

As we celebrate this 268th anniversary of the founding of Christ Church and Great Choptank Parish, it is a gratification to our hearts and souls to remember the indelible mark it has made upon the history of Maryland.

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ADDRESS, "HISTORIC ANNAPOLIS"

ANNAPOLIS

May 16, 1960

In Maryland today there are more than 70 widely scattered voluntary organizations now devoted to the same worthy objectives as is Historic Annapolis, and I hope our visitors here from beyond Anne Arundel County will overlook my endeavor to localize these remarks.

We find that our public and private promotional agencies here are now equipped and joined together for the first time to effectively inform prospective tourists in search of living American history that Annapolis has more of this to offer than any other city in America—large or small. Of all cities which were permanent capitals in pre-revolutionary America, only Annapolis and Boston continue to serve as state capitals. All other colonial capitals have yielded this great prestige to newer cities closer to centers of shifting populations. Because of destructive fires and the concentration of industrial, financial and shipping wealth in downtown Boston, the old and historic sections of that city have been completely rebuilt. Only six structures of the colonial era now survive, and three of them have lost their original interiors. Here in Annapolis a surprisingly large percentage of our pre-revolutionary architectural heritage has been left to us to the present hour. It is further enhanced by its compact setting of striking natural beauty, framed by marine vistas of the historic harbor, the beautiful Severn River and the broad Chesapeake Bay—all of which combine to charm the eye of the most discriminating tourist visitor as well as our home folks.

As a resident of Government House—touching State Circle at the east and Church Circle at the west—I am mindful of my own responsibilities to Annapolis as a citizen by adoption rather than as a citizen by the requirements of Section 21 of Article II of the Maryland Constitution which directs the Governor to "reside at the seat of government." Over the past 20 years and more, many of you have met or seen me in and about this community and your friendly and hospitable manner has brightened our home life here.