
CITIZENSHIP AND PATRIOTISM

Governor Tawes was always available to address gatherings dedicated to promoting citizenship and patriotism. He spoke of pride in country with a sincerity born of a deep knowledge of the historical role Maryland had played in the founding of this nation.

ADDRESS, FLAG DAY CEREMONIES FLAG HOUSE SQUARE, BALTIMORE

June 14, 1959

I am happy to join with you on this occasion to pay homage to the flag of our country. It is most proper that we should do this. The flag is the perpetual symbol of our nation. When we honor the flag, we signify our devotion to the nation for which it stands.

Our presence here today reaffirms our dedication to the principles and processes of government established by our founding fathers and maintained and supported through the years by generations of our people.

Marylanders, and especially the people of Baltimore, know well the history and meaning of our flag. And indeed they should, for no other flag has ever flown over this city since we became a nation. No other city, dating from colonial times, has been equally fortunate, not even our nation's capital!

Maryland's observance of Flag Day should have its center in Baltimore. And at this very spot, for here is the home of the woman whose artistry and labor created the flag which inspired the gallant defense of Fort McHenry. In this modest home there came into being the very flag "whose broad stripes and bright stars," emblazoned in the dawn's early light, kindled the fiery genius of Francis Scott Key. From this home the handiwork of Mary Pickersgill went forth into immortality as The Star Spangled Banner. That banner, now in the custody of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, was described recently as one of the nation's most priceless possession. That flag was born of the travail of war, Maryland's war—Maryland against the might of the British Empire.

We all know the story only too well—Washington sacked and burned, the President and his Lady forced to flee for their very lives, many