

McKeldin Rites Tuesday; Body Lies in State

By J. WILLIAM JOYNES
Staff Reporter

The body of Theodore R. McKeldin will lie in state for two days at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N. Charles St., where services will be conducted Tuesday for the gifted orator who was twice governor of Maryland and twice mayor of Baltimore.

The public viewing will be held today from 2 until 9 p.m. and Monday from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

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Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday at 10 a.m. by the Rev. Francis O. Chappelle, associate rector of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. Interment will follow in Greenmount Cemetery.

Mr. McKeldin died Saturday of bladder cancer.

The 73-year-old elder statesman had lapsed into a coma late Friday at his home in Homeland. His wife, Mrs. Honolulu Claire McKeldin, was at his side when he died.

He had recently been discharged from Johns Hopkins Hospital after radiation therapy failed to improve his condition in a lengthy battle against cancer.

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In his 73 years he became one of the best-known Maryland figures in public office. He also left a record of accomplishments that will stand as monuments to his memory — Friendship (now Baltimore-Washington) International Airport; Liberty Dam; Baltimore's Civic Center; the Baltimore Beltway; the John Hanson Highway between award for his interest in the welfare of Greek-Americans in Maryland and the Annual America-Israel Friendship Award, to name a few.

It is a remarkable list of accomplishments for a South Washington and Annapolis, the Harbor Tunnel, the State Office Building complex, the Pa-

luxent Institution and the Maryland Port Authority.

He spoke before hundreds of groups on almost every imaginable occasion. It was said that he talked himself into the political arena.

He volunteered his services in 1927 to William F. Broening, a Republican who was seeking re-election as mayor. The 27-year-old McKeldin was

assigned to a truck with several other spell-binders, who were to drive around the city speaking to street-corner crowds from the tailgate.

One frosty night before the election, he was at a meeting at Gwynn Oak Junction. Mayor Broening was to be one of the speakers, but it was announced he would be late.

After the other speakers gave their all and then sat down, McKeldin was motioned to begin and, when the mayor still failed to appear, to continue speaking. He continued, extemporaneously, for an hour and 17 minutes, keeping the audience alert and amused.

When Broening was re-elected, young McKeldin became his executive secretary.

He continued his education, however, taking law courses at night at the University of Maryland, where he earned his bachelor of laws degree in 1925.

He then did graduate work in economics at Johns Hopkins University. He opened a law office in 1927 with the late Charles E. Moylan and Michael Paul Smith, a partnership that lasted 16 years until 1943, when Moylan became a judge and McKeldin was elected to his first term as mayor.

Smith later became a judge in Baltimore County.

In 1965, Charles E. Moylan Jr., state's attorney for Baltimore City, nominated Theodore McKeldin Jr. as one of his assistants. Fathers of both were in attendance at the swearing-in ceremonies in the courthouse.

After the dissolution of the three-partner law firm, McKeldin was associated with William Adelson for more than 40 years, returning to law practice after each session in public office. Adelson, who died last April, had begun as an assistant to Michael Paul Smith.

For 37 years, Mr. McKeldin had the same secretary, Mrs. Mildred K. Momberger.

In 1927, the year McKeldin opened his law firm, he appeared at the election headquarters of Mayor Broening to volunteer his services. He remained with Broening until 1931, when he went back to the practice of law as he had planned.

He remained active in Republican politics, however, making plans for his first political campaign on his own. The opportunity came in 1939, when he became his party's candidate for mayor of Baltimore.

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It was his first defeat. Howard W. Jackson, the incumbent, was re-elected, but McKeldin and the party were encouraged by the strong showing he made against the Democrats in a Democratic stronghold.

In 1942, he tried again, this time against Herbert R. O'Connor, a popular state's attorney, for the governorship. He lost by less than 18,000 votes.

The following year he made his second attempt to become mayor of the state's largest city. This time he defeated Jackson by more than 20,000 votes.

World War II was at its height in 1943, and there was little that could be done physically to improve the city. There were shortages of building materials and builders. The city was engaged in an all-out war effort, as numerous defense plants operated around the clock.

McKeldin spent these years planning the improvements he wanted to make once the war ended.

