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Affirmative - 43 Negative - 2 (See Roll Call No. 187)

The Bill was then sent to the House of Delegates.

RECESS

At 8:27 P.M. on motion of Senator McFadden, seconded, the Senate took a recess until 8:35 P.M. on Monday, February 21, 2005, in order that they might retire to the Old Senate Chamber to honor the birthday of George Washington, who resigned his Commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army in the old historic Maryland Senate Chamber.

AFTER RECESS

Annapolis, Maryland
Monday, February 21, 2005

At 8:32 P.M. the Senate resumed its session in the Old Historic Maryland Senate Chamber to honor the birthday of George Washington.

QUORUM CALL

The presiding officer announced a quorum call, showing 45 Members present.

(See Roll Call No. 187A)

On motion of Senator McFadden it was ordered that Senators Conway and Ruben be excused from today's session.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY PROGRAM

PROGRAM FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
IN THE OLD SENATE CHAMBER

(See Exhibit B of Appendix III)

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY ADDRESS
PRESENTED BY SENATOR THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.

George Washington's Birthday Celebration
Old Senate Chamber
February 21, 2005

Remarks by
Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

As many times as we have gathered in this Chamber and reflected on the day that George Washington resigned his commission, it's important to realize that was

neither his first or last visit to Maryland.

My remarks tonight will focus on the George Washington who lived just across the Potomac River and frequently came to visit his Maryland friends for work and recreation.

Over the course of his life, Washington spent a considerable amount of time in Maryland, traveling its roads and visiting with friends. Thanks to numerous historians, we've learned a great deal about those visits.

On the 200th Anniversary of his birth in 1932, a Maryland Commission exhaustively studied his travels in Maryland, and produced a fine map by J. Spence Howard, a copy of which I am pleased to display this evening.

I hope to leave it on permanent display in the State House and encourage you to take some time to study it.

In all the Howard map records 90 places Washington visited in Maryland, exclusive of individual houses in Annapolis and Baltimore.

In addition Caleb Magruder published a series of articles in the *Enquirer-Gazette* in 1932 documenting the 81 recorded times over his life that Washington entered Prince George's and Charles Counties for business and pleasure.

Surveyor/Soldier in Western Maryland

Washington was not the first son of a first son, and in the age of prime genitor he had to get out and work for a living.

At the age of 16, trained as a surveyor, he went to work for Lord Fairfax, whose immense land holdings were bounded on the north by the Potomac River.

It was in connection with his surveying work that he first came to Conococheague Settlement in 1748 when he was only 16.

On this occasion, he stayed with Colonel Cresap, a noted frontiersman and Indian fighter, who had among his other holdings a stone dwelling and still house on what is now known as Springfield Farm.

Washington would refer to it many years later as a "stone hut" but it is in existence today.

Two interesting, and I think revealing, incidents took place on this trip.

It is recorded that even at that youthful age, Washington saw the Potomac River as a potential avenue of commerce and as a way of opening the west to settlement. I would say this indicated unusual vision and imagination in one so young.

Seven years later he would return to Conococheague as an aide to the ill fated General Braddock. Again he visited Colonel Cresap's still house ... no surprise, for when did any army of any kind ever bypass a distillery?

There is also some indication that it may have served as a commissary for "a store of

provisions was awaiting the army at Conococheaque, including the flour from 14,000 bushels of wheat.”

Six years later, on October 14, 1791, Washington visited Williamsport when the town and surrounding area was receiving consideration as the site for the National Capital ... consideration that was serious enough to warrant a visit from the President.

As you know, Williamsport was not the choice. We are told it was primarily because it was not available to deep water shipping.

Travels to Washington College and the Eastern Shore

Looking toward the opposite end of the State, it is recorded that Washington passed through Kent County no less than eight times. The Kent County route to the north seems to have been chosen for the reason that it was more direct than making a loop around the head of Elk River.

When Washington left Annapolis by boat he landed at Rock Hall, located at the southwestern tip of Kent County, and usually stopped for a meal or the night at “New Town on the Chester,” now called Chestertown.

Washington’s association with Kent County is best remembered for his connection with Washington College, which is the only college in the land to which he gave his express sanction for the use of his name.

George Washington was just fifty years old when he wrote to the Reverend William Smith, founder of the college in Kent County, on August 18, 1782, as follows:

To the gentlemen who moved the matter, and to the Assembly for adopting it, I am much indebted for the honor conferred on me, by giving my name to the college at Chester.

If the trifling sum of fifty guineas will be considered as an earnest of my wishes for the prosperity of the seminary, I shall be ready to pay that sum to the order of the Visitors ...

In addition to giving his name and fifty guineas to the college, Washington also accepted a place on the Board of Visitors and Governors and is known to have attended at least one board meeting at Chestertown.

In 1784 he visited the institution at its second commencement and witnessed a play given by the students in his honor.

