

# TAWES, 1,500 PAY HONOR TO NEGRO

## Henson Was With Peary At North Pole In 1909

[By a Sun Staff Correspondent]

Annapolis, Nov. 18—There was a ceremony at the State House today before a crowd of more than 1,500 persons, predominantly Negro.

Governor Tawes paid tribute to Matthew A. Henson, Charles county Negro, who in 1909 with Adm. Robert E. Peary and four Eskimos discovered the North Pole.

During the ceremony a memorial plaque was unveiled at the south wing, a bronze bas-relief of Henson clad in his fur parka, and citing him for "his valiant deeds of noble devotion . . . in pioneer Arctic exploration and discovery, establishing everlasting prestige and glory for his State and country."

### "Past Due Recognition"

In his opening remarks, the Governor said that "I have the feeling, as I suspect many of you have, that we are giving past due recognition . . . to Matthew Henson."

Neil H. Swanson, author and  
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# EXPLORER IS HONORED

## State House Plaque Unveiled For Maryland Negro

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journalist, called the State Senate resolution, the memorial and the ceremonies "an act of justice, an act of faith."

Cmdr. Edward Peary Stafford, grandson of the late Admiral Peary, noted that it took the partnership of three races—Peary, the Caucasian; Henson, the Negro, and four Eskimoes to reach the North Pole.

He added that he hoped the relationship between his grandfather and Henson characterized the relationship between their two races.

### Born In Log Cabin

Henson was born August 8, 1866, in a log cabin. He died in New York City in 1955. His widow, Mrs. Lucy Henson, was present for today's ceremony.

Also William M. Q. Halm, Ambassador from Ghana; Julius M. Udochi, Ambassador from Nigeria, and S. Edward Peal, Ambassador from Liberia, were in attendance.

Herbert M. Frisby, a retired science teacher, conducted the program. It was largely through the efforts of Mr. Frisby that the move to honor Mr. Henson at the State level got under way.

Mr. Frisby made the closing remarks. He took out a mimeographed document of considerable length and cautioned the crowd that it was his speech. He then spoke briefly, not using the document.

Others participating in the program were James C. Evans, counselor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, president of Morgan State College, and Cliff W. Mackay, editor of the Afro-American.

Music was provided by choruses from the Robert E. Peary High School, Rockville, Md., the Wiley H. Bates High School band and choir, of Annapolis, and Coppin State Teachers College, Baltimore.

D.L.M.



MEMORIAL—Governor Tawes and Mrs. Matthew A. Henson, widow of the co-discoverer of the North Pole, unveil plaque in a ceremony at the State House yesterday.