

No. 7

(Senate Joint Resolution 28)

Senate Joint Resolution sending warm greetings and sincere congratulations to the people of Dorchester County upon the observance of the county's 300th anniversary.

WHEREAS, The members of the General Assembly of Maryland are proud to salute and congratulate the people and the government of Dorchester County upon the observance of the county's 300th anniversary as a part of the governmental framework of the State of Maryland.

On February 4, 1669, Governor Charles Calvert and his Council issued a writ to Raymond Stapleford, Sheriff of the area destined to become Dorchester County, directing that on April 13 following, he hold an election of delegates to attend the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland.

At the time of the election, the Honorable Robert Preston was chosen to serve as the first Delegate representing Dorchester County. Commissioners were appointed to govern the county, and a Clerk and Keeper of the Records was named.

Over the years, Dorchester County has produced an outstanding set of local, State, and national leaders. They have included Brigadier General Henry Hooper, Major Daniel Fallin, and other brave men who served during the Revolutionary War; William Vans Murray, who served as George Washington's Minister to The Hague; Governor Thomas Holliday Hicks, who is credited with keeping Maryland within the Union; Anna Ella Carroll, an official advisor to Abraham Lincoln, and sometimes known as an unofficial member of Lincoln's Cabinet; Harriett Tubman, one of the leaders of the Underground Railroad; Governors John Henry, Charles Goldsborough, Henry Lloyd, Phillips L. Goldsborough, and Emerson C. Harrington, who, with distinction, all filled the office of Governor of Maryland; and Senator George L. Radcliffe, a descendant of an early settler, a civic leader, and sometimes known as the Dean of Maryland Historians.

Yet, with all these great leaders, the core of the development and progress of Dorchester County has been in the sturdy yeomanry who first settled the county and the independent, industrious, and enlightened citizenry who have preserved and constantly improved this fine, old Maryland county.

Dorchester County was named for the Earl of Dorset, a family friend of the Calverts.

The county is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, rich farmlands, productive waters, outstanding beauty, and great human resources. The people are warm and hospitable, proud of their historical heritage, and reluctant to relinquish even a small shred of their independence and self-expression.

The General Assembly of Maryland, proudly recalling its own heritage as the seat of legislative power in Maryland for more than three and one-third centuries, sends warm and affectionate greetings to its County of Dorchester and to the outstanding civilian population and governmental leaders of Dorchester County.