

of our sister states crying for capitulation to the enemy. The enemy considered the war won. There remained only one little chore—the capture of the City of Baltimore.

Fresh from his victory at Washington, the enemy came to Maryland. Seething with anger at Baltimore, home of the gallant clipper ships which consistently out-sailed and out-fought his navy, the enemy came seeking revenge and final victory. Rather than victory, he found defeat. Defeat at the hands of Maryland troops, armed and equipped by the people of Maryland and carrying the same flag their fathers had carried in the Revolutionary War. Instead of victory, the enemy's naval units met defiance, resistance and defeat from a fort erected and paid for by the people of Maryland. The war which the enemy had begun against the United States became in its final hours a war between Great Britain and the State of Maryland.

A Marylander made the great flag which was still there when the battle and the war ended. Marylanders paid for that flag. It was an inspired Maryland poet—in Maryland—who penned the words of the poem which today is our National Anthem. Truly, Marylanders, more than the people of any other state, should honor our flag. And they do.

In the awful conflict of the War Between the States, an aged lady in Frederick is said to have cried out "Shoot if you must this old gray head, but spare your country's flag." Some months later a citizen of Kingsville, in Baltimore County, reversed the Frederick lady's action. He peppered Confederate soldiers with buckshot when they ordered him to tear down his country's flag. For his bravery, his life was spared. As punishment, his home was burned.

One of my first official acts upon becoming Governor was to write the President of the United States, requesting him to designate Fort McHenry as the place where the first 49-star flag should be flown. In support of my suggestion, I recalled for Mr. Eisenhower Maryland's historic ties to our flag. I am happy to tell you that the President graciously complied with my request. He has designated the Honorable Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior, personally to arrange the event. With the full cooperation of the Department of Defense, Mr. Seaton has arranged a re-enactment of the bombardment of Fort McHenry. At one minute after midnight July 3rd, vessels of the United States Navy will begin the bombardment of the Fort. Army artillery will reply—and the first 49-star flag to fly officially will stream from the flag pole at Fort McHenry.