

MARYLAND DAY
WESTMINSTER INTRA-CLUB BANQUET

March 24, 1942
Westminster

THIS is a day of commemoration. The people of Maryland have set apart the 25th of March in each year for the purpose of calling to mind the ideals, the men, and the achievements which have distinguished the history of our past. Maryland Day is designed to cause and help us to remember the notable contributions made to the common good by illustrious characters amongst those who have preceded us, thereby nurturing and stimulating that patriotism without which no people can be, or remain great. Such an institution deserves the fullest recognition and appreciation. Through such an agency our children will be trained. Through the full observance of the day and its significance our whole people are led to rededicate themselves to those causes for which our ancestors struggled, and many of them died.

It cannot be emphasized too often that the quality of a people finds no better measure than is found in the quality of the men and things to which they pay honor. The chief benefit to be derived from the celebration of an occasion such as this is found, not in the fact that it tends to encourage the average citizen in the emulation of the transactions of a noble past, but in the fact that such celebrations emphasize the importance of a fuller knowledge of that past, and works a complete remembrance thereof.

After all, one of the chief qualities distinguishing man from the balance of the animal world, lays in his capacity to remember—and hence reason. It may be said to follow that one of the characteristics most distinguishing men amongst men is that some, in the larger sense, remember better than do the others.

The catalog of men and things to be known and remembered amongst those Marylanders and achievements of first rank, we are proud to say, is a long one—too long for any attempted recitation here. However, some of the contributions made to our history, and by our people to the Nation at large, will bear enumeration on every Maryland Day.

A vivid idea of the magnitude of the contribution made by our forefathers towards the gaining of our National Freedom, and the setting up of our National Government, will always be brought to mind by the mention of the names of Carroll, Chase, and Martin in the Council—Barney, Nicholson and Wickes on the sea—Smallwood, Gist, the Maryland Line and Howard on the land—while a few years later, that other Marylander, Stephen Decatur, carried to victory on the shores of the Mediterranean itself, the defiant challenge of our infant Nation.

Maryland's contribution to the National good in statecraft, law, letters,