



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor
250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



June 19, 2015

A message from Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake:

Welcome to Baltimore! It gives me great pleasure to bring greetings to the attendees of the Tall Ships Challenge commemorating the visit to Baltimore of L'Hermione, a replica of the ship that carried the Marquis de Lafayette to America in 1780 with the news of French support for the American Revolution.

This summer, the American tour of L'Hermione commemorates the historic ties between France and the United States, and the spirit of liberty that sustains them. Twenty years ago, a small group dreamed of reconstructing an exact replica of General Lafayette's 18th-century ship. Today, the majestic vessel is the largest and most authentically built Tall Ship in the last 150 years.

I would like to acknowledge the following for making this special event possible here in Baltimore:

- L'Association HERMIONE 1780;
- Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America, and
- Mr. Alain de Keghel, former Consul General of France in Washington, DC, and honorary citizen of Baltimore.

As mayor, I invite you to explore all that Baltimore has to offer during your visit. Enjoy the Tall Ships Challenge and your stay in Baltimore!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor
City of Baltimore