

foundation for this noble guarantee of freedom was laid here in St. Mary's City, only 15 years after the Ark and the Dove anchored in the river only a short distance from here.

Today, we regard the freedom of worship and the recognition of women as a part of society as two of civilization's greatest advancements. As Marylanders, we are proud that our ancestors, with feelings and beliefs well in advance of the age in which they lived, laid the groundwork for these two significant advancements. And so, I repeat that all of you—administrators, members of the faculty and students of St. Mary's Seminary Junior College enjoy a rare privilege in being able to work and pursue your studies in such a noble environment. Let me thank you once again for your graciousness and your thoughtfulness in inviting me here today.

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REMARKS ON ACCEPTANCE OF  
CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL AWARD

ANNAPOLIS

November 11, 1961

It is difficult to find words to express the feeling of appreciation I have for the high honor I have received here today. I accept this medallion of the National Civil War Centennial Commission with deep gratitude, of course, but in awareness that credit for whatever we have accomplished here in Maryland in commemorating the Civil War era must go to the men and women who comprise our Maryland Civil War Centennial Commission.

We in Maryland are pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the great conflict. We are pleased to receive this recognition for what we have done during this first year of the commemoration period. We are determined to go forward during the remainder of the period to achieve the high objectives of the centennial—to honor the courage and the devotion of our ancestors who fought in this war between the states of our Union.

The five years, 1861 to 1865, is the most tragic era in the history of our Republic. The deep tragedy lies in the fact that it was a fratricidal war—a struggle between countryman and countryman, between brother and brother. Maryland, being a border State, torn between a deep affection for the South and a strong bond with the union, suffered more than most states in the terrible conflict.