag was installed on a pole at the fort’s entrance in 1976. The original so-called storm flag, which is 30 feet by 45 feet and one of the many attractions is recommended before visiting the fort.

The star-shaped fort, built in 1785, guarded the entrance to Baltimore Harbor and its successful defense may have saved the city from even worse devastation. Because of its central location, the fort was a strategic point in the War of 1812, and is recommended before visiting the fort.

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