

While Douglass was primarily interested in the emancipation of the Negro slaves, his thoughts and actions revealed a profound comprehension of freedom's implication.

He sought political freedom for all, not just the Negro, and was an impassioned advocate of women's suffrage and women's rights.

He recognized with freedom and rights go responsibility and organized Massachusetts' celebrated Negro regiments offering his own sons as the first recruits.

From his close friendship with English liberals, Douglass conceived a broader meaning for emancipation. Emancipation was more than physical freedom; it was social equality founded upon economic and spiritual opportunity.

Douglass' logic and life have significant contemporary meaning.

While we continue to struggle for human rights, we must not limit the struggle to just one minority or one nation.

Civil rights cannot survive without civil responsibilities and above all, civil order.

Freedom is more than physical access; it is as Douglass conceived, equality in social, economic and spiritual opportunity. Government, civic and religious organizations, and the individual have an opportunity and an obligation in this sphere.

I am honored to accept this citation on behalf of the State of Maryland. I am grateful for your recognition of the role state government can play in expanding human rights and enlarging human opportunities.

I am proud that during my administration, Maryland's first "fair housing" law was enacted, public accommodations statutes were extended and Maryland's first Code of Fair Employment Practices for State Service was promulgated by Executive Order.

While I feel this record is commendable, I am not complacent. My administration is committed to making the achievements of this first year but the first step on an unwavering path to progress.

In this turbulent time — at home and abroad — the A. M. E. Church stands as a citadel of hope.

The A. M. E. Church — proudly Negro yet just as proudly American — has continued to build where others would burn.

The A. M. E. Church represents generations of outstanding Americans who have kept their dignity in the face of indignation and released their indignation with a sense of dignity.