



Eighteenth century naval heroes who helped America win her independence used maps like this one to chart their course to the shipbuilding center of Baltimore, Maryland. It was the shipyards of Baltimore that Congress relied on to build the young nation's first naval vessels. Thus began Maryland's important role in America's defense posture at sea - a role that led to the creation of the famed privateers, legendary frigates like the *Constellation* and the vital Liberty ship supply chain of World War II.

Maryland shipbuilding eventually grew to become second only to agriculture in the state's early economic picture. Over half of America's privateers during the War of 1812 were built in Maryland. Baltimore shipyards also produced 384 Liberty ships to send precious cargo to beleaguered European nations during World War II - surpassing the production records of the other 18 American shipyards. But Maryland maritime heritage means more than just economic strength.

The new Trident submarine, *USS Maryland*, was commissioned on June 13, 1992, becoming the fourth U.S. Navy vessel to bear the name "Maryland." The underwater marvel is among the largest and most powerful vessels of its kind in the free world. Readers will find interspersed throughout this report more information about the new *USS Maryland* and its earlier namesakes: a 1799 sloop, a 1905 armored cruiser, and a 1921 battleship which saw action at Pearl Harbor and Midway during World War II. Permission is also granted to come aboard and read the story of how a unique set of silversmith art, donated by Marylanders to the cruiser in 1905, continues to serve as a shining example of Maryland's commitment to our national maritime heritage.

1737 Maryland map: Maryland State Archives, Huntingfield Collection, MSA SC 1399-719.

Cover photograph of the USS Maryland Trident submarine: General Dynamics Electric Boat Division.