

Washington D.C.
July 1st 1857

Sir,

With deep sensibility of the distinguished honor conferred upon me by the State of Maryland, I have the gratification to acknowledge the receipt of your highly esteemed communication of Dec. 30th accompanied with the resolutions of the General Assembly and the beautiful sword prepared by you in accordance with the resolutions.

In acknowledging such an act of courtesy and kindness I trust I may be permitted to say that it comes home to my heart and touches me more nearly than any such testimonial from any other source save and except only the Government of my Country, which for the period of thirty nine years I have tried to serve to the best of my ability with great honor and fidelity.

The appreciation of my gallantry and good conduct displayed upon repeated and trying occasions during the late war with Great Britain the war with Spain and more recently the war with Mexico "with the high sense of the value of my military services" which you kindly assure me the people and the representatives of the people of my honored nation state entertain, cannot but serve to minister to my pride as a soldier and gratify me as your fellow citizen. In return for the many kindly expressions of your letter and conveying through you my profound and cordial acknowledgments to the State you have the honor to govern I would beg to say that if ever occasion shall serve my State will not have reason to regret the honor conferred upon me. This honor will be treasured by my children as the most precious heirloom long after it shall cease to be of service to the honored present recipient.

Believe me dear Sir
With regard & respect
Yours and. H. Serv^t

D. Riley
Br. Brig. Gen. U.S. Army

His Excellency
Philip Thomas Thomas
Governor &c.
Annapolis
Md.