

Party offers the best prospects for a preservation of these traditions. We Marylanders have a rich and a noble inheritance. Our State has been endowed with some of nature's finest gifts—a terrain and topography unsurpassed in both beauty and productiveness anywhere in this land. It has a proud history and is steeped in tradition. It has earned the title, "The Free State," through more than 300 years of devotion and dedication to the principles of freedom and toleration.

The freedom of men to worship according to their conscience was recognized and guaranteed in one of the first laws written on religious toleration—a law approved by the freemen who gathered in St. Mary's city in 1649 and called "an act concerning religion."

Maryland's heroic sons have fought gallantly in all the wars in which this country has been engaged. Our State proudly bears the name, "The Old Line State," in tribute to the brave troops of the Maryland Line who staved off the British to allow General George Washington and his army to withdraw from Long Island. Washington himself referred to this hour as "more precious to American liberty than any other in its history."

It was Maryland troops again who saved the infant Republic by repulsing the British at North Point and Fort McHenry in the War of 1812, a battle sacred to the memory of every American as the engagement which inspired our National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner.

Marylanders fought with gallantry and courage on both sides of the great fratricidal struggle of 1861-1865, in the war with Spain, in the two great world wars, and in the Korean conflict.

In the three centuries of her existence, Maryland has nurtured some of America's most illustrious political and military leaders, as well as outstanding writers, artists and scientists. . . .

The confidence that the people of Maryland have in our Democratic Party was demonstrated in the election of last year in which the party achieved the greatest statewide election victory in the history of Maryland politics. . . .

We Democrats of Maryland expect many more victories in the future to result from the knowledge by a great majority of the citizens that our party is the guardian of Maryland's heritage and the protector of its future.

All of us are well aware of the growing influence of women in American politics. Those of us who ran successfully in the campaigns