

Duvall Selected for P.G. Hall of Fame



Gabriel Duvall
Supreme Court Justice

By Phil Jacobs
Journal Staff Writer

A delegate, a congressman, a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court — now, more than 100 years after his death, Gabriel Duvall adds another honor to his name: Election to the Prince George's County Hall of Fame.

A special portrait unveiling will honor the induction of Gabriel Duvall (1752-1844), a former resident of Prince George's, as the fifth member of the county's Hall of Fame.

The unveiling will take place amid ceremonies, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, in the County Council hearing room in the County Administration Building.

The Hall of Fame is a non-profit incorporated organization that meets yearly to induct one distinguished county citizen, according to Kate Hedberg, the county's special assistant for cultural affairs.

Other Hall of Fame inductees include Thomas John Claggett, the first Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in America; John Rogers, a lawyer and patriot who represented Prince George's at the Continental Congress; and Dr. William Beanes of Marlborough, whose safe release Francis Scott Key sought while writing the Star Spangled Banner aboard a British war ship in 1814.

Duvall's portrait will join the four others in the County Court House.

Duvall, who lived in what is now

the Glenn Dale area, is a direct descendent of Mareen Duvall, a Huguenot refugee, who fled France and settled in Maryland in 1655. Duvall willed huge land tracts to his descendents, including a 150-acre land tract handed down to Gabriel Duvall.

Gabriel Duvall's political career started as a clerk of the first Maryland Convention in 1775. He later served as a state delegate, congressman and state supreme court justice before being appointed Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury by President Thomas Jefferson in 1802. In 1811, he became a Supreme Court Justice under the administration of President James Madison.

Duvall's former plantation, called "Marietta," has been restored and is owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. His law office, also located in Glenn Dale on the plantation grounds, is to be restored through funds raised by the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants.

This family society, founded in 1926, has more than 240 members from 32 different states. All of the members are descendants of Mareen Duvall. The society meets about four times a year for a business meeting, luncheon and historical tour. Several of its members will be present during Sunday's unveiling, according to David Duvall, president of the society.