

General Washington and he was given a vote of thanks by Congress in 1780 for his later heroism at the Battle of Camden, South Carolina.

He remained in the Army until November 15, 1783. William Paca was then serving as the third Governor of Maryland.

On his return to civilian life, like some other military heroes of the day, he was the people's choice for elective office. He was elected to Congress in 1785, but before he could begin his duties in that office he was chosen in November of that same year to be Governor of Maryland.

General Smallwood served three consecutive one-year terms as Governor. We probably remember less about his accomplishments because, at that period in its history, the new and fledgling republic had reached its low water mark as an independent nation. The colonies had granted very small power to its central government, and the country was generally in a chaotic state.

It was during the Smallwood Administration that the Constitution of the United States was ratified by Maryland — on April 28, 1788.

Governor Smallwood's Administration also witnessed the beginning of the work to improve the navigation of the Potomac River, the settlement of the claims of British creditors and the devising of methods of paying the national debt. I am sure he would find incredible the national debt today.

He was succeeded in office in 1788 by General John Eager Howard, also of Revolutionary War fame, and retired to his estate here in Southern Maryland. He died at Mattawoman less than four years later at the age of 60, still unmarried.

He was a dedicated patriot and a conscientious and able public servant. It is fitting that we recognize him as such in this ceremony today, and that you preserve in bronze for future generations the memory that here lived a great Marylander.

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