

J. JOSEPH CURRAN

Lieutenant Governor of Maryland

J. Joseph Curran, Maryland's third Lieutenant Governor since the office was reestablished in 1970, brings more than twenty-four years of legislative experience to the State's second highest elected office.

Lieutenant Governor Curran began his career in public service in 1958, when he won election to the House of Delegates. Although it was his first entry into the political field and he was still a law student at the time, Mr. Curran received the largest number of votes cast for a House of Delegates candidate in Baltimore City. His election continued a long family tradition of public service. His father, the late J. Joseph Curran, Sr., served twenty years on the Baltimore City Council. A brother, Martin (Mike) Curran, was named to the Council vacancy created by the father's death in 1977 and was elected to a full term in 1979. During his term in the House of Delegates young Joseph Curran served on the Education Committee.

In 1962 he was elected to the State Senate, where he quickly gained a reputation as a leader on educational and judicial issues. He served on the Judicial Proceedings Committee and was elected chairman in 1967, a position he held for sixteen years.

During Mr. Curran's tenure in the General Assembly, he sponsored or was the leading spokesman for a number of significant bills. In addition to working for the creation of the Court of Special Appeals and the District Court system, he consistently sought to improve the operation of the courts and the correctional system. He supported tougher drug laws and sponsored the bill outlawing drug paraphernalia. Mr. Curran consistently supported tougher drunk driving laws and sponsored the handgun permit law. An advocate of equal rights, Mr. Curran sponsored legislation to modernize Maryland's divorce and alimony laws as well as reforms for adoption and guardianship laws. He sponsored the law to protect victims of domestic violence. The Maryland Higher Education Loan Program, which Mr. Curran first sponsored as a member of the

House, was passed under his leadership while he was a member of the State Senate.

As Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Curran will serve as legislative liaison for Administration bills. He has also been appointed by Governor Hughes as Chairman of the Task Force on the Drinking Driver and the Task Force to Review the Defense of Insanity. Consistent with his long-standing involvement in social issues, Lieutenant Governor Curran plans to remain active in ensuring the adequate delivery of juvenile services, in corrections and judicial matters, and in the deinstitutionalization of mentally retarded, handicapped, and developmentally disabled citizens.

Lieutenant Governor Curran was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, on July 7, 1931. He is a graduate of Blessed Sacrament School of Baltimore, Loyola High School, the University of Baltimore, and the University of Baltimore Law School (LL.B., 1959).

In 1950, at the outset of the Korean War, Mr. Curran volunteered for military duty, serving with the United States Air Force in Japan, Okinawa, and Korea. He was honorably discharged with the rank of staff sergeant after a four-year tour of duty. While stationed in Japan, he organized and directed the Johnson Air Force Base support of the St. Joseph Home for War Orphans.

Mr. Curran returned to Baltimore following his military service, becoming active in a number of civic organizations and political clubs. Before entering law school he worked briefly for the Lavship Steamship Line in Locust Point, and for the Bethlehem Steel Company at Sparrows Point. He was engaged in the private practice of law with the firm of Curran and Owens in Baltimore and is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, Baltimore City Bar Association, and the Association of Defense Counsel of Baltimore City. He also served as a member of the Ethics Committee of the Baltimore City Bar Association.

Mr. Curran is married to the former Barbara Marie Atkins. They are the parents of five children, Mary Carole, Alice, Catherine, J. Joseph (Max) Curran III, and William (deceased). The Currans reside in the Homeland section of Baltimore City.