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PORT OF BALTIMORE HONORS 300th ANNIVERSARY WITH COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATE

(Baltimore, MD) – January 27, 2006 – As part of their promotional and educational campaign to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Port of Baltimore's founding, the Port of Baltimore Tricentennial Committee will begin a limited edition public sale of commemorative license plates in January 2006.

The Port of Baltimore's Private Sector Port Coalition (PSPC) has designed the plates, which feature a distinctive 300th anniversary logo. There will be 999 license plates available for sale.

"The Port of Baltimore impacts the lives of millions. Over the past 300 years, the Port built the city of Baltimore, provides job to thousands, shares rich history and continues to be an economic engine for the entire state," said Helen Bentley, chairman of the Port of Baltimore Tricentennial Committee. "Purchasing and displaying the Port of Baltimore 300th anniversary license plate will enable Marylanders to give back to the Port, which has served the state and the world for 300 years, by helping generate awareness and interest locally and nationally."

With the anniversary celebration taking place in May 2006, commemorative plates are now available to kick off the festivities. Interested parties, who are currently registered in the state of MD, can contact the PSPC at 410-342-6610 or access the web site at www.balmtx.org for the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) form VR-124 (12-03). As a sponsor of the anniversary plate, the PSPC will certify applications and deliver them to the MVA for processing.

The one time PSPC fee of \$50.00 will cover the \$25.00 MVA application fee. The additional \$25.00 is a donation to the PSPC in support of educational outreach effort to promote the Port of Baltimore's Tricentennial celebration. For more information and to obtain the necessary order form, individuals interested in purchasing the commemorative plate can visit <http://mva.state.md.us/LOCATION/default.asp>.

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Three hundred years ago, in April 1706, the Maryland Legislature designated an area off the tip of Fort. McHenry called Whetstone Point, as the Port of Baltimore. It is recognized as a hub of international commerce with a thriving maritime community. It was, and still is, the gateway to

the world importing goods to be shipped by truck and train throughout the country and sending exports throughout the world.

The Port of Baltimore is recognized as an economic engine for the entire state of Maryland. It accounts for more than 42,400 maritime industry-related jobs, including nearly 19,000 direct jobs and more than 87,000 indirect jobs are a result of the Port of Baltimore. It generates about \$278 million in state and local taxes and brings in about \$2 billion annually in business and federal government revenue. Maryland's Port of Baltimore is comprised of private and public port terminals located across 45 miles of waterfront land. Each of these facilities contributes to the rich history that continues to make the Port competitive and keep Maryland strong.

About The Port of Baltimore Tricentennial Committee (www.PortofBaltimore300.org)

Under the leadership of the Honorable Helen Bentley, the Port of Baltimore Tricentennial Committee was created in June 2005. The Port of Baltimore Tricentennial Committee is a group of maritime industry experts as well as representatives from the city and state who are coordinating efforts to promote the 300th celebration year of the Port of Baltimore. Campaigns throughout the year recognizing the 300th anniversary include a gala to be held in June 2006, bus tours of Dundalk and Seagirt Marine Terminals, participation in the city's semi-annual Waterfront Festival and the Volvo races in the Inner Harbor, the unveiling of a commemorative 300th anniversary license plate and painting, as well as special exhibits and activities with partner organizations.

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