

Goldstein statue moving ahead, with state blessing

Longtime Maryland Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein, who died in July 1998 after nearly 40 years in the job, is getting a statue — at a cost, to the taxpayers of \$150,000.

The statue was debated in the fall when the idea was first broached by Robert L. Swann, Goldstein's longtime deputy who succeeded him for six months as comptroller. Swann wanted the statue quickly — and without General Assembly approval — but other state officials objected. They pointed out that Goldstein, a stickler for following appropriate processes, would not have been happy with Swann's corner-cutting.

Faced with such complaints, Swann slowed the process, and the legislature signed off on the project this year, approving the use of state funds for the memorial.

Officials also held a competition to select an artist, and sculptor Jay Hall Carpenter was selected to cast a bronze likeness of the man almost everyone called "Louie."

The statue will stand outside the Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building, where Goldstein worked for decades. Carpenter's design depicts Goldstein smiling, his right hand holding one of his trademark gold coins — which he handed out by the tens of thousands — with the words, "God bless you all real good."

Goldstein will join a rather small number of Marylanders who have had their likenesses placed on the grounds of the State House complex — with the two best known being former Supreme Court Justices Roger B. Taney and Thurgood Marshall.