

To conclude, let me express my profound appreciation to my good friends of the Crisfield Volunteer Fire Company for inviting me to take part in these dedicatory ceremonies. Let us dedicate this splendid new building to the happiness and greater security of the men, women and children of this community.

ADDRESS, ANNUAL SHORT COURSE FOR
FIREMEN BANQUET
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK

September 7, 1961

You may be sure that I was both pleased and honored when I received the invitation of the Director of the Fire Service Extension Department of this University to speak at the banquet of the Twenty-eighth Annual Short Course for Firemen. This training course, to which firemen come each year to develop their talents, improve their skills and enhance their knowledge of the art of fire fighting and the science of fire protection, is an excellent example of this State's continuing concern for the protection of the lives and the property of its citizens.

I should like to say, first, that it is a pleasure to me, as Governor of the state and on behalf of the people of Maryland, to extend our hospitality to the distinguished men who have come here from other parts of the country as instructors and lecturers and to the out-of-state students who are here to learn to be better firemen. We hope you have derived both profit and pleasure from your stay here at College Park. We would be happy to have you return as often as you can.

During the nearly three decades of its existence, this annual short course for firemen has grown steadily in scope and stature. Until today, we believe it to be one of the best of its kind in the country. I know that President Elkins, Bob Byrus, and the excellent staff of the Fire Service Extension are proud of this phase of their overall program of fire service training. Much of the success they enjoy is due to the very generous support and the very active cooperation they have received from the Maryland State Firemen's Association, the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association and the other groups and agencies which have been associated with them in organizing and carrying out the course of instruction here.

Before a group such as this, it is certainly needless for me to emphasize