

and to our waterways for adventure and recreation but it is to the Power Squadrons of the United States to whom these same individuals look for guidance in safe boating practices. Your classes in small boat handling, in piloting, navigation, seamanship and boat maintenance have opened a water wonderland to thousands of our fellow citizens while at the same time preparing them for occasional hazard that destiny includes in the charts.

As many of you know, I am now entering the twilight of my second term as Governor of Maryland. However, my interest in preserving the waters of our State and Nation for boating and other forms of recreation remains as strong as the day I first took the oath of my office. Last Wednesday, for example, Maryland's Department of Forests and Parks announced plans for a State park to be constructed at the head of the Severn River—a park that will include a several hundred acre lake. And during the last session of the Maryland General Assembly, legislation was enacted earmarking several hundred thousand dollars in revenues collected from boat owners in Maryland to the improvement of our waterways.

The people of Maryland, of Virginia and, indeed, of the Nation, look to their public officials for the action necessary to preserve our waterways for the recreational pursuits of present and future generations of Americans. But they look to the Power Squadrons of the United States for their safety and for instruction so that they are prepared to enjoy these recreational benefits.

Speaking on behalf of the people of Maryland and, I am sure, on behalf of boat lovers throughout the Nation, I wish to thank all of you for the splendid contributions you have made in promoting the safety and health of your fellow citizens. It is, indeed, an honor and a privilege for me to be here with you today and I look forward to joining you again in the future.