

**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES ON THE LIFE AND  
CHARACTER OF CHARLES SUMNER (A  
SENATOR OF MASSACHUSETTS,) DELIVERED IN  
THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, FORTY-THIRD CONGRESS,  
FIRST SESSION, APRIL 27, 1874, WITH OTHER  
CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTES OF RESPECT**

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Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of Charles Sumner (a Senator of Massachusetts,  
Delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives, Forty-Third Congress, First Session,  
April 27, 1874, with Other Congressional Tributes of Respect by United States Congress

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# **UNITED STATES CONGRESS**

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(A SENATOR OF MASSACHUSETTS.)

DELIVERED IN THE  
SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

FORTY-THIRD CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION,

APRIL 27, 1874,

WITH OTHER CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTES OF RESPECT.

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1874.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OF  
THE DEATH OF CHARLES SUMNER,  
A SENATOR OF MASSACHUSETTS.  

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

*Thursday, March 12, 1874.*

Rev. BYRON SUNDERLAND, D. D., Chaplain of the Senate, offered up the following prayer :

O Lord God, our Father in heaven, we all do fade as a leaf before Thee; one generation cometh and another goeth; and so Thou standest this day to plead with this Thy great people. Two honored heads lie low, and the sighing of sister cities responding in their grief is heard in all the land. The grave must receive her own; we bow in silence and submission to Thy stroke; Christ is our only shield. Amen.

Mr. ANTHONY, of Rhode Island. Mr. President: In the absence of the Senator to whom this saddest duty appertains, and who is detained from the Senate by illness, the surviving Senator from Massachusetts, I have been requested to make to you the formal announcement of an event which my heart refuses to accept, and which my lips hesitate to declare. It is an event which needs not to be announced, for its dark shadow rests gloomily upon this chamber, and not only upon the Senate and the capital, but upon the whole country, and the intelligence of which, borne on the mysterious wires that underlie the seas, has been already carried to the remotest lands, and has aroused profoundest sympathy wherever humanity weeps for a friend, wherever liberty deploras an advocate. The oldest member of this body in continuous service, he who yesterday was the oldest, beloved for the graces and the virtues of his personal character; admired for his genius and his accomplishments; revered for the fidelity with which he adhered to his convictions; illustrious for his services to the republic and to the world, has crossed the dark river that divides us from the "undiscovered country."

Charles Sumner died yesterday. To-day, in humble submission to the divine will, we meet to express our respect for his character, our veneration for his memory. Tomorrow, with solemn steps and with sorrowing hearts, we shall bear him to the

Massachusetts which he served so faithfully and which loved him so well; and to her soil, precious with the dust of patriotism and of valor, of letters and of art, of statesmanship and of eloquence, we shall commit the body of one who is worthy to rest by the side of the noblest and the best of those who, in the centuries of her history, have made her the model of a free commonwealth. But the great deeds which illustrated his life shall not be buried with him, and never shall the earth cover the immortal principles to which he devoted every energy of his soul—the consummation and vindication of which, as his highest reward, a gracious God permitted him to witness.

Mr. President, this is not the time, nor is the office mine, to pronounce the words that are due to this event. A future hour and more fitting utterances shall interpret to the American people the affectionate respect of the Senate for our dead associate, the homage which it renders to his life and character.

Mr. President, I offer the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That a committee of six members be appointed by the President of the Senate *pro tempore*, to take order for superintending the funeral of CHARLES SUMNER, late a member of this body, which will take place to-morrow (Friday) at half-past twelve; and that the Senate will attend the same.

*Resolved*, As a further mark of respect entertained by the Senate for the memory of CHARLES SUMNER, and his long and distinguished services to his country, that his remains be removed to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and attended by a committee of six Senators, to be appointed by the President of the Senate *pro tempore*, who shall have full power to carry this resolution into effect.

*Resolved*, That, as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate do now adjourn.

Mr. SCHUKZ, of Missouri. I can say nothing to-day, but offer the following as an amendment to the resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate these proceedings to the House of Representatives, and invite the House of Representatives to attend the funeral ceremony in the Senate Chamber to-morrow, at half-past twelve o'clock.

Mr. ANTHONY. I accept the amendment.

Mr. CONKLING, of New York. Mr. President, the absence of a committee of the Senate to follow the bier to-day of one who once presided here, is enough alone to warn us of the fitness of pausing for a space from the din and business of life. It was my purpose to move that the Senate adjourn in observance of the funeral of Mr. FILLMORE; but meanwhile we are covered by the shadow of a nearer grief. A vacant chair is here, long held by a Senator of distinguished eminence, and one of the most illustrious of Americans. Surely it is fit that we should arrest the business of the Senate and pay tribute to the long and remarkable life now closed. No honor will be paid to the dead statesman in which I would not join in sincerity and respect, and I second the resolutions moved by the Senator from Rhode Island without attempting to add a word to the graceful and eloquent thoughts which have fallen from him.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*, [Mr. CARPENTER, of Wisconsin.] Then the question is, Will the Senate accept the resolutions as modified?