These included the construction of Friendship Airport, the Liberty Dam water supply system, a new tuberculosis wing at City Hospitals and the Civic Center.

But he initiated some long-needed reforms: the revision and modernization of the City Charter, and a plan to rid Baltimore of its slums, a program that attracted national attention.

Though his term as mayor did not expire until May 1947, he answered a draft in 1946 to run a second time for governor, this time against William Preston Lane Jr. As in 1942, he lost, this time by about 47,000 votes.

When his first term as mayor ended, he did not seek re-election. Instead he returned to his law practice and continued to speak on many occasions, as he prepared for the 1950 gubernatorial elections.

When the time came, he was ready, helped by a rough Democratic primary in which Gov. Lane was challenged by George P. Mahoney. Lane won the primary, but in the general election McKeldin capitalized on the unpopular sales tax that Lane had begun.

When the votes were counted, McKeldin had received one of the largest majorities any governor had ever received, over 93,000.

He took office on Jan. 10, 1951, and served two four-year terms, during which he made substantial improvements in many areas. One was his Twelve-Year Program to improve Maryland's highways by 1965, a program financed by new bond issues, an increase in the gasoline sales tax and an increase in the motor vehicle registration fee.

When he was working in the office of Mayor Broening, he had become friendly with an assistant city solicitor named Simon E. Sobeloff. When McKeldin became governor, Sobeloff was chief judge of the Court of Appeals. Ted asked his friend to examine the state's administrative structure and procedures and make recommendations to increase its economy and efficiency.

The Sobeloff Commission came up with a number of suggestions, most of them subsequently enacted by the legislature.

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Meantime, McKeldin was gaining national attention, especially as an orator, although he drew some criticism in his home state.

When he went to Annapolis the first time, the governor's salary was less than \$5,000 a year. With Ted Jr. in Wash-

ington and Lee University and Clara in Hollins College, the governor had to earn some additional money. He did it on the lecture circuit.

At the 1952 Republican National Convention in Chicago, he placed the name of Dwight David Eisenhower in nomina-

tion for president of the United States. Before the convention, McKeldin had been boomed as a favorite son for president by some Maryland Republican leaders, but mostly it was a mark of esteem on their part. Nothing came of it.

After his nomination speech, it seemed very likely that he would get the second-place offer. In the end, however, Sen. Richard M. Nixon of California, who was making a name for himself investigating the activities of Communist Party members, received it.

No Republican governor had ever been able to win a second term in Maryland. In 1954, McKeldin did, defeating an ambitious Harry Clifton Byrd the long-time president of the University of Maryland with whom the governor had clashed many times over university policy.

Winning by more than 61,000 votes, he began his second term as governor on Jan. 12, 1955, pledging to strengthen Maryland's tradition of "tolerance, brotherhood and human freedom."

Under a constitutional amendment passed in 1947, the governor could not seek a third term, so his role as chief executive came to a close on Jan. 7, 1959.

But that year he was approached to run again for mayor of Baltimore. He declined. In 1963, he was asked again.

This time he accepted and won, defeating Philip H. Goodman. McKeldin had been one of the few Baltimore mayors ever to be elected governor and the only former governor ever to be re-elected mayor.

His re-election was considered a personal triumph, because he failed to carry into office a single Republican candidate for the City Council. This term, he set as his goals the development of the Inner Harbor and the construction of a new municipal center.

He also tackled an even tougher project — insuring equal opportunities in employment, education, accommodations, housing and welfare. McKeldin termed the civil rights law the City Council enacted "the most sweeping package of civil rights legislation enacted at one time by any major municipality within this nation."

When other cities were torn by civil disorders, Baltimore seemed immune and this was attributed to the law. But, ironically, the day a story about it by McKeldin appeared in the Boston American, Baltimore got the full brunt of the aftermath of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. By that time, Thomas D'Alesandro III was mayor.

Teddy McKeldin always said he felt that being mayor

was more important than being governor. "You get closer to the people."