Lobbyist

In his continuing quest to make the Potomac the main concourse to the west, Washington found a welcome Maryland ally in Thomas Johnson.

In June of 1770, Johnson, the Frederick County Delegate to the General Assembly, wrote Washington of a new scheme to raise private funds to improve the navigation of the Potomac River.

Washington responded to Johnson's letter with what would be a central theme of his for the rest of his life.

"Great projects of public benefit cannot be supported by private subscription, unless there is publicly supported incentive for investment. In the case of the improvement of the Potomac, that incentive must be some public investment and the grant of a monopoly over the charging of tolls."

Washington argued that it could only be undertaken if public support could be voiced in joint actions of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures.

The following year -- 1772 -- the Virginia legislature adopted a Potomac Navigation Bill.

Things did not go so well when Washington sought approval on the Maryland side.

Maryland held exclusive jurisdiction over the Potomac, and, despite the efforts of Thomas Johnson and numerous visits to Annapolis by Washington and George Mason, the Maryland legislature repeatedly refused to pass a bill to join Virginia in the effort to clear the Potomac.

As Washington later wrote to Thomas Jefferson,

"Maryland's opposition to the plan was led by the Baltimore merchants and their political spokesmen of the Upper Chesapeake Interest, who worried that opening the Potomac would destroy their dream of Baltimore's becoming the eastern terminus for western commerce."

Many could look upon this as the beginning of the Redskins/Ravens rivalry.

With the Revolution in full swing, Washington's vision of the Potomac as a gateway languished.

What most people don't know is that Washington was back in Annapolis exactly a year after he resigned his commission to lobby on behalf of his neighbors and for the future of the Potomac River as the gateway to the Ohio.

At the end of November 1784, Washington traveled to Annapolis to discuss a proposed bill for clearing the Potomac. He found Maryland's legislative leaders more receptive than they had been a decade earlier.

Washington spent days in the Annapolis State House chairing a joint committee of Maryland and Virginia delegates. Within a week he had convinced the Maryland legislature to adopt a plan in which both Maryland and Virginia would place their full faith and credit behind the creation of the Potomac Navigation Company.

Of the feat, Madison wrote to Jefferson on January 9, 1785:

"By his exertions in concert with committees of the two branches of the Maryland legislature ... the plan was digested in a few days, passed

through both houses in one day with nine dissenting voices only, and dispatched for Richmond, where it arrived just in time for Session. A corresponding act was immediately introduced and passed without opposition."

Washington's influence overcame 25 years of Maryland opposition, but his interference in its politics did not pass without comment.

Almost a year later a Baltimore delegate had to defend himself in his re-election effort against charges that he had voted for the Potomac River Bill because he lacked the firmness to "withstand the great personage from Virginia."

Washington's influence was again evident in January 1790 when the debate over the site of a permanent capital got caught up in the fight over whether the new national government was going to assume the debts of the states.

Most of the Maryland Congressional delegation had opposed federal assumption of those debts.

Washington himself stayed out of the debate, but the record shows that he consulted closely with Congressman James Madison who put together a deal that eventually swayed Senator Charles Carroll, Representative Daniel Carroll, and Representative George Gale, all of Maryland, to change their votes. The deal brokered by Madison prevailed. The capital would be located on the Potomac and the new federal government would assume the state debts.

Washington's dream of building an American Empire centered on the Potomac River was now a reality. However, the decision to locate the permanent capital on the Potomac did not go over well with Maryland voters.

With the exception of Senator Charles Carroll, Marylanders defeated the four other incumbent members of Congress who had voted to bring the federal government to the Potomac instead of to Baltimore.

A natural lobbyist, Washington had convinced the Maryland Legislature to give up five square miles of its sovereign territory on its banks for the Nation's Capital and successfully lobbied us to qualify our sovereignty over the upper Potomac for one of the earliest and grandest schemes for internal improvement.

Family & Friends & Immediate Maryland Neighbors

Washington was as comfortable in Maryland as he was in Virginia and considered the Potomac a vital, common thoroughfare for both. From his perspective he could look across the river to his friends the Digges's at Warburton Manor, the Marshall's at Marshall Hall, and the Calvert's at Mount Airy; all of whom he visited frequently.

Of all the neighbors, George Washington most frequently visited the Digges's at Warburton Manor. Caleb Magruder found nearly 20 recorded visits in the diaries that Washington kept sporadically over the years, but there were undoubtedly countless more.

Let there be no doubt, Washington enjoyed a good party. He loved dancing, played cards for money, and followed the hounds on both sides. And, his fondness for attending the races anywhere, but particularly Annapolis, Upper Marlboro, Bladensburg, and Port Tobacco, are well known.

Slaves

Like many of his fellow landowners, Washington owned slaves. But even in that role he handled his affairs with a distinct difference.

