

States. I am leaving these thoughts with you with the hope that they may be of some inspiration to you, as legionnaires, to continue the splendid work you have done for so many years.

In conclusion, may I say that it is a genuine pleasure to be with you on this occasion. You have my best wishes for a successful convention and for an enjoyable visit in Baltimore.

ADDRESS, ADVERTISING CLUB LUNCHEON HONORING
MAJOR GENERAL MILTON A. RECKORD

BALTIMORE

November 11, 1959

A week ago I attended a luncheon with some of the members of my "official family"—heads of departments and members of my staff—and at the time I remarked that many of those present I had "inherited" from previous administrations.

In the group of "inherited" officials was Major General Milton A. Reckord, who as adjutant general is the State's ranking military officer and the chief adviser to me in the exercise of my constitutional responsibilities as Commander-in-Chief of the military forces of the State. General Reckord, in fact, had been "inherited" by all of my predecessors back to Governor Ritchie, who appointed him to that position back in 1920. Shortly before I took the oath of office as Governor, the newspapers of the State reported that General Reckord had announced his plan to retire as adjutant general. I wondered at the time how serious he was in this intention, and when I had an occasion to talk with him later, I asked him if he really wished to retire. He told me that the announcement was made to make it easy for me to name a new adjutant general if I saw fit, and then I asked him: "Will you keep the job?" His reply was: "I will if you want me to." That was a characteristic response of a good soldier to a call to duty, and it reminded me of another incident that occurred in the long and fruitful career of this man who is called Maryland's "most outstanding civilian soldier."

Just before reaching the statutory Army retirement age in 1943, I am told, General Reckord, already having served his country in various military capacities for more than four decades, received a note from General Marshall, then Chief of Staff, saying: "I know