

# COME HOME TO MARYLAND

(David Hooper)

COME HOME TO MARYLAND, LAND THAT I LOVE  
WAVES ACROSS THE OCEAN AND MOUNTAINS ABOVE  
BRIGHT LIGHT EXCITEMENT ON THE STREETS OF BALTIMORE  
WALKING PEACEFUL COUNTRY ROADS DOWN ON THE EASTERN SHORE

ANTIETAM O ANTIETAM, WHAT A GRIM AND MOURNFUL DAY  
WHEN BROTHERS FOUGHT WITH BROTHERS  
AND THEY DIED IN BLUE AND GRAY

THERE'S HISTORY AND TRADITION IN OUR CITIES BY THE BAY  
LANDS OF PLEASANT LIVING AND HARBORS OF GRACE  
THE CHURCH AT OLD SAINT MARY'S AND THE ARK AND THE DOVE  
ALL PART OF MARYLAND, LAND THAT I LOVE

SKIPJACKS AND CLIPPER SHIPS WITH SAILS AGAINST THE SKY  
AND MOUNTAIN MORNINGS BRING AN ALLEGANY MOUNTAIN HIGH

COME HOME TO MARYLAND, THERE'S NO PLACE QUITE THE SAME  
COME HOME TO MARYLAND WHERE PEOPLE KNOW YOUR NAME

FORT McHENRY'S STAR-SPANGLED BANNER STILL WAVES  
A VISION TO THE WORLD WE'RE STILL THE HOME OF THE BRAVE

COME HOME TO MARYLAND, LAND THAT I LOVE  
WAVES ACROSS THE OCEAN AND MOUNTAINS ABOVE, O THERE'S  
BRIGHT LIGHTS EXCITEMENT ON THE STREETS OF BALTIMORE  
WALKING PEACEFUL COUNTRY ROADS WITH A GIRL FROM THE EASTERN SHORE

COME HOME TO MARYLAND, LAND THAT I LOVE

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Verse 1 evokes mental images of home, a sense of place, and feelings of belonging. These are coupled with visual images of Maryland's signature highlights and attractions to make the connection between Maryland's people and Maryland's Land.

Verse 2 came after a family visit to Antietam Battlefield, where a gifted Park Ranger, in conversation, ripped away the glory and romance of battle to reveal the heart-exploding terror and blood and violent death of that 'grim and mournful day'. It is a stark reminder that our freedom, like our salvation, has been bought with a dreadful price.

Verse 3 celebrates Maryland's tightly-woven relationship with Chesapeake Bay. "Lands of pleasant living" recalls Captain John Smith's assessment of the land after his exploration of the Bay in the early 1600's, with a side-reference to Natty Boh, while "harbors of grace" notes Havre de Grace at the top of the Bay. The southern point of Maryland is noted in "the church at Old Saint Mary's". "The Ark and the Dove" remembers the two small ships that brought Maryland's first settlers to the Land.

Verse 4 reinforces Maryland's symbiotic relationship of the Land and the water, with the working boats and the men who manned them in wresting a living and a way of life from the Bay. "Clipper ships with sails against the sky" celebrates the Baltimore Clipper, one of the most graceful and efficient ships ever built, which sailed beyond the Bay to ports around the world.

Verse 5 brings us back to feelings of home and place and belonging, and that Maryland is a Land of welcome and refuge. You are welcome here.

Verse 6 recalls the David-and-Goliath event when a young fledgling nation stood up to the greatest power on earth.

Verse 7 returns to the original theme, repetition for emphasis, with those images and so many others that define what is Maryland, Land that we love.