

# President Accepts Chairmanship Of National Flag Week For 1953

Celebration Will Open  
On June 8; Association  
Receives \$5,000 From  
Aaron Straus

## Eisenhower Flag Week Letter

*The following letter from President Eisenhower accepting the honorary chairmanship of the National Flag Week Committee for 1953 was released last night by the committee at the annual dinner-meeting of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association:*

It is with real pride that I accept your invitation to serve as Honorary Chairman of the National Flag Week Committee for 1953.

We all know that the kind of world we live in attaches to our flag a meaning perhaps more significant for us and others than ever before in our history. It is a symbol of the hope of freedom itself.

Today the principles we cherish are savagely attacked. Those who believe in the subversion and destruction of freedom, practice their purposes with cold resolve. Men who conceive all their brothers to be exploitable tools of the state press their aggressive designs stubbornly.

Because of these assaults against freedom, our devotion to it must be complete. Our resolution and courage must be equal to any requirement for its defense. To serve these enduring ideas, our our soldiers are, this very moment, giving their lives.

To be worthy of them and of their sacrifice, every American can do no less than pledge himself anew—spirit and mind—to those values of freedom which summon such heroism and which alone give life itself abiding dignity and worth.

Sincerely,

(Signed) DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

President Eisenhower has accepted honorary chairmanship of National Flag Week for 1953, to be celebrated June 8 through June 14.

In a letter read last night to the annual meeting of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association, sponsoring organization for the observance, the President expressed his "real pride" in accepting the committee chairmanship.

"We all know," he wrote, "that the kind of world we live in attaches to our flag a meaning perhaps more significant for us and others than ever before in our history."

### \$5,000 Gift By Aaron Straus

The flag, he said, is "a symbol of the hope of freedom itself." In the face of attacks on that freedom "our resolution and courage must be equal to any requirement for its defense."

The President's message, received by Neil H. Swanson, president of the Flag House Association, was read at the annual dinner meeting of association members and representatives of eight Baltimore patriotic organizations at the Southern Hotel.

At the same time the association

announced that a gift of \$5,000 had been made by Aaron Straus, Baltimore philanthropist and charter member of the association, to a

special fund sought by the Flag House Society for fostering National Flag Week and refurbishing (Continued on Page 18, Column 1)

# EISENHOWER HONORED HERE

## Accepts Honorary Chairmanship Of National Flag Week

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the Flag House, 139-year-old structure at 844 East Pratt street where Mary Pickersgill made the Victory Flag of 1814.

"It is with a full heart," said Mr. Swanson, in thanking Mr. Straus, "that I express to you my gratitude and the gratitude of this association for this splendidly generous gift which today has brought that deferred hope and that old dream so much closer to realization.

"It is a gift," he continued, "that could have been made only by a man possessed of a deep love for his country, a deep understanding that the ideals upon which it was founded not only gave mankind its first real hope of freedom and a new way of life, but also are still a practical and living force."

Mr. Straus's gift is the first contribution toward a fund of \$30,000 which the association is seeking for exclusive devotion to two programs.

### Tribute Paid To Mayor

The first program is its annual sponsorship of National Flag Week which commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the stars and stripes as the country's official flag which occurred June 14, 1777.

The second is to restore the Flag House to its exact furnishings in the period of the War of 1812 when Mary Pickersgill made the battle flag which inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words of the national anthem.

Introducing Mayor D'Alesandro, Mr. Swanson paid tribute to the city's chief executive for fulfilling his promise of city aid in restoring the Pratt Street building and in current work expanding the property through reproduction of an original building on the site to serve as association office space.

### Music Characteristic Of 1812

Symbolic of the Mayor's aid, Mr. Swanson in turning over the speaker's "gavel" to the Mayor, used not a gavel, but the shovel Mayor D'Alesandro used in breaking ground for the Flag Home restoration.

Music characteristic of the days of 1812 was played by the Monumental City Ancient Fife and Drums Corps. A color guard from the 175th Infantry Regiment of the Maryland National Guard presented the colors.

The annual report of the association was presented to the membership by Mr. Swanson.

Mark S. Watson, *Sunpapers* military correspondent, was the principal speaker. He warned of the danger of relaxing Allied unity and defense in the face of the new Russian "peace offensive."

### "A Pitiful Delusion

The new Communist proposals and policies, he said, look "too sudden and short-lived to be convincing."

He termed the belief that Russia may be weakened by a popular revolt "a pitiful delusion." The Kremlin will not fall like the Estille, he said, and the West's bet hopes lie in the possible defection from central control of a large segment of the Red Government, like the army.

We must, he said, not only continue to gain the Reds' respect by fagging down their power.

"We must do better, by converting our 'magic' weapons into a numerous and solid reality and by going our manpower trained and organized. We will get peace through strength, and not otherwise," he concluded.

In two amendments to the constitution the association lowered junior membership dues from \$2 yearly to 50 cents and upped the life membership fee from \$25 to \$50. A third amendment removed



**PATRIOT'S PLEDGE**—As the guard of honor | Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association, presents the colors to the annual meeting of the | members stand to pledge allegiance to the flag.

the word "white" from clauses dealing with requirements for admission to the society.

Mr. Swanson was elected to a second term as president of the association which also elected eight directors and twelve other officers.

### New Directors Elected

Vice presidents include Samuel H. Helfrich, Paul L. Holland, Mrs. Alexander F. Jenkins, Mrs. G. Franklin Onion, John A. Pentz and former Senator George L. Radcliffe.

The new directors include, for three-year terms, Joseph Katz, Dr. Thomas Pullen, Henry Powell Hopkins and W. Griffin Morrel; for two-year terms, Luet. Col. J. Ash-

ton Devereux, Mrs. Thomas Stevens George, Brig. Gen. William C. Purnell and Wilbur Van Sant.

Elected to one-year terms were Mrs. Thomas I. Corddry, Robert Garrett, Mrs. Ferd E. Kadan and C. H. Whitby.

Other officers elected yesterday include Mrs. Charles C. W. Judd, recording secretary; Mrs. J. Davidge Warfield, corresponding secretary; Walter F. Comegys, treasurer; Mrs. George E. Parker, Jr., historian; Judge Joseph Sherbow, counselor, and the Rev. Howard F. Reisz, chaplain.

Honor guests of the association in last night's meeting included

Mrs. Ernestine M. Rose, president of the Baltimore chapter of the American Gold Star Mothers; Joseph Fields, State commander of the American Legion; Frank Webb, State commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and William Minor, Sr., State commander of the Disabled American Veterans.

Also Michael Luciano, State commander of the American Veterans of World War II; John H. Glaeser, State commander of the United Spanish War Veterans; Joseph F. Mannion, State adjutant of the United States Army and Navy Legion of Valor, and Anthony J. Azzearello, department commander of the Catholic War Veterans.