

Maryland was put to question. This took the cruel, unnatural pressures of war to bring it about and in the scar we can read the lesson that the whole world has so expensively learned—that war is not the way to decide the questions of civilization, that representative government is a stronger weapon than guns.

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## REMARKS ON THE STATE FLAG

### ANNAPOLIS

March 16, 1961

I am highly honored to have this opportunity to present to Carvel Hall this flag of the State of Maryland. We have a most distinctive State flag. If you ever see it displayed with the flags of the other states, you will note how brilliantly it stands out among the others.

The flag we have unfurled here this evening became official by an act of the General Assembly passed in 1904. The statute refers to it as the historic and traditional emblem of Maryland from earliest times. Although there was no official State flag before that time, history records that variations of it were used from the earliest days. Its essential feature, of course, is the quartering of the arms of the Calvert and Crossland families.

The father of George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, was Leonard Calvert, a Yorkshire country gentleman. He married Alicia Crossland, daughter and heiress of John Crossland, another Yorkshire gentleman. After he became a baronet, George Calvert, who founded the colony of Maryland in 1634, petitioned to have the Calvert arms certified. This quartering of the coats of arms of the Calvert and Crossland arms was used as the great seal of Maryland from the earliest times, but its use as the design for a flag came much later. Maryland, thus, has the distinction of having the only flag in the United States that is based on heraldic emblems.

Another outstanding feature of the Maryland flag is the staff ornamentation—the gold cross bottony. In 1945, the General Assembly passed an act stating that “If any ornament is affixed to the top of a flagstaff carrying the flag of Maryland, it shall be a gold cross bottony.” And thus, the cross which you see at the top of the staff of this flag is officially a part of this State emblem. In heraldry, the cross bottony is a cross with extremities resembling a trefoil plant.

It is a pleasure to present to Carvel Hall, on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lears, this beautiful flag of the State of Maryland.