eight, he would insist that the whole Congress move to Beresford's bedroom and ratify the treaty there. Finally, on January 13, the delegates from Connecticut arrived, and the very next day, Richard Beresford, now recovered from his illness, came to Annapolis. Without further ado, the Continental Congress met and ratified the treaty that same day and America was finally at peace as a free and independent nation. And all of this happened right here in Maryland, in our historic State House in Annapolis.

Now, 179 years after this historic event, our State House, a registered national historic landmark, still stands here as a proud reminder of Maryland's great role in American history. The Old Senate Chamber, the room in which the event took place, has been preserved just as it was then. It is here for all of us to see and appreciate.

Last fall, at my Conference on Travel Development, I said that thousands of visitors from other states and foreign lands are passing through Maryland without ever realizing that this State has played such a significant role in the history and progress of America. I stressed the need for signs and markers to point out to these people our historic shrines and scenic spots. Some of you may wonder why it is thought necessary to erect markers to identify this shrine of history. Well, we know for a fact that a great many visitors to Annapolis simply do not know what this building is. Many tourists confuse it with the Naval Academy. They look at it with admiration mixed with curiosity. After today, thanks to the Maryland Historical Society, visitors will know at a glance that this is one of the most significant shrines of American history.

On behalf of the people of Maryland, I would like to express my gratitude to Senator George Radcliffe, President of the Maryland Historical Society, and to the many others who have made these markers possible. I know that this is just the beginning of a program that will ultimately result in markers and signs being erected at all of our historic and scenic sites.