

of our State, and in particular the re-enactment of the great battles of Antietam and South Mountain.

Once again, let me express my sincere gratitude to the National Civil War Centennial Commission for the high honor I have received here today. With deep appreciation, I accept this medallion on behalf of the members of our Maryland Civil War Centennial Commission and all the others who have worked to make this centennial observance a success. It is an inspiration to all of us to continue in our purpose to bring honor to the heroes of the past, to reaffirm the principles for which they lived and died and to rededicate ourselves to the causes of the great country in which we live.

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## ADDRESS, RATIFICATION DAY

### ANNAPOLIS

January 15, 1962

I am delighted to greet you on this occasion, and to share with you the observance of this anniversary of one of the most significant events in the history of our State and our nation. I hope this will continue through the years as an annual observance.

The occasion we commemorate today is known to historians, but to very few others. I have proclaimed it "Ratification Day" because exactly 178 years ago, right here in our own State House, the Treaty of Paris ending the American Revolution was ratified. The date of this Act of Ratification should be honored by Americans as highly as the Fourth of July. In the Declaration of Independence, we Americans said we were free. By the Treaty of Paris, England agreed. At that time, this historic building was the Capitol of the United States. No other state house has ever held this honor. It is therefore fitting that we should begin to commemorate Ratification Day here, in the very same building in which the event occurred.

"The shot heard round the world," had been fired nine years earlier. Two years had passed since Cornwallis had surrendered to Washington at Yorktown. General Sir Guy Carleton, with a strong British force, still occupied New York. Washington had expressed fear that the war might commence all over again and to quote him, "Prolong the calamities of it."