

**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES ON THE  
LIFE AND CHARACTER OF FRANK  
WELCH, (A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM NEBRASKA)**

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Memorial addresses on the life and character of Frank Welch, (a representative from Nebraska) by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

FRANK WELCH,

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEBRASKA),

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,  
FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, THIRD SESSION.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

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1879.



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FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, THIRD SESSION.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *February 27, 1879.*

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That there be printed twelve thousand copies of the memorial addresses delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives upon the life and character of the late FRANK WELCH, late a Representative from the State of Nebraska; of which nine thousand shall be for the use of the House and three thousand for the use of the Senate.

Attest:

GEO. M. ADAMS, *Clerk.*

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AN ACT providing for the engraving and printing of portraits to accompany memorial addresses on the late Representatives Leonard, Quinn, Welch, Williams, Douglas, Hartridge, and Schleicher.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be engraved and printed portraits of the late Representatives Leonard, Quinn, Welch, Williams, Douglas, Hartridge, and Schleicher, to accompany memorial addresses delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives in honor of the said deceased Representatives, and to defray the expenses thereof the necessary sum is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sum to be immediately available.

Approved, March 3, 1879.

ADDRESSES  
ON THE  
DEATH OF FRANK WELCH.

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PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

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FEBRUARY 19, 1879.

On motion of Mr. SAPP, by unanimous consent,

*Ordered*, That the memorial services in honor of the late FRANK WELCH, late a Representative from the State of Nebraska, be held to-morrow evening, at the session heretofore ordered by the House.

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FEBRUARY 21, 1879.

Mr. MAJORS. I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows :

*Resolved*, That this House has heard with profound regret of the death of Hon. FRANK WELCH, late a Representative from the State of Nebraska.

*Resolved*, That the House do now suspend the consideration of public business, in order to pay proper respect to the memory of the lamented deceased.

*Resolved*, That in token of regard for the memory of the lamented deceased, the members of this House do wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the House do communicate these resolutions to the Senate of the United States.

*Resolved*, That out of further respect to the memory of the deceased this House do now adjourn.

## ADDRESS OF MR. MAJORS, OF NEBRASKA.

Mr. SPEAKER: At nine o'clock in the evening of September 4, 1878, at Neligh, Nebraska, Hon. FRANK WELCH departed this life, the victim of a paralytic stroke. He died in his chair, away from home and family. He was surrounded by warm and dear friends, but no wife, no relative was near to utter words of cheer as he passed into the dark valley. More than a year ago the warning stroke came, which, while it did not blast, yet so affected his stalwart frame that he never fully recovered his wonted health and vigor.

Possessing a sanguine disposition, and trusting to the recuperative energies of his nature, he refused to spare himself, and entered upon and continued his labors in this body with characteristic ardor and energy. When he returned home last July his changed appearance was marked by his acquaintances, and caused his friends no little anxiety. It was thought that the pure and bracing air of his western home, together with needed rest and recreation, would bring back the luster to his cheek and restore vigor to his frame. But when hope ran highest, when least expected, the lightning again descended and consumed the life that was left, remembering that—

'Tis the twink of an eye, 'tis the draught of a breath,  
From the blossom of health to the paleness of death,  
From the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud,—  
O, why should the spirit of mortal be proud!

Mr. WELCH died in the meridian of life, at the period of his great usefulness as a citizen and public servant. With large capacity for usefulness; with wide, varied experience in public affairs, and great responsibilities on his shoulders, at a time when his influence was sweeping into a broader arena, when the fervor of youth was still in his blood, the shadowy hand beckoned him to his journey across the dark continent to the land beyond the sun.



In the beautiful and expressive language of a former member of this body:

We complain that the divine sickle could not wait for its human harvest until the whitened and bending heads should incline with the weight of years toward the earth which was destined to receive them.

