

Installation of Portrait  
of  
Thomas E. Conlon



March 14, 2000  
3:00 p.m.  
House of Delegates Chamber  
The Maryland State House  
Annapolis

Thomas E. Conlon  
(1883-1943)  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

Thomas E. Conlon was born June 27, 1883 in Toledo, Ohio. It was there that he began his long and successful career with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at the age of seventeen. His work with the railroad took him to Pittsburgh and Baltimore, where he earned his law degree at the University of Baltimore in 1928. On May 27, 1908, he married Marcella Elizabeth Quigley of Pittsburgh, and the couple subsequently had three sons and three daughters. Known as a family man, Speaker Conlon once remarked that raising and educating his six children was his greatest achievement.

In 1934, Thomas Conlon assumed his first position in the Maryland Legislature as a delegate from Baltimore City. He was subsequently re-elected to the House in 1938 and 1942. In 1939, he was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates, a position he held until his death in 1943. He was known by his colleagues as quiet and decisive, someone who took his job seriously and tolerated little disorder in the House when he was Speaker. One of the first things he did as Speaker was to banish lobbyists from the floor of the House, which he accomplished over their persistent objections.

After Speaker Conlon's death, Governor Herbert O'Connor paid tribute to him, remarking that "Maryland has lost one of its most conscientious public officers in the passing of Thomas Conlon. He was an ideal and faithful public representative, and his passing saddens me greatly."

Installation Ceremony  
for the Portrait of  
Thomas E. Conlon  
March 14, 2000

Program

**Welcome and Introduction of Speakers**

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.

*Speaker of the House of Delegates*

**Presentation of Portrait**

Marcella Conlon Cooke

Terre Conlon Thompson

**Acceptance of Portrait**

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.

## The State Owned Art Collections

Maryland is fortunate to own an impressive collection of portraits of important Marylanders, including the four signers of the Declaration of Independence in the Senate Chamber and portraits of more recent governors in the Governor's Reception Room. In the Old Senate Chamber is found the famous portrait of *Washington, Lafayette, and Tilghman at Yorktown* by the renowned portraitist Charles Willson Peale. The portraits of early governors of Maryland in the Old Senate Chamber are also by Peale. In the House of Delegates Chamber, there are portraits of former Speakers of the House of Delegates. This portrait of Thomas E. Conlon was donated to the state by Mr. Conlon's daughter, Marcella Conlon Cooke.

The state also owns the Peabody Art Collection which includes portraits of a number of prominent Marylanders, including Governor William Paca; John Paca, father of Governor Paca; Daniel Dulany the Elder; John Pendleton Kennedy; and George Peabody himself who endowed the Peabody Institute in Baltimore and made possible this extraordinary collection of paintings, sculpture, miniatures, pastels, decorative arts, manuscripts, photographs, and works on paper. The state's art collections are administered by the Commission on Artistic Property of the Maryland State Archives and many of the works in them can be seen on the Archives' website: [mdsa.net](http://mdsa.net)

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*Front: Thomas E. Conlon  
by Graham Whitlock*

*Maryland Commission on Artistic Property MSA SC 1545-3006*

***Prepared for the House of Delegates  
by the Maryland State Archives***