MACARTHUR ARCHIVES

1507 Foxhall Road, N. W.
Washington, 7, D.C.
July 8, 1952.

Dear General MacArthur:

As the daughter of your devoted friend and admirer, Jim Shannon, I cannot refrain from writing you after your wonderful, inspiring Keynoter speech last night. After the past few weeks of apparent rifts in the Republican party, your speech was like the Star Spangled Banner itself; above personalities, you fearlessly "gave proof through the night that our flag was still there", and to keep our great country the land of the free and the home of the brave is our purpose.

Not just because it is big and rich is America the hope and the light of the world today but because every nation on earth instinctively feels a part of it. Unlike any other race on earth, Americans are a race of men of all nations, races and tongues who would never tolerate a dictator, who instinctively followed Christ's command to "call no man Father but your Father in heaven". The trend toward a paternalistic government is unworthy of the sacrifices those men made to insure freedom and individual independance for all men willing to work - or if necessary to fight - for it. George Washington saw the weakening danger of paternalism when he refused a third term as President of the United States.

I do not claim to be the great Christian my father was but the Bible is my joy and comfort as I daily try to walk and talk with God and my motto is to do unto others as I would have God do unto me. I believe that the subtle meaning of inspired Moses' writings that man is made in the image of God, is that man's purpose in life is to BE YOUR OWN IDEA OF GOD, using mercy and good judgment. This makes all men equal, limited only by their own idea of God. It was fulfilled in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. It was the gospel He gave us: "Follow me. The things ye see me do shall ye do also. Be ye therefore perfect even as YOUR Father in heaven is perfect". To be God-like is man's aim and to give the same power to all in self-confidant faith and freedom. This our forefathers gave as our heritage. It is clearly apparent in <u>your</u> life, whether you know it or not.

In one of his letters before he was killed in France in 1918, Jim wrote my mother, "Douglas MacArthur is the same brilliant, fearless man he has always been." Those words of Jim Shannon's could be as truly said today. Among the great patriots of our country you will live forever. You belong to the great company of men throughout history whose courage and freedom-loving minds form an understanding of the truth that a thousand years is but a day to God. Whatever the outcome of the elections may be, your speech should give all Americans the will to win in spirit and in truth.

Sincerely, Imogene Shannon Young