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April 2, 1937

Hon. Harry W. Nice,
Governor,
Annapolis, Maryland

Your Excellency:

I note in this morning 's "Sun" that S. B. 325 to eliminate Maryland Day, March 25th, and Defender's Day, September 12th, as state holidays was passed yesterday by the Maryland Senate.

I am sure that this movement does not have your sympathy, but fearing that it might get by unnoticed, I would, on behalf of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, protest the enactment of this bill and sincerely hope that you will veto it if it should come to you for signature.

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

COPY

April 2, 1937

Hon. William H. Blakeman
Director of the Budget
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Blakeman:

I am inclosing in this a copy of a letter to Governor Nice protesting the enactment of S. B. 325 to eliminate Maryland Day, March 25th, and Defender's Day, September 12th, as state holidays.

I hope that you will see Governor Nice and ask him, on behalf of our patriotic societies, to veto this bill if it should be brought to him for signature.

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

COPY

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.

April 2, 1937

Hon. Harry W. Nice,
Governor,
Annapolis, Maryland

Your Excellency:

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I am sure that this movement does not have your sympathy, but fearing that it might get by unnoticed, I would, on behalf of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, protest the enactment of this bill and sincerely hope that you will veto it if it should come to you for signature.

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

February 9, 1978

Hon. Benjamin L. Cardin, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
House of Delegates
Annapoles, Maryland

Re: H B 676
Abolishing Legal Holidays
Maryland Day
Defender's Day

Dear Delegate Cardin,

I am writing as the President of the Society of The War of 1812 in The State of Maryland to register its voice in opposition to the passage of the above House Bill No. 676 which proposes to abolish Maryland Day (March 25th) and Defender's Day, September 12th as Legal Holidays in Maryland.

I request that I be notified of the date, time and place of any hearing that may be scheduled of said Bill so that I may appear in behalf of the Society of the War of 1812 and speak in opposition to said Bill.

To eliminate Defender's Day, as a State Holiday would be to cast away the remembrance and commemoration of Baltimore's and Maryland's greatest and most historic moment in the history of our Nation and the inspiration for the writing of our National Anthem.

Defender's Day commemorates the Battle of Baltimore on September 12, 1812. The British had burned our National Capitol and our government had been forced to flee. The Chesapeake Bay was dominated by the British fleet. The British Army had landed at North Point and was marching toward Baltimore. The British fleet were assembled in the Patapsco River poised to attack Fort McHenry. If Baltimore could be captured and controlled the route from North to South would have been controlled by The British and the Nation thereby cut in half. Citizens of Baltimore, merchants, artisans, laborers, bankers, shippers, all dropped their work and moved with gun and shovel to defend the City, repulsing the attack both by land and by sea. When the British withdrew in defeat the Flag was still there,-- flying over Fort McHenry. The tide had been turned in our second war against British domination.

Is there a more appropriate and meaningful moment in the history of Maryland and of Baltimore, the birthplace of our National Anthem.

To abolish Maryland Day, (March 25th) commemorating the founding of the State is to destroy its certificate and celebration of its birth.

For these reasons the abolishing of both Defender's Day and Maryland

February 9, 1978

#2

Hon. Benjamin L. Cardin, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland.

Re: H. H. 676
Abolishing Legal Holidays
Maryland Day
Defender's Day

is strongly opposed, and it is hoped that H B 676 will be defeated
and die in your Committee.

Respectfully,

S. Vannort Chapman, President
Society of the War of 1812 in
the State of Maryland

SVC/ac

February 10, 1978

Richard N. Hambleton, Esq,
P. O. Box 1746
Annapolis, Md. 21204

Re: H.B. 676 - Legal Holidays-
Abolished

Dear Dick,

The above House Bill, No. 676 proposes to abolish "Maryland Day" March 25th and "Defender's Day" September 12th as Legal State Holidays.

As absurd as this may seem the bill was introduced by Representative Jacques and a hearing will be held on Friday, February 24th at 12:30 in Room 110, House of Delegates.

I hope you can come to the hearing to express opposition.

Thanks,

SVC/ac

S. Vannort Chapman

Move to cut holidays sparks no celebration

By DONALD KIMELMAN
Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

Annapolis—"Mr. Chairman, I want to say at the outset I have no quarrel with state employees, historical societies, Italian-Americans or veteran groups

...."
With that disclaimer, Delegate Robert A. Jacques (D., Montgomery) began his explanation of why the state should no longer close its offices for Defender's Day, Maryland Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day.

"I'm aware of the significance of these days," Delegate Jacques, a former history teacher, told the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday. "But very few Marylanders are all that worked up about it."

State employees presently take off 14 paid holidays a year in addition to their normal vacation days. Every other year they get an extra holiday on Election Day.

The holidays each cost the state about \$4.1 million in lost labor, Mr. Jacques said, and are generally not appreciated by the workers who take the day off.

