

JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

NO. 1.

REQUESTING the Congress of the United States to repeal the Act approved May 26, 1914 (38 Stat. 382) and all similar legislation, if any, whereby permission was granted to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to establish a park upon the Fort McHenry military reservation at the port of Baltimore subject to the right of the United States Government at any time to retake possession of said reservation and any improvements which might be placed thereon by the City of Baltimore; and requesting Congress to expressly declare that the Fort McHenry military reservation ought to be retained permanently by the United States Government and preserved and maintained by it as a national park for the purpose of commemorating the part played by the old Fort in the defense of the United States in the War of 1812.

WHEREAS, the first of September, 1814, saw the City of Washington burned, the handful of American warships driven to port by force of superior numbers, the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Louisiana open to attack, and the fate of the Union in the balance, and that then Fort McHenry stood firm against the invader, redeemed our eastern seaboard and delivered the Federal Government from disaster or ruin;

WHEREAS, great as were the services which Fort McHenry rendered, our Government, now the most powerful in the world, has done little to commemorate the spot which inspired "The Star-Spangled Banner,"—a spot which not only rescued the Republic in an hour of grave difficulty, but brought the war with Britain to a close and ushered in a century of peace;

WHEREAS, the time has come for our Federal Government to show an active interest in the fact that Fort McHenry marks the spot where a decisive blow in the War of 1812 was struck; where Francis Scott Key was inspired to write America's national anthem—"The Star-Spangled Banner,";