

MARYLAND'S NICKNAMES

Maryland is known as both the Old Line State and the Free State.

Old Line State. According to some historians, Gen. George Washington bestowed the name "Old Line State" and thereby associated Maryland with its regular line troops, the Maryland Line, who served courageously in many Revolutionary War battles.

Free State. The nickname "Free State" was created by Hamilton Owens, editor of the Baltimore *Sum.* In 1923, Georgia Congressman William D. Upshaw, a firm supporter of Prohibition, denounced Maryland as a traitor to the Union for refusing to pass a State enforcement act. Mr. Owens thereupon wrote a mock-serious editorial entitled "The Maryland Free State," arguing that Maryland should secede from the Union rather than prohibit the sale of liquor. The irony in the editorial was subtle, and Mr. Owens decided not to print it. However, he popularized the nickname in later editorials.

POET LAUREATE OF MARYLAND

Linda Pastan, 1991—

In the 18th century, Ebenezer Cook, author of *The Sot-weed Factor: Or, A Voyage to Maryland* (1708), styled himself Poet Laureate. Maryland did not have an official poet, however, until 1959. In that year, the General Assembly authorized the Governor to appoint a citizen of the State as Poet Laureate of Maryland (Chapter 178, Acts of 1959; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-306). Since 1979, the incumbent has been appointed to a three-year term.

STATE THEATERS

In 1978, Center Stage in Baltimore was designated the State Theater of Maryland (Chapter 1003, Acts of 1978). By the same act Olney Theatre in Montgomery County was named the State Summer Theater of Maryland (Code State Government Article, sec. 13-309).

LEGAL HOLIDAYS

January 1	New Year's Day
January 15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
February 12	Lincoln's Birthday
February, 3rd Monday	Washington's Birthday
March 25	Maryland Day
Friday before Easter	Good Friday
May 30	Memorial Day*
July 4	Independence Day
September, 1st Monday	Labor Day
September 12	Defenders' Day
October 12	Columbus Day*
November 11	Veterans' Day
November, 4th Thursday	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Christmas Day

Each statewide general election day.

Each other day that the President of the United States or the Governor designates for general cessation of business.

If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the holiday shall be observed on the next Monday after that date.

* Unless the United States Congress designates another day for observance, in which case, the day designated by Congress becomes the legal date.