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Senate stands adjourned until to-morrow at twelve o'clock.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Thursday, March 12, 1874.*

The proceedings of the Senate on the announcement of the death of CHARLES SUMNER, late a Senator of Massachusetts, were communicated to the House, and were, by direction of the Speaker, read.

Mr. E. R. HOAR, of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker: The event which the resolutions of the Senate announce fell upon the ear of this House and of the country yesterday with startling suddenness. Wherever the news of it spreads through this broad land, not only in this city, among his associates in the public councils; not only in the old Commonwealth of which he was the pride and ornament, but in many quiet homes, in many a cabin of the poor and lowly, there is to-day inexpressible tenderness and profound sorrow.

There are many of us who have known and loved the great Senator, whom this event unfits for public duties, or for any thoughts other than those of that pure life, that faithful public service, that assured immortality.

In response to the invitation of the Senate I offer these resolutions:

*Resolved*, That this House will attend the funeral of CHARLES SUMNER, a Senator from Massachusetts, in the Senate Chamber, to-morrow, at half-past twelve o'clock, and upon its return to this Hall the Speaker shall declare the House adjourned.

*Resolved*, That a committee of nine members be appointed, who, with the members of the House from Massachusetts, shall accompany the body of the deceased Senator to its place of burial in that Commonwealth.

*Resolved*, That, as a testimonial of respect for the memory of the deceased, the members and officers of this House will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

The question being taken on the resolutions, they were unanimously adopted, and, on motion of Mr. E. R. HOAR, the House adjourned.



### THE FUNERAL CEREMONIES.

The Congressional Funeral Ceremonies over the remains of Charles Sumner were performed in the Senate Chamber on Friday the 13th of March, under the direction of the committee of arrangements, Senators ANTHONY, SCHURZ, FRELINGHUYSEN, MORRILL of Maine, STEVENSON, and SHERMAN.

The members of the House of Representatives, headed by its Speaker and Clerk; the President of the United States and the members of his Cabinet; the Diplomatic Corps; the Supreme Court; officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, with other officials; the personal friends of the deceased and the Massachusetts delegation in Congress, were assigned seats on the floor of the Senate.

At half past twelve the remains were brought from the rotunda into the Senate Chamber, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate and the committee of arrangements, and escorted by the pall-bearers, Senators ANTHONY, SCHURZ, SARGENT, OGLESBY, STOCKTON, and MCCREERY.

Rev. J. G. BUTLER, Chaplain of the House of Representatives, read I Cor., xv., 22-28, and then offered the following prayer:

Great God, we bow reverently in Thy presence. Thou hast done it. Teach us wisdom as we walk among the open graves. Bless the millions whose hearts gather tenderly around this coffin to-day. Bless our own great land, and give unto us continued victories of truth and righteousness. We ask these mercies in the name and for the sake of Him who hath taught us, when we pray, to say: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Rev. BYRON SUNDERLAND, D. D., Chaplain of the Senate, read Psalm xxxix, 5-13, and Psalm xc, and offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, before Whom the world, and all that it contains, is as the dust of the balance; before Whom change and time flee away like a shadow; yet art Thou the confidence of all the ends of the earth; for it is in Thee that we live, and move, and have our being; because Thou hast made of one blood all men who dwell on the face of the earth; because Thou hast formed and fashioned us, and placed us in our lot. Thou hast appointed the bounds of our habitation, and Thou hast numbered all our days: and it has pleased Thee, O Lord, our God, in the fullness of Thine own time, to send among us Thy son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Lord God manifest in the flesh, to bring to us the expectation of light and life, and of immortality. And so with Him, in the successive centuries, it has pleased Thee to raise up the prophets and apostles, the heroes and princes of the world. It has pleased Thee, in the conflict and turmoil of this our mortal state, to

send forth the ministers of Thy grace and providence, endowed and panoplied for their mighty task. And so, in all the crises of the times, when enormous evils had to be encountered; when the old order of things had to be overthrown; when the new conditions for the new energies of the human race had to be created, Thou hast planted Thy workmen at every point, and Thou hast fitted, and guarded, and upheld them with courage and with strength.

O, Lord our God, how marvelous are all Thy works and ways! How marvelous dost Thou still continue this day before us and before all men, as much in removing away Thy servants from their field of labor as in sending them into it when Thou wilt; so that the day of our death is fuller of meaning than the day of our birth, because it is a grander lesson of our manhood, because it is a chapter far advanced in the book of human destiny.

