

REMARKS, DEDICATION OF SHIP'S BELL, U.S.S. MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS

June 2, 1961

It is a pleasure to me, as Governor of the State, to welcome all of you to this hallowed spot which has been the seat of government of the province and State of Maryland since 1690. We have met here **today to dedicate this memorial to a great fighting ship of our Navy and to the men who served aboard her in war and in peace for almost 40 years. With the great United States Naval Academy situated here in our capital city, and with its long history as a maritime state, Maryland feels linked with strong ties of friendship to the United States Navy and all of its activities. We Marylanders have a deep sense of affection, in particular, for this battleship which bore the name of our State. We are proud of her illustrious and heroic history in battle—at Pearl Harbor, Saipan, Tarawa, Okinawa, Leyte.**

We are pleased and honored to have as a reminder of her glorious career, and of the gallantry of those who manned her, this splendid monument which we are dedicating here today. We all experienced **a feeling of deep sadness when obsolescence and change demanded the deactivation of the battleship Maryland, which, when first commissioned, was called the "largest and most formidable seafighter ever built. But the scrapyard could not erase the memories of her grand and splendid past, and we of Maryland are grateful that this old bell was preserved and will find a permanent resting place on the grounds of this historic State House. I should like to express the sincere appreciation of all the people of Maryland to the Department of the Navy for donating to us this ship's bell whose melodic tones you have just heard**

We are very fortunate in having with us today some of the men whose names figure prominently in the noble history of the U.S.S. **Maryland. The mighty fighting vessel served as the flagship of Admiral Harry W. Hill, by whose presence we are honored here today. His first assignment after his graduation from the Naval Academy 50 years ago this month, I am told, was the old cruiser Maryland, and his first assignment aboard the battleship Maryland was in 1928, where he served as gunnery officer. The battleship was used as his flagship in the ship bombardment of Tarawa atoll in 1944. An too, we are happy to have with us Mrs. Carl H. Jones, whose husband, the late Admiral Jones, was captain of the ship in**