

October 24, 1932

R. E. Lee Marshall, Esq.,
City Solicitor.

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I have investigated the matter as to the use of the War Memorial Building by the United States Veterans Association, as set forth in the letter of October 15th, 1932, from the Honorable W. Preston Lane, Jr., Attorney General, to you. A similar question is raised in the letter of October 18th from Harry C. Jones, Chairman of the War Memorial Commission, addressed to you.

The original act to create an unpaid War Memorial Commission for the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore was passed at the 1924 Session of the Legislature. This is Chapter 537, approved April 9th, 1924. The recital contained in this Act is as follows:

"Whereas, in order that the War Memorial Building may be of use to the people of Maryland and the City of Baltimore, it should be placed under the jurisdiction and management of a permanent commission."

Following this recital as to the general purpose of the Act, the specific powers are contained in Section 3, in which it is set forth:

"That the War Memorial Commission is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to adopt and enforce regulations providing for the management of the War Memorial Building, so that the War Memorial Building may be of greater possible use, both to the people of the State of Maryland and of the City of Baltimore, and to the patriotic societies and organizations of the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore and, as far as possible, without expense to the patriotic societies and organizations of the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore."

In the Annotated Code of 1924, this act was codified as Article 65, Sections 61 to 65, the above provision as to general powers of the War Memorial Commission being specifically numbered 63. The original ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore providing for the erection jointly with the State of Maryland of a war memorial building is Ordinance No. 517, approved November 11th, 1920, Sections 4 and 7 of this ordinance being subsequently repealed and re-enacted by Ordinance No. 610, approved June 22, 1921. The heading of the ordinance sets forth the general