

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN

Governor of Maryland

Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin was born November 20, 1900, in Baltimore City, one of the eleven children of the late James A. and Dora (Greif) McKeldin. He is married to the former Honolulu Manzer. They have a son and a daughter, Theodore, Jr., and Clara.

Governor McKeldin was educated in the public schools of Baltimore, and after completing his elementary education, he took his high school courses at night in the Baltimore City College while working during the days. He also took his law course in night classes at the University of Maryland where he received an LL.B. degree in 1925. He took postgraduate work in economics at Johns Hopkins University.

While practicing law in Baltimore since 1926, the Governor also was on the faculty of the University of Baltimore Law School, the Baltimore College of Commerce, the Bard-Avon School, the Baltimore Institute and the Forest Park Evening High School. He is nationally known as a public speaker.

The Governor has honorary degrees (Doctor of Laws) from Rider College, Trenton, New Jersey (1949); Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland; Morgan State College and the University of Maryland, Maryland; Beaver College, Jenkintown, Pa.; and Hanover College, Hanover, Ind. (all 1951); Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah, (Litt.D.); Indiana Central College, Indianapolis, Ind., (Litt.D.) (1952); Ithaca College, Ithaca, N. Y., (LL.D.); Anderson College, Anderson, Ind. (LL.D.); Loyola College, Baltimore, Md. (L.H.D.) (1953).

He was Mayor of Baltimore from 1943 to 1947, and was elected Governor of Maryland in 1950 by the largest majority ever given any candidate for that office.

A lifelong Republican, his first public position was that of secretary to Mayor William F. Broening of Baltimore.

As Mayor of Baltimore, he was responsible for many governmental reforms and improvements, including the revision and modernization of the then antiquated City Charter. Important projects for the improvement of the city's physical plant also were launched during his administration, including the great Friendship International Airport, the big Patapsco River addition to the water supply system, the new tuberculosis wing at the City Hospitals, the Civic Center in the City Hall area which includes the new People's Court, widespread health center and school construction. He also inaugurated the Baltimore Plan of slum clearance which has attracted considerable attention throughout the world.