As Mr. WELCH'S successor it becomes my duty, as his friend it is my privilege, to hold up to public view the record of a life which has in it much that is praiseworthy and little that can be censured. Mr. WELCH was born in Massachusetts in 1835. In childhood his family removed to Boston, where Mr. WELCH received his education. Adopting the profession of engineering, he came West in 1857 to assist in running the line of a projected railway across Iowa, the terminus of which was to be on the east bank of the Missouri. In 1863 he married, in Boston, Miss Elizabeth Butts, of Hudson, New York. In the mean time he engaged in the mercantile business, which resulted disastrously. At various times he represented his section of country in the Territorial and State legislatures, and in 1865 was president of the upper house. In 1871 he was appointed register of the land office at West Point, Nebraska, which position he held until 1876. In the fall of 1876 his claims were pressed with such enthusiasm by his friends that he received at the hands of the Republican State convention the nomination for member of Congress, and after a spirited contest was elected by an overwhelming majority.

Mr. WELCH entered Congress in the prime of manhood, when the play of his pulse was still healthful, representing as large an expanse of country as all New England, and a population of over three hundred thousand. The demands upon his time and strength were incessant. The extension of the postal service and keeping up the efficiency of the Federal Government to a level with the needs and wants of a growing State required his constant attention. Nebraska may have had in this body in other days men of greater talent, men of broader culture, yet it is doubtful whether any of her Representa-

tives ever served her with such fidelity and tireless industry as Mr. WELCH.

Mr. WELCH was, indeed, a representative man. Though educated in the Athens of America, yet he had lived so long in the West, almost a quarter of a century, that he might be called a child of the prairies. He had stood by the cradle when the young State was born; he had grown with its growth; his name was in some measure identified with its greatness. He knew the needs and wants of his people, and was in warm sympathy with their life and purposes. He took a pride in the State of his adoption, occupying the midway position between the far East and the far West, along which the life currents of immigration daily flow. He expected to see the dream of one of America's most gifted poets realized, "She is the prairie dame, that sitteth in the middle and looketh east and looketh west." Hence Mr. WELCH was peculiarly fitted to represent the people of my State in the national councils. Had he lived, it was the hope of his friends, and perhaps his own ambition, that his influence in public affairs, which had hitherto been confined to the limits of his own State, might sweep out into broader fields of usefulness; but "death's untimely frost" nipped the blossoming hopes of his friends and his own budding aspirations.

Mr. WELCH in public life was an eminently useful man. His influence was a positive force for good. He reached and controlled men in the most practical way. He was no orator. He possessed none of the graces of oratory which captivate and conquer public assemblies, yet when the occasion was imperative he could put his thoughts into the traces of compact expression and utter his ideas with force and clearness. "Many are the friends of the golden tongue," says the Welsh proverb. FRANK WELCH, however, had many friends though he did not possess the golden tongue in the sense used. Without marked ability for public speaking, without great knowledge of that seasoned life of men stored up in books,

and little of that ripe culture which comes from meditation in the closet, yet Mr. WELCH was an influential man.

He had mingled with and been jostled by men upon the dust-swept highway of business life; he had been in close contact with those extreme types of character indigenous to frontier life. He had in his earlier life known men at the other extreme who had been under the intellectual sand-paper too long, and he had thereby acquired that practical talent, that ready adaptation of means to ends which reaches and controls men and often achieves success when a higher talent fails.

Mr. WELCH in private life was an exemplary man. He enjoyed life with the keenest zest. While he lived laborious days, yet he did not scorn delights of life. Mr. WELCH was a man of fine social powers; there was a genial magnetism in his presence, a certain heartiness in his greeting, a frankness and openness of manner that attracted men.

It was said of the late Lord Holland that he always came down to breakfast with the air of a man who had just met with some signal good fortune. Mr. WELCH possessed a like sunny disposition over which the clouds of gloom rarely if ever settled.

But it was in the sacred precincts of the home circle that his social nature shone with the pure luster. It was there that he gave utterance to the best thoughts of his best soul, and gave full play to the kindly emotions of the heart. Upon his hearth-stone the fires of domestic happiness always burned brightly. In his home, where peace, love, and happiness were enthroned, he found both an incentive to his ambition and rest from his exciting public labors.

But the seal of death has been placed upon his life before it had attained the ripeness of age. The reed has been broken by an untimely wind. A useful man, an active and vigilant public servant, an ornament to society has retreated from the din and turmoil of life to the realms beyond.