



THE HISTORY OF "OLD LINE"

Our firm's name is a tribute to Maryland's state nickname - "The Old Line State" - a moniker earned by the courage, discipline and heroic sacrifices of Maryland's soldiers who held steadfast to the line in battle during the American Revolution.

Preparation, Reputation, Dedication

- Maryland's regiments of uniformed regulars were called the "Maryland Line."
- The first incarnation of the Maryland Line mobilized in December 1775 and early 1776.
- The Maryland Line earned a reputation as saviors of the Continental Army and the cause of independence.
- The performance and conduct of the troop was a product of their time spent drilling together before joining the ranks of the Continental Army.
- Significant training differentiated the Maryland Line from other states' troops.
- The Maryland Provincial Convention believed that paid soldiers furnished with rations and suits of clothes would be better soldiers, and established the Maryland Line as a regiment of uniformed regulars.
- Uniformed regulars in the Line exemplified a cohesive, disciplined unit, especially in comparison to the throngs of untrained militia that formed the bulk of the Continental Army.
- The Maryland Line's reputation will be forever associated with their heroic sacrifices at the Battle of Long Island and the ensuing defense of the Continental Army as it retreated.
- General George Washington remembered the old line in his personal writings and addressed the Maryland Line frequently in correspondence with the Maryland General Assembly and others.

According to popular tradition, George Washington bestowed his high esteem upon the Maryland Line after viewing their heroic stand at the Battle of Long Island. Given the order to defend the American withdrawal from Long Island, the Maryland Line saved the Continental Army from annihilation in the first major battle of the war.

**“ Washington described their efforts as an
“hour more precious to American liberty than any other.” ”**

CREDIT: Holding the Line: "The Origin of the the Old Line State," Ryan Polk, Research Archivist, Maryland State Archives, 2005