And now Thou hast removed away from us a man who had stood so long as a prince of the earth, a man whose name and life and character and fame are forever linked with all that is sacred in human institutions, and all that is dear to human hearts. O Lord, our God, we are all bereaved together. The Senate, the Congress, the capital, the country, all have been made desolate. And the old Plymouth State, where so long ago the Pilgrims came—she sits to-day in mourning, a mother weeping for her prostrate son; and the white men and black men, and all men of every name and race throughout the world, shall this day be touched with the grief of this sudden stroke of Thy providence. But we can say nothing against it before Thee, O Thou righteous Judge and Supreme Ruler of mankind. Yet peradventure Thou wilt vouchsafe Thine ear to hear the prayer of Thy servants now for all those who have been afflicted in this dispensation, for the surviving but scattered members of his own family and kindred, for those who were so near to his person and in his presence through all the phases of his private and public life; for those children of that enduring race for whose advancement his great powers have been so long employed; for all his companions and contemporaries in the high and lofty circles of human civilization, both at home and abroad; for his colleagues and fellow-Senators in this chamber, and for the Representatives, the people, and the authorities of his native State; and for all those in every class and in every condition who this day so sincerely lament his loss. O, grant to all these the grace and the consolation of Thy Spirit. Sanctify to them and to this nation this most impressive instruction of Thy providence.

And now we beseech Thee, O Lord, bless Thy servant the President of the United States, and the members of his Cabinet; bless the governors and legislatures of the States; and, we beseech Thee, bless the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, and all the magistrates in the land. Bless the officers and men of the Army and Navy of the United States. Bless all that are in positions of responsibility, of trust, and of honor among this great people. Bless the teachers and instructors of the nation. Bless those who have the charge of the transmission of intelligence, and the conductors of the public press. And we beseech Thee, O Lord, bless all that are engaged in any walk or pursuit of life, in any department of human labor or enterprise, for the promotion of the race and the comfort of this world. And we beseech Thee, O Lord, bless any that may be under the pains and penalties and burdens of this life, to cheer, to comfort, to strengthen, and to uphold them.

And now, we beseech Thee, to give to us, one and all, a sense of true humility and unfeigned contrition for our sins. Fill us with the spirit of repentance toward Thee and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Pardon our iniquities, and blot out our transgressions before Thee; and accept us, one and all, as Thy sons and daughters, through whom alone, and Thy work of atonement and effectual intercession, we shall be saved.

And now, O Lord our God, be graciously pleased to go with those who shall bear away forever from this place the body of our lamented friend. Give them safe conduct in the sad journey; and we beseech Thee, in Thy kind providence, let all the arrangements for his obsequies be fittingly made among that noble but now stricken people who await the arrival of the funeral-train by the old Cradle of Liberty.

O God, the God of our fathers, bless this nation and all the nations. Bless us and all men together. And, when we come to die, open Thou for us the portals of eternity, and crown every soul with a pure, a blessed, and a glorious immortality. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*, [Senator CARPENTER, of Wisconsin.] The services to be performed by the committee of arrangements having been terminated, the Senate of the United States intrusts the mortal remains of CHARLES SUMNER to its Sergeant-at-Arms and a committee appointed by it, charged with the melancholy duty of conveying them to his home, there to be committed, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the soil of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Peace to his ashes!

The remains were then escorted by many of those present to the station of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, where they were placed on a special train, which left at 3 o'clock, conveying also the Senate committee of arrangements—Senators ANTHONY, SCHURZ, SARGENT, OGLESBY, STOCKTON, and MCCREERY, with the House committee: Representatives HURLBURT, HALE, FOSTER, RAINEY, CLAYTON, SCUDDER, RANDALL, BECK, and HANCOCK; the Chaplain of the Senate; the physician, the private secretary, the former committee-clerk, and an executor of the deceased; and the members of the Massachusetts delegation in Congress, attended by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.

Proper tributes of respect were paid at Philadelphia, New York, New Haven, Hartford, Springfield, Worcester, and intermediate stations. When the funeral-train entered the State of Connecticut, Colonel Chanley, of the military staff of Governor Ingersoll, and W. T. Ingersoll, the governor's private secretary, presented a letter in which the governor, in testimony of the public respect for the mournful duty of the Congressional committee, had ordered those members of his official family to accompany them through the State. At Springfield, Colonels Storer and Palfrey, of the staff of Governor Washburn, of Massachusetts, with a committee of the State legislature, met the funeral-train to accompany the Congressional committee to Boston.

Arriving at Boston, the remains, with their escort, were taken to the State-house, and were borne into Doric Hall, where a catafalque had been prepared for their reception. The Shaw Guard, an infantry company composed of colored men, were posted as a guard of honor about the catafalque, and around it stood Governor Washburn, with his staff, members of the legislature, and many distinguished citizens of Massachusetts.