

In Calvert, Goldstein's Office A Shrine

When you looked through the door, you saw walls, all four walls, filled with certificates and plaques.

They looked good, though. Someone who knew how to do it arranged them," says Betty Weems, longtime secretary to Louis Lazarus Goldstein in Prince Frederick.

In time, we'll all be able to look through the door and see the scene that Weems describes and more. The Annapolis office of Calvert County's favorite son, Louis Goldstein — beloved tax collector and Maryland's comptroller for 40 years, before his death July 3, 1998, at age 85 — is packed away and stored at the Maryland Archeological Laboratory at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in Calvert County.

Goldstein's office at the Treasury Building, including the paneling, his desk and chair and four walls of memories — certificates, medals, awards and five honorary



doctorates — was photographed and then painstakingly taken apart. Each piece was carefully wrapped, then shipped to Calvert County. In addition to his office memorabilia, Goldstein's collection throughout 59 years of public service, previously stored in the basement of the Treasury Building in Annapolis, is stored at the lab, too.

All these materials await the new building that will house a replica of his office. "Huge amounts of videos, tapes of his radio shows and copies of speeches: they'll make a wonderful interactive exhibit," says Mike Smolek, director of The Jefferson



**Fifty-nine years
worth of honors
and mementos
from Louis
Goldstein's life
in public office
were moved —
along with his
office — to
Jefferson
Patterson Park
and Museum.**



Patterson Park and Museum. "This park is about learning the good history lessons to be learned," Smolek added, striking a theme dear to Louis Goldstein's heart.

The exhibit is the brainchild of another son of Calvert, Bobby Swann, deputy comptroller to Goldstein and now to Comptroller William Donald Schaeffer. Swann and the Goldstein family thought it appropriate to have Goldstein memorialized in the county of his family's roots, where he was born, lived, married and brought up his children; the county he represented and loved.

Sharing the addition to Jefferson Patterson Park with Goldstein will be exhibits of Maryland's history and an introduction to the park itself.

Gov. Parris Glendening has included \$196,000 in design money in this year's budget. Next year, \$1.8 million will be requested to construct a building to be completed in 2002. The new building, not an elaborate or ornate structure, will be

and fit in with the park's rural setting.

There are many reasons why Jefferson Patterson Park is a fitting place for Goldstein's office. The state park is the result of a generous donation from Mrs. Jefferson Patterson, brokered by Goldstein. "Louis had a strong role in negotiating the original terms of the gift with Mrs. Patterson," explains Smolek. An active supporter of the park, Goldstein headed the Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park and donated a parcel of Patuxent waterfront property to it.

Goldstein's love of history is legendary. "Louis used history to light the path into the future," Smolek remembers. Goldstein met with schoolchildren throughout the years of his public service, taking them through the State House and explaining its history to them.

Adds Swann: "His love of history came from his teacher Cathy Bond Duke. She taught him a love of Maryland and Maryland history. He became part of that history himself."

Goldstein lived Maryland's history and took his place in its telling. He started his career in elective office in 1939 as Calvert's delegate to the Maryland General Assembly. He moved to the State Senate from 1947 to 1958, serving as its president for three years. During this time, he was floor leader for the state sales tax, sponsored legislation to control the discharge of oil into the Bay and sponsored the 1954 Sunshine Law, giving the public access to government meetings. Elected as comptroller in 1958, he served with 11 Maryland governors. At the time of his death, he was running for reelection to his 11th term. No one has served in elected office in Maryland — possibly any state — longer than Goldstein.

History didn't end at the office for Louis L. Goldstein. He was surrounded by it at home in Calvert at Oakland Hall, built in the 1850s and restored lovingly by him and his wife, Hazel.

When the Louis room is ready we'll be able to live Maryland history through his eyes and his life. "Louis would be pleased to know that his collection is in Calvert, his own county," says former State Sen. Bernie Fowler. "He was a beacon to me always saying, 'May God bless y'all real good with continued success, good health and happiness.'"

Nor does Goldstein's legacy end there:

Found in Goldstein General File, Calvert County Historical Society

on March 21, the Maryland National Guard named its Prince Frederick Armory in his memory. "Mr. Goldstein was a great and good friend of the Maryland National Guard, as time and again he was instrumental in the construction and renovation of armories throughout our state," said Maryland's Adjutant General, James. F. Fretterd.

—Carol Glover