DEDICATION OF THE VETERANS' MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
DIVISION OF THE KINGS PARK STATE HOSPITAL

The dedication of the new Veterans' Memorial Hospital which took place at Kings Park, September 24, 1927, constitutes one of the most important events in the history of the State hospital system. Governor Smith had planned to make the dedicatory address but illness prevented his attendance. He, however, sent a letter which was read by the chairman and appears as a part of the ceremonies given below. He also sent Major General William N. Haskell, commander of the New York National Guard, as his representative.

The ceremonies were held in the plaza in front of the large medical and surgical building, the heart of the new hospital, and were attended by about 2,000 persons including representatives of many organizations and distinguished guests.

Hon. Matthew J. Tobin, chairman of the Board of Visitors of the Kings Park State Hospital, presided.

PRAYER BY RABBI LOUIS D. GROSS

Lord God of all mankind Thy blessing we invoke, for Thine are the power and the glory and the love; the truth and the beauty, the might and the majesty. For Thine untold bounties we praise Thee with hearts overflowing with gratitude even as we thank Thee for the precious gift of this day dedicated unto Thee in behalf of the weak as well as the strong; in behalf of the noble souls, who struggled and strove and suffered that we might live and find happiness. Preside Thou Oh Father over this assembly that here the spirit of love and harmony and good will may prevail. May Thy blessing abide with us.

With all who are here from far and near to participate in this feast of dedication and by their presence to testify to their faith in the spiritual values of life, expressed through works of mercy and justice and fellowship, cause the lesson of this day to sink deeply into our hearts, make us to learn that our prayers and our pieties, our religions and our theologies are futile and of no avail in Thy sight if they be not translated into an exalted, helpful, healing blessedness.

Oh God bless the noble Governor of our great State through whose wise and benevolent efforts, through legislation, untold good has been achieved in behalf of humanity. Continue him in the gifts and powers with which Thou has endowed him as the great leader that he may yet go forward in strength and glory to newer and higher conquests.

Bless the words spoken here today. May the message brought to us fall
like seed on fertile soil whence shall spring the full blown flower of love and duty of service and devotion for the sake of Thy children, in behalf of a finer and a nobler, a stronger, a more vigorous, a more rejoicing humanity. Amen.

GUESTS WELCOMED BY CHAIRMAN TOBIN

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honored Guests and Members of the American Legion: The Kings Park Board of Visitors, the Superintendent and the Staff extend to you all a very cordial welcome and hope before the day is over that you will avail yourselves of the opportunity of visiting and inspecting our new buildings about to be dedicated. All of the points in connection with these beautiful buildings will be covered by the speakers who are about to follow.

I will confine myself strictly to the formal program, but before proceeding to the next speaker I have a letter of importance which I desire to read.

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR SMITH

Mr. M. J. Tobin, Chairman,
Dedication, Veterans' Memorial Hospital,
Kings Park, L. I.
Dear Mr. Chairman:

May I express my extreme regret that a slight bronchial attack prevents my coming to Long Island today.

I know of nothing that I would rather have done than dedicate the Veterans' Memorial Hospital. I was present, as you remember at the groundbreaking ceremony and turned the first spadeful of earth and it has all along been a project very dear to me.

The significance of this occasion is not only that we have built a splendid memorial to those veterans to whom we can never pay our debt of gratitude, but also that it is the final completion of the first of the great institutions that are being built out of the hospital bond issue voted by the people of the State of New York.

It further illustrates one of the arguments which I made for the passage of this bond issue, because this project was twice abandoned when it was to have been built from current revenue and could not possibly have been created without the hospital bond issue.

This building stands, therefore, as a monument both to the patriotism and devotion of our veterans and to the patriotism and good sense of the electorate of the State of New York.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) ALFRED E. SMITH.