

a policeman and a German immigrant mother, he was one of 11 children. Through dedication, imagination and determined hard work, he became one of 20th century Maryland's most effective and distinguished public leaders.

His achievements in government are reflected in every corner of Maryland: in her universities and hospitals, her roadways and public parks, and in countless other public projects whose realization is a tribute to the Governor's foresight and innovation. But Theodore McKeldin's most significant contribution lies in his enduring impact on the hearts and minds of the fellow citizens he loved so deeply. He was described as "a man for the people and of the people," for Governor McKeldin delighted in the company of people. He especially loved the brilliant tapestry of America's religious, racial and ethnic heritage, which constitutes the strength of our Nation. He treasured the rich diversity of our traditions, and he relished his own active participation in them. Whether quoting a solemn passage from the Torah, recounting with great sensitivity the epic life of Baltimore's revered Cardinal Gibbons, or delivering a powerful sermon in a Protestant church, Theodore McKeldin always displayed his unique understanding of all that is fundamental to American life.

The Governor's profound religious conviction was the key to both his personal and his public life. He was not a man for whom religious pieties served as gestures, to be uttered as rhetorical flourishes. His religious sense grew out of a strong and deeply rooted personal commitment to his God; it found expression in his sympathy for the underdog and the downtrodden, in his sincere and righteous indignation at injustice, in his unflinching efforts at conciliation with those who disagreed with him. He often said that his goal was always "to encourage the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God."

With the death of Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, the citizens of Maryland and of our entire Nation have lost more than a political personality, a mayor or a Governor. Throughout his long and distinguished career in public service he remained ahead of his time in his concern for the economically deprived, for racial, religious, and ethnic minorities, and for others whom our society is often too busy to remember.

He was a moral leader with an unshakable commitment to justice and equality of opportunity; to his great credit and our lasting benefit, he was able to translate that commitment into public policies and programs which won the support and respect of the voters of Maryland. I