

through Maryland, Delaware, and into Philadelphia, where the Congress was meeting, with the triumphant tidings: "Cornwallis is taken." Subsequently, General Washington came to Annapolis, and, in the old Senate chamber of our State House, which is now a shrine of our freedom, surrendered his commission as Commander-in-Chief. We Marylanders are proud of the fact that it was a Marylander, Thomas Johnson, who nominated Washington for the position of Commander-in-Chief, and that it was to Maryland that Washington came to resign that commission.

Such, then, is a brief account of the heroic role our great State played in the war which gave birth to this nation. It is appropriate on this occasion, I think, that we pause and reflect upon the manly deeds of the heroes of that war. You here who are members of this Post of the American Legion—you who have fought in global wars to secure and safeguard the freedoms gained in this the first war of our Republic—are the spiritual descendants of the heroes of Long Island, Camden, Cowpens, King's Mountain, Guilford Court House, Eutaw Springs and Yorktown. We rejoice that we are able to come here today to this shrine of liberty—to Smallwood's Retreat—as free men of the greatest nation on earth. And we are conscious that for this freedom we are indebted to gallant men who fought the battles of the United States of America in the War of Independence, the War of 1812, the War between the States and in the two World Wars of this country. And as we fervently pray for peace, in a world rife with turmoil, let us remember these words from the song, "Hail, Columbia."

"Let independence be our boast,
Ever mindful what is cost;
Ever grateful for the prize,
Let its altar reach the skies."

ADDRESS, RATIFICATION DAY
ANNAPOLIS
January 14, 1964

I welcome you here to the Maryland State House today with sincere pleasure and very deep personal satisfaction. This satisfaction stems from the fact that of all of the governors of the 50 states, I am the only one who is able to perform his official functions in a state capitol