Whatever the reasons, Washington grew reluctant to sell his bondsmen at public auction or to break up families. By the 1780s, he had decided firmly not to buy or sell slaves, saying:

"I am principled against this kind of traffic in the human species. To disperse families I have an aversion."

To John Francis Mercer, a future Maryland governor, he wrote: *"I never mean ... to possess another slave by purchase ..."*

What's more, he ordered an end to whipping, advising his managers that discipline could be better achieved *"by watchfulness and admonition than by severity."*

In his will he freed those slaves that he could. He stipulated that the youngsters without parents be taught to read and write and be educated in a skill. He directed his heirs to care for those who were aged or infirm.

Perhaps it was the logic of America's Revolution that compelled him. We do not know.

What we do know is that of the nine American presidents who owned slaves, Washington was the only one to liberate them.

No person can shed entirely the influences of time and place. But Washington came closer than most. In his life, he traveled part way down the road to justice.

He foresaw the looming problem slavery represented to the future of America. Today, only one of two known national memorials to slaves is located across the Potomac River at Mount Vernon.

The name Washington, as we have seen, spread all over the land; and it was adopted for people as well as places.

In fact, an ex-slave boy Booker Toliaferro, adopted the surname of Washington as his way of taking on American citizenship. We know him as Booker T. Washington.

And another ex-slave, who himself became known as the Father of the peanut industry, took the name of George Washington Carver.

Maryland Line

Washington's connection to Maryland extended well beyond the state's borders.

Historians have recorded that just six months after General Washington was elected by the Congress as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the United States, Maryland

enacted its first and basic militia law.

Famous Maryland names formed the officer corps including Col. Wm. Smallwood, Lt. Col. Francis Ware, 1st Major Thomas Price, 2nd Major Mordecai Gist, and Captains Samuel Smith, William Sterett and Thomas Ewing.

General Washington found a desperate need for the Maryland Line in the first major battle of the war, the Battle of Long Island, when it became necessary to throw the Maryland troops into the breach after British regulars had overwhelmed the Continental Army and turned it into a panic stricken mob floundering across marshy Gowanus Creek.

There, on August 27, 1776, the Maryland Line charged the advancing British regulars five separate times, purchasing with their blood and their lives the time needed to regroup and save the Continental Army and purchasing ultimately for us, their later generations, the liberty we cherish.

The price was a high one, as indeed the price of liberty is always high, and on that day out of the 400 Marylanders who charged and charged again and again into the face of death, 250 were killed in action, 19 died of wounds, another 100 were wounded, and only a small few emerged unharmed.

General Washington, not noted for elegance of speech, referred to the heroism of the Maryland Line as "*that hour more precious to American liberty than any other.*"

Nor indeed was that the extent of the Maryland Line's contribution under General Washington to the cause of liberty.

The Maryland Line met the enemy with a bayonet charge at Manhattan Island and again at Harlem Heights and White Plains and later at Trenton and Princeton and still later at Brandywine and Monmouth, and still later again during the decisive actions at Cowpens and at Eutaw Springs.

Washington relied on Maryland throughout the war. In a letter from Valley Forge to Maryland Governor Thomas Johnson, he reported that his pitifully small army was unfit for duty "*by reason of their being barefooted and otherwise naked.*"

As always, Marylanders responded as generously and as speedily as possible to General Washington's requests.

Maryland became known as the "breadbasket of the Revolution," a fact often acknowledged by Washington.

In a letter from Yorktown, Virginia Washington wrote to Governor Thomas Sim Lee on October 12, 1781, "*The supplies granted by the State of Maryland are so liberal, that they remove every apprehension of want.*"

Conclusion

In reflecting on Washington's Maryland we should recall the assessment of Marcus Cunliffe in George Washington, Man and Monument:

Washington's is a ... deeply satisfying record. Here was a man who did what he was asked to do, and whose very strength resided in a sobriety some took for fatal dullness; who in his one person proved the soundness of America.

A good man, not a saint; a competent soldier, not a great one; an honest administrator, not a statesman of genius; a prudent conserver, not a brilliant reformer; but in sum an exceptional figure.

To which I would add "an exceptionally good neighbor and friend to Maryland."

George Washington had a special relationship with our State.

- His active military career began in Cumberland from whence he set out as a young officer in the mid-1750s to confront the French in the Ohio Valley.
- The only college in America named after Washington with his permission is in Chestertown.
- Washington visited Annapolis often. He went to the races out on West Street, and according to tradition, got his hair cut at a barber shop on Cornhill Street. He lobbied the Legislature on behalf of one of his business ventures.
- In our State House he resigned his commission as commander of the Revolutionary Army.
- He spent countless hours visiting and partying with his Maryland neighbors.

Every aspect of his life touched every aspect of Maryland. His influence was strong. His legacy lives on.

Read and ordered journalized.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:06 P.M. on motion of Senator McFadden, seconded, the Senate adjourned until 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 22, 2005.