"James Harry Preston," McKeldin sometimes said, "was the greatest man this city ever had. From Lexington to Centre streets were the worst slums this city ever had. Mr. Preston said, 'The slums have got to go,' but the City Council said, 'There is no money!' NEWS AMERICAN "He sought it anyhow and when the City Council still wanted to know where to get the money, he said, 'Take it out of the harbor fund.'"

"How can we do that?" they asked.

"Doesn't St. Paul Street run into Light Street and doesn't Light Street run past the harbor?" the mayor asked. And that's how the harbor loan was used to build Preston Gardens.

"I like this form of government we have," McKeldin would continue. "The mayor is boss. He runs the show. One man responsible. You have to blame him. He can't blame others."

"It's unfortunate it's so difficult to find good men to run for public office. It's almost impossible to get Republicans to run. But if this is to be a good form of government, we have to have a strong minority group," he once told a group at the University of Baltimore. NEWS AMERICAN

Mr. McKeldin was always a good story-teller.

While he was still governor, President Eisenhower was to receive an honorary degree from Washington College in Chestertown, the first college to which the first president gave his name and his financial support.

The governor was accompanying the President to the Eastern Shore campus when Ike said that he considered the greatest moment in Washington's life came at Valley Forge.

McKeldin disagreed, opining that the greatest moment in Washington's life was the occasion when he possibly could have become king or dictator

of this new country but instead turned in his resignation as commander in chief and bowed out of public life.

The dramatic moment, the governor told the President, took place on Dec. 23, 1783, in the Maryland State House.

"Why don't you write a book about it?" Ike suggested, and Gov. McKeldin did. It was called "Washington Bowed."

In 1963, he also wrote "No Mean City," the story of Enoch Pratt, George Peabody and Johns Hopkins and their impact on the city of Baltimore. AUG 1 1 1974

After he left the mayor's office for the last time and re-

turned to his law practice in the Maryland National Bank building, Mr. McKeldin could often be seen hurrying along Baltimore Street.

He always wore a plastic black-eyed Susan, the Maryland flower, in his lapel.

His interests were varied. Among these were Israel and the cross on the Maryland flagstaff.

His selling State of Israel Bonds, for which he was honored by that country, began inadvertently during a governor's conference in upper New York State.

He was talking about the love of one's country, comparing it to a son's love for his mother. "He may marry and love his wife, but he doesn't

forget his mother," he said. "Therefore, emigrants should not forget the country from which they originated." It was a time when everybody wanted to be known as American-made.

Shortly afterward, he received a letter from a Jew who disagreed. McKeldin wrote him a letter, which eventually got into the hands of the Development Corporation of Israel. The grandson of Edward H. McKeldin, who came to this country from Belfast and is buried at Antietam Battlefield, became one of Israel's leading bond salesmen. AUG 1 1 1974

In 1952, McKeldin was invited up to West Point for the U.S. Military Academy's 150th anniversary. In the dining room, the superintendent had just had all of the state flags hung. Every spear was perfectly even.

"How do you like it?" Gen. Irvin asked the Maryland governor. NEWS AMERICAN

"Fine, but you've got the wrong staff for the Maryland flag," the governor answered.

"Now, to tell a general something is wrong with his protocol is pretty upsetting, so I explained," McKeldin used to say in telling the story.

"General," I said, 'the Episcopalians settled Virginia. The Dutch Reformed came to New York, the Friends to Pennsylvania and the Methodists to Georgia. But to Maryland came the Catholics, and after the Blessed Mother they named their first city and capital St. Mary's.'

"Then they planted a cross in the soil, and then they passed an act concerning religious liberty. Protestant, Catholic or Jew can worship unmolested, they said. Maryland was barren ground for bigots.'

"That so?" said the general.

"That's so," I said.

"How do I get one of these

crosses?" the general asked.

"I'll send you one," I replied, and I did."

Sometime later, the governor met Maj. Gen. Milton Reckord.

"Governor," he said. "General Irvin is pretty mad at you. Every flag in the dining hall at West Point has a spear except for that one cross."

To which, McKeldin would add, when relating the story, "That cross, my friends, will always make the difference. 'But by My spirit, saith the Lord.'"

It's just one of the many things for which Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin — mayor, governor, orator, humanitarian, civil rights leader, good citizen, poor-boy-made-good — will always be remembered.