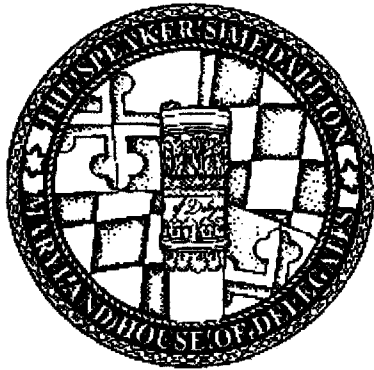
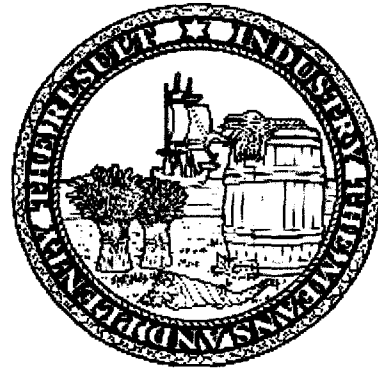


The Speaker of the House of Delegates of the State of Maryland

Speaker's Medallion



*Presented
to*

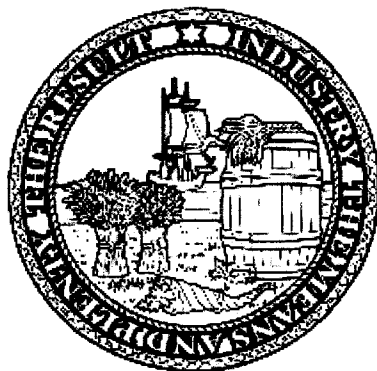


The Honorable Bishop L. Robinson, Sr.

*in recognition
of his distinguished service to the people
and to the House of Delegates of the state of Maryland.
This Award and accompanying Medallion incorporate the Mace of the
House of Delegates, the symbol of its independence and its authority
as the House strives to reflect the will of the people
and to provide for the good of the state.*

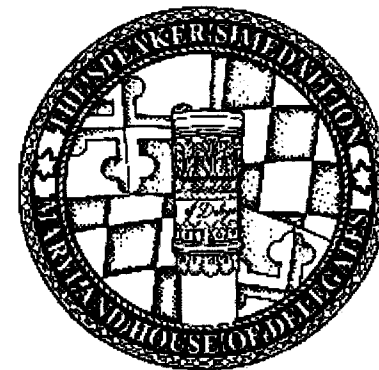
*It is given to the Honorable Bishop L. Robinson, Sr.
for his contributions to the administration of justice in Maryland and
his commitment to the cause of a better life for all Marylanders.*

*Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates
February 26, 1998*



Designed and produced by Jostens for the Speaker, under the direction of the
Maryland State Archives

Speaker's Medallion



awarded to Bishop L. Robinson, Sr..

The Speaker's Medallion takes its design from the mace of the Maryland House of Delegates. The mace is the symbol of the independence and authority of the House. It is used to bring order to the House and to summon witnesses before it. The mace first took on special meaning in the context of the history of a legislative body when it was employed by the House of Commons as a symbol of its resistance to King Charles the First. The mace of the House of Commons apparently was an ebony rod surmounted by a silver globe bearing the King's coat of arms and other marks of Royal authority.

The first mace of the House of Delegates (then known as the Lower House of Assembly) was presented to it by Governor Francis Nicholson in 1698. Although it is not known for certain,

the present mace may well be the original mace. It is capped by silver, upon which is engraved the 1794 Great Seal of Maryland, designed by Charles Willson Peale, a native Marylander and one of the foremost artists of his day. The mace is 24 1/2 inches long and 1 3/4 inches in diameter and is made of ebony. Today it is placed in a wooden holder on the lower rostrum of the House of Delegates chamber whenever the House is in Session.

Annually two Medallions are awarded by the Speaker. One is awarded to a former member of the House in recognition of an outstanding career of service. The other is given to an individual chosen for his or her exemplary service to the House and the State. Both are given in memory of Thomas Kennedy, a former member of the House, for his courageous stand on principle.