

German mercenaries who were reputed to be the best soldiers in the world. There was nothing for the Americans to do but retreat, and only one line of retreat was left open to them. It was narrow, and the enemy was moving to cut it off. It had to be held. Otherwise the struggle of the American colonies for independence would be over. The general in command sent in the Maryland line. There were 404 of them. They held 1700 of the enemy back. The rest of the American army escaped to this island, the island of Manhattan. When it was over, the 404 of the Maryland line were 96. 308 Marylanders had died, but not one had retreated. George Washington, when he learned of this superb rear-guard action, said the hour those Marylanders had bought at such tragic cost was "more precious to American liberty than any other in its history." And for 177 years Maryland has been known as the Old Line State, commemorating the Great Old Line that would not give, that saved our war for freedom.

Think of Maryland, then, when you see our American flag. Think of Maryland when you hear the National Anthem. Think of our independence as a nation when you hear Maryland called the Old Line State. Think, too, when you see the great capitol building in Washington, of our Maryland State House where, 30 years before the national capitol was built, our national life began.

We Marylanders cherish and revere the noble history of our State. We are proud of the part Maryland has played in the birth and development of our nation. It is our fondest hope that our role in the future may be as vital and as heroic as that of the past.

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## ADDRESS, GOVERNOR'S DAY

LA PLATA

August 17, 1963

Mr. Chairman, officers and members of the Harry White Wilmer Post No. 82, American Legion and the Post's Auxiliary, national and state representatives of the Legion, members of the Smallwood Foundation, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am grateful to you for the compliment you have paid me by designating as "Governor's Day" this gay and lively celebration. It is heart-warming and soul-satisfying to be so honored. It is always a delight to me, as a Marylander, to come to this part of our State so