

ADDRESS, DEDICATION OF HARRY WILMER POST 82,  
AMERICAN LEGION

LA PLATA

- August 18, 1962

It is a delight to be here today among my friends of Charles County. And you have honored me greatly by inviting me to take part in these ceremonies in which we dedicate this handsome and useful addition to the hall of this American Legion post.

The Harry White Wilmer Post No. 82 of the American Legion has played a significant role in the social, cultural and civic life of this southern Maryland community. We all hope and expect that this improvement will add to the effectiveness of your effort in this field.

As a patriotic American citizen, with a deeply rooted reverence and affection for the great nation in which I was fortunate enough to be born, I have an understanding and a sincere appreciation of the tremendous contributions the American Legion and the other veterans' organizations have made to strengthen and perpetuate our American ideals and our American aims. The one main purpose of the Legion, since it was founded nearly a half century ago immediately after the First World War, has been to sustain and better this United States of America which has offered us a place in which we can live in freedom, in dignity and in self-respect.

I am dedicated, as I know all of you are, to the American creed, which was written by William Tyler Page and adopted by the House of Representatives of the United States in 1918. I like to recite these great principles of Americanism:

"I believe," it goes—"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people and for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic, a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon these principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag and to defend it against all enemies."

This is the creed of the American Legion; this is my creed; this is the creed of all good Americans.

During all the years of its existence, the American Legion has