

there is no one more qualified than he to be called that. Not "Mr. Maryland National Guard," for the reputation and the scope of activities of General Reckord are not provincial. He is "Mr. National Guard, U.S.A."

His service as a Guardsman dates back to the beginning of this century, when, in 1901, he enlisted in Company D of the 1st Maryland Infantry in Bel Air. Not long afterward, he took command of that company, and 1916 found him commanding a battalion on the Mexican border. On active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1917, he was second in command of the 115th Infantry, the Maryland regiment of the newly organized 29th Division. As a colonel during World War I, he led the 115th overseas, through its combat service in France and back home in May of 1919. He commanded the Maryland Brigade of the 29th Division until 1934, when he took command of the Division and led it into federal service in 1941, relinquishing it upon reaching the maximum age limit for Division commanders. He commanded the Third Corps Area, later known as the Third Service Command, in the early part of World War II. The story goes that just before reaching the statutory retirement age in 1943, General Reckord received a note from General Marshall, then Chief of Staff, saying: "I know you don't want to leave the service until its all over. Would you be interested in going to Europe as the Theater Provost Marshal?" General Reckord's reply was, "I'll go anywhere you want me to go."

This was a characteristic response of a man trained, taught and experienced as a soldier. It is the kind of response—a recognition of the obligation to duty—that those of us who worked with General Reckord in the service of the public knew we could expect of him always. Go to Europe he did, as Theater Provost Marshal in the European Theater of Operations. After the war, he took over the chairmanship of the general staff committee which drew up War Department policies affecting the National Guard and the reserves. Then, at the age of 66, he was relased from active duty. He resumed his duties as the Adjutant General of Maryland, a position to which he was first appointed in 1920.

As one who has enjoyed his friendship and benefited immeasurably from association with him, I am grateful for this opportunity to pay tribute to General Milton A. Reckord. I have the honor, General Reckord, of presenting to you this silver platter which reads: "Milton A. Reckord 1901-1964. In appreciation from the people of Maryland."

All of us deeply appreciate the loyal service you have given to this State and this nation, and we wish you many, many more years of happiness and success.