

Trooper. Not long ago, a family from a New England state was bound for Washington to pay their respects to our late President, John F. Kennedy. Their car developed mechanical trouble on the Northeast Expressway and they felt certain that, because of this, they would miss the funeral in Washington. A State Trooper came to their assistance, arranged for them to be towed to a garage for repairs and, within hours, this family resumed its journey. Later they wrote to me to express their thanks. This, of course, was a small incident but it is typical of the courtesy of the Maryland State Police and it illustrates so well the reasons why our State Police Department is so highly respected throughout the country.

Those of you who are receiving your diplomas today have demonstrated to your instructors that you have the courage, the will, the intelligence and the high character that is required of a State trooper. What you have learned here at this academy will be invaluable to you as you pursue your new careers. I would hope, however, that you do not abandon your willingness to learn as you leave this Academy today. Eventually, some of you will return here to instruct a new group of recruits. Others of you will be called upon to teach local law enforcement officials new techniques. We are depending upon you not only to enforce the laws of Maryland as they exist today but in assisting in the training of other law enforcement recruits who will seek to follow in your footsteps. I am confident that you will set a good example. Do for them what your predecessors have done for you.

You gentlemen assembled here today have been drawn from Baltimore City and 17 of the 25 counties of Maryland but, in a very true sense, you represent the State. The badge and the uniform you will wear are the symbols of the dignity and the solemnity of the law. Guard them well—for in taking your oath of office you have assumed a public trust to protect and preserve the good name, reputation and integrity of the Maryland State Police and, indeed, of the State itself.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to congratulate all of you for completing your training here at the Academy. You have the confidence of the finest law enforcement experts in the country and you have my warm wishes for success and happiness in your chosen profession.