"I'd like to see all state holidays abolished," Mr. Jacques said. "We will observe every important occasion, but we will not close down the state for it."

Mr. Jacques said the four holidays he seeks to eliminate had lost their meaning to most people.

He said Veterans Day, for example, was just a substitute for Armistice Day, which lost its significance when it turned out that World War I was not "the war to end all wars."

"Having Veterans Day and Memorial Day confuses people as to the significance of what each means," Mr. Jacques said, adding that more emphasis should be placed on Memorial Day as a celebration of military valor.

As for Columbus Day, Mr. Jacques noted that Christopher Columbus never made it to the American mainland on his four journeys to the New World.

Mr. Jacques's insistence that the four holidays should still be celebrated by those who care did little to allay the fears of the holidays' defenders, who tes-



The "Old Defenders" of Baltimore in 1814 are shown as they gathered for their annual parade and reunion here 56 years later.

tified en masse against the bill.

"Defenders Day is the greatest day in the history of Maryland," said S. Vanort Chapman, representing the Society of the War of 1812. "It celebrates the citizen-soldier, the men who took up their shovels and guns and defended the city of Baltimore."

He then proceeded to recount the important battles of the War of 1812, culminating with the shelling of Fort M'Henry and the routing of the British at the Battle of North Point.

Mary-Paulding Martin, director of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House,

presented the committee with a miniature of the flag with 15 stars and stripes that inspired the writing of the National Anthem.

John F. McNulty, a 76-year-old former naval officer and veteran of two world wars, took up the cudgels for Veterans Day.

"I feel we should keep the image of our country and bring it home to our young children growing up," Mr. McNulty, representing the American Legion and Maryland veterans' groups, said. "If we don't teach them respect for the country, God help us."

The president of the Maryland Colonial Society offered a defense of Maryland Day, while representatives of state employees' unions spoke in favor of all the holidays.

All received sympathetic treatment from the committee members, several of whom made their speeches in defense of patriotism and the importance of maintaining a sense of history.

"Let's face it. This is hopeless," Mr. Jacques said after the hearing. "But even if we don't eliminate any of these holidays, we might at least put a lid on it."

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THE SUN

Saturday, February 25, 1978

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Delegate Wants to Pare Md. Holidays

By Judith Valente
Washington Post Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS—Montgomery County Del. Robert Jacques swears he's not a curmudgeon and hardly, being a former history teacher, unpatriotic.

Jacques says he simply believes that the number of holidays Maryland state employees can take in commemoration of historic events is getting out of hand and costing the state too much for the premium pay it must give to those who work on the holidays.

So, with the air of a man who's about to tell his children there really is no Santa Claus Jacques spoke before the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday to try to win support for a bill he is sponsoring that would abolish Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Maryland Day and Defenders' Day as legal holidays in Maryland.

He found himself straining to avoid appearing anti-American or antilabor to the likes of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Joint Veterans Commission of Maryland, the Society of the War of 1812 and the Baltimore museum known as the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, all of which sent representatives to oppose Jacques' bill.

"I'm not saying these holidays are not significant," Jacques said. But, he pointed out, one could find some historic significance for every day of the year. "June 15 happens to be my birthday . . . it also happens to be the day of the signing of the Magna Carta," he said.

According to John McNulty, 76, a member the Joint Veterans Commission of Maryland, abolishing such legal holidays as Veterans' Day and Maryland Day, which commemorates the founding of the state in 1634, would be setting an undesirable example for the youth of America.

"If we don't teach the history of their country and respect of their country, God help us . . . we have to teach our children growing up what America stands for, what God and country stands for," McNulty said in an emotional appeal before the committee.

Jacques says he doubts most Marylanders know what historic event they are commemorating when they celebrate Maryland Day each March 25 or Defenders' Day each Sept. 12 commemorating the American victory over the British at Fort McHenry in Baltimore during the War of 1812.

Of Defenders' Day, S. Vannort

Chapman, a spokesman for the Society of the War of 1812, inquired, "Can you find a more significant holiday to remember?" He went on to speak of the day in 1814 when citizen-soldiers from Baltimore defended the city against the British in the event that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner.

Jacques' office received about 1,400 calls from state employees opposed to the bill, which would do away with four of their paid holidays, he said.

Jacques concedes that his bill has little chance of approval from the committee, of which he is a member.

"My colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee congratulated me after the hearing on making them look so noble" said Jacques, referring to the support many of the other delegates showed for the citizens who testified in opposition to his bill.

In introducing a bill guaranteed to stir controversy, Jacques will at least have succeeded in gaining publicity for himself as a legislator and for the point he is attempting to make—that it costs the state \$4.1 million to shut down for legal holidays which in some cases, he claims, "are not particularly significant to a large number of people."



DEL. ROBERT JACQUES
... not a curmudgeon

According to members of the Society of 1812 who testified, fiscal concerns are not what is important. The country, said one society member, "can't survive long if you don't have nationalism."