

that engagement. And General Julian Smith, of the United States Marine Corps, who was in command of the landing force of Marines aboard the ship. And Captain Charles D. Beaumont, who a moment ago struck the bell six times, who served on the ship for many years and sounded the watch on that bell, as he says, "thousands of times."

We are honored to have this monument as a lasting reminder of this majestic craft which survived the bombardment of Pearl Harbor, and aerial torpedo off Saipan and suicide dive bombers in Leyte Gulf and off Okinawa. Let us dedicate the shrine to the memory of the brave men who manned her guns in heroic defense of the country we love and the freedom we cherish.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
BANQUET

BALTIMORE

September 16, 1961

It is my pleasant task this evening to extend greetings to all of you who are attending this 1961 Eastern States Conference of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and especially to welcome to Maryland those of you who have come here from other parts of the country. We are indeed happy to have you here as our guests. We hope that you will profit from your deliberations at this session, and we hope that your stay in our State will be a most pleasant one.

Several times since World War II—which we hoped, perhaps in vain, would be the war to end all wars—we have been on the brink of a third international disaster. Today, the crisis arising out of the Berlin situation is such as to arouse grave fear and anxiety in the hearts of all of us. This nation, and the other nations of the Free World, face, in communism, an enemy as powerful as it is cruel and ruthless. Under such conditions, the leadership of this country is confronted with a tremendous task in its effort to find lasting peace with justice in our troubled world. And under such circumstances, it is most gratifying to all of us to know that this leadership, while negotiating for a settlement of the crisis, is doing so from a position of strength It may be said with certainty that the hope for peace in the world depends on our remaining strong. And ultimately,