

the opening of this commemoration program four years ago just a few miles from here, when the General Assembly met in Frederick to observe the 100th anniversary of the "extra session" of April, 1861, in which Maryland took its stand for the Union. That was the beginning and this the end of our four-year tribute to the heroic men, in Blue and in Grey, who fought in the great battles of the American Civil War.

It is appropriate at this time, therefore, that I express my gratitude, and the gratitude of all the people of Maryland, to the Maryland Civil War Centennial Commission, to the various local commissions and committees and to all the organizations and individuals without whose assistance this commemoration would not have been possible. It has been my happy privilege to have attended many of the events of this program, and on each occasion I have been delighted by how effectively they were carried out. Of those I have not been able to attend I have heard nothing but glowing reports about their success. I am proud, as I know all of you are, of the prominent part Maryland has played in this nation-wide observance of this centennial.

I should like to commend and express my appreciation also to the Frederick County Centennial Committee, certainly one of the most active and effective of all the groups which have participated in the centennial program. The people of Frederick—the county and the city—did not forget that some of the most significant events of that war took place in or around this area of our State. They did not forget that sons of Frederick, on both sides, were among the most illustrious and renowned of the figures who had a part in that struggle—General Bradley Johnson, General James Cooper, and the legendary Barbara Fritchie.

It is not my purpose here this afternoon to retell the story of the Battle of Monocacy or to evaluate its significance in the history of our State and our nation. Others more competent than I already have done this. The inscription upon the marker which we are dedicating states the case briefly and well. It was the battle of the Civil War that saved our nation's capital.

On the field, as the legend states, it was a victory for the Confederates under General Jubal Early and a defeat for the Union forces of General Lew Wallace. But the invading southern troops, on their way through Maryland to sack Washington and capture the valuable arsenal and supplies there, were halted here on this beautiful countryside. The Confederate troops, outnumbering the Union defenders, could not be stopped, and could be delayed for only one day. But what an