Herndon's Town Seal
By Barbara Glakas

Herndon's Town seal provides a visual representation of several important aspects of our history. In 1976, Herndon joined in as the nation celebrated its bicentennial. One of the many activities that took place was a Town-sponsored contest to design a new town seal.

On June 8, 1976, the Town Council, led by Mayor Gary Lopp, passed a resolution thanking those who had participated in the contest and announcing the creator of the winning design, Tony DeBenedittis, an art teacher at Herndon High School. He received a $100 U.S. savings bond, and his sketch was sent off to a designer, who—as he put it—was asked to "neaten it up." Although now retired, DeBenedittis remains and active and involved resident of the Town, and the design he created continues to provide a visual representation of several important aspects of our history.

The circumference of the seal is inscribed at the top with Town of Herndon Virginia; 1879 (the date the town was incorporated) appears at the bottom. The seal is divided into quadrants by a four-point star that is meant to give the appearance of a compass, in recognition of the naval background of Commander William Lewis Herndon, the maritime hero for whom the Town is named. The upper right quadrant contains a depiction of Commander Herndon; his coat of arms is at the upper left. The lower left quadrant, featuring the train depot, represents the Town's connection with the railroad–a connection that significantly affected the Herndon's early history and development. At the lower right is Dulles International Airport, which also has played a major role in the development of the Town. Pulling it all together is the slogan that DeBenedittis coined, "In our past lies the hope of our future."

More than 30 years later, the Town seal can be seen all around Herndon—on Town literature, on Town vehicles, on the Town website, on Herndon Community Television, on the exterior of the Herndon Municipal Center building, and in the Town Council chambers.

We think Commander Herndon would approve!