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December 19th, 1933.

TO THE FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN MARYLAND:

IT IS WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE I ACCEPT THE HONOR OF PRESENTING TO THIS SOCIETY THIS BEAUTIFUL AND GLORIOUS FLAG OF OUR NOBLE STATE OF MARYLAND - THAT PROUD STATE WHOSE NAME RANDALL MADE FAMOUS BY HIS POETIC EFFUSION OF "MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND", WHICH, SET TO MUSIC, HAS THRILLED ITS THOUSANDS AND STIRRED A NATION.

THE MARYLAND FLAG IS UNIQUE IN DESIGN AND IN HISTORY WELL KNOWN.

THOUGH NOT ADOPTED BY THE STATE OFFICIALLY UNTIL 1904, IT WAS THE FLAG OF THE PROPRIETARY GOVERNMENT FROM A TIME WHEN AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE WAS NOT DREAMED OF. IT REPRESENTS THE ESCUTCHEON OF THE PATERNAL COAT OF ARMS OF LORD BALTIMORE.

THE RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION AFTER RECITING THAT BY REASON OF ITS HISTORIC INTEREST AND MEANING, AS WELL AS FOR ITS BEAUTY AND HARMONY OF COLORS, SAID, - "THE FLAG ADOPTED SHOULD BE ONE WHICH FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT OF THE PROVINCE TO THE PRESENT TIME HAS BEEN KNOWN AND DISTINGUISHED AS THE FLAG OF MARYLAND". THE RESOLUTIONS THEN PROVIDE THAT THE FIRST AND FOURTH QUARTERS CONSIST OF SIX VERTICAL BARS ALTERNATELY GOLD AND BLACK, WITH A DIAGONAL BAND ON WHICH THE COLORS ARE REVERSED, THE SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS CONSIST OF A QUARTERED FIELD OF RED AND WHITE CHARGED WITH A GREEK CROSS, ITS ARMS TERMINATING IN THE TREFOILS, WITH THE COLORS TRANSPOSED, RED BEING ON THE WHITE GROUND AND WHITE ON THE RED, AND ALL BEING REPRESENTED AS ON THE ESCUTCHEON OF THE PRESENT GREAT SEAL OF MARYLAND. THE FLAG IS ALWAYS TO BE ARRANGED UPON THE STAFF SO AS TO HAVE THE BLACK STRIPES ON THE DIAGONAL BAND OF THE FIRST QUARTER AT THE TOP OF THE STAFF.

IT WAS THIS FLAG WHICH WAS THROWN TO THE BREEZE IN 1634, WHEN THE PILGRIMS LANDED AT ST. MARYS AND FOUNDED THEIR CITY. IT FLEW AT THE MAST HEADS OF THOSE TWO ARMED VESSELS WHICH GOVERNOR CALVERT SENT UNDER COMMAND OF CAPTAIN CORNWALLIS TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THIS COLONY AGAINST CLAIBORNE, AND WERE

VICTORIOUS IN THAT THE FIRST NAVAL BATTLE FOUGHT IN AMERICA, ON THE WATERS OF THE POCOMOKE RIVER OF THE EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND, IN 1635. IT STANDS AS IT HAS STOOD FROM THE LANDING OF THE COLONY AT ST. MARYS, FOR RELIGIOUS TOLERATION AND FREEDOM. THE TOLERATION ACT OF 1649 INTRODUCED NO NEW PRINCIPLE NOR POLICY INTO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COLONY. MARYLAND TOOK THE LEAD IN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND WAS THE FIRST COMMUNITY IN MODERN TIMES IN WHICH THE CIVIL WAS EFFECTUALLY SEPARATED FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL. NOT ONLY DOES THIS DO HIGH HONOR TO THE FOUNDERS OF MARYLAND, BUT IS OF DEEP IMPORTANCE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

IT WAS FLUNG TO THE BREEZE IN THE CAUSE OF INDEPENDENCE WHEN THE GALLANT SONS OF MARYLAND MARCHED AND FOUGHT WITH THE MIGHTY MEN FROM THE OTHER COLONIES.

TO THE TROOPS UNDER THIS FLAG WAS GIVEN GREAT APPLAUSE AS THEY, WITH OTHERS, CHECKED AND THREW BACK THE BRITISH AT NORTH POINT AND FORT McHENRY, WHICH INSPIRED FRANCIS SCOTT KEY TO WRITE THAT IMMORTAL ANTHEM, "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"; AROUSED THE NATION, AND DID MORE TO TURN DISASTER INTO VICTORY, GLOOM INTO SUNSHINE AND LENT MORE TO SUCCESS THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND MUSKETS.

IN EVERY WAR FROM THE INCEPTION OF THE NATION, THE TROOPS OF OUR STATE HAVE WON GLORY AND SUCCESS UNDER THE FOLDS OF THIS FLAG, WHICH HAS STOOD FOR JUSTICE AND RIGHT FOR NEARLY THREE HUNDRED YEARS.

TODAY, SHE IS THE EMBLEM OF A MILLION AND A HALF OF PEOPLE, WHO WOULD DIE IN ITS DEFENSE.

MAY ITS GLORY EVER INCREASE THROUGH ITS STAND FOR JUSTICE AND RIGHT AND THE FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE.

"PROUD SONS AND DAUGHTERS BOAST OF THEE,  
 MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.  
 THINE IS A PRECIOUS HISTORY,  
 MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.  
 BRAVE HEARTS HAVE HELD THY HONOR DEAR,  
 HAVE MET THE FOEMAN FAR AND NEAR,  
 BUT VICTORY HAS FURNISHED CHEER,  
 MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND!

"SAIL ON, SAIL ON, O SHIP OF STATE!  
 MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.  
 MAY WE, THY CHILDREN, MAKE THEE GREAT.  
 MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND.  
 MAY GRATITUDE OUR HEARTS POSSESS  
 AND BOLDLY WE THY CLAIMS EXPRESS,  
 AND BOW IN LOVING THANKFULNESS,  
 MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND!

*Mrs John Charles Lenthicum*  
*Hon. State Chaplain of*  
*D.A.M. Valley Maryland*  
*Dec 1933,*