

**GEORGE LEAVENS LILLEY, LATE
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT: MEMORIAL
PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT IN JOINT
CONVENTION MAY 27, 1909**

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VARIOUS

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GEORGE LEAVENS LILLEY
1859-1909



Geo L. Lacey

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GEORGE LEAVENS LILLEY

LATE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT

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OF THE

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IN

JOINT CONVENTION

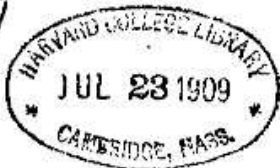
MAY 27, 1909

HARTFORD

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1909

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Resolved by this Assembly:

"That the Comptroller be and he hereby is directed to cause ten thousand copies of the proceedings of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Joint Convention, relating to the death of His Excellency Governor George L. Lilley, to be printed for distribution."

JOINT CONVENTION.

At the hour of 11.30 o'clock A. M., the Honorable Senate, preceded by the President pro tempore, the Honorable Isaac W. Brooks, and its Clerk, John A. Spafford, entered the Hall of the House and met the House in Joint Convention.

The President pro tempore of the Senate presided over the Convention.

The Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the House were secretaries of the Convention.

Prayer was offered by the Reverend J. Frederick Sexton, Chaplain of the Senate, as follows:

“O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, in whose embrace all creatures live, in whatsoever world or condition they be; we beseech Thee for him whose name and dwelling place and every need Thou knowest; Lord, vouchsafe him light and rest, peace and refreshment, joy and consolation in Paradise, in the companionship of saints, in the presence of Christ, in the ample folds of Thy great love.

Grant that his life (so troubled here) may unfold itself in Thy sight, and find a sweet employment in the spacious fields of eternity. If he hath ever been hurt or maimed by any unhappy word or deed of ours, we pray Thee of Thy great pity to heal and restore him, that he may serve Thee without hindrance.

Tell him, O gracious Lord, if it may be, how much we love him, and miss him, and long to see him again; and if there be ways in which he may come, vouchsafe him to us as a guide and guard, and grant us a sense of his nearness in such degree as Thy laws permit.

If in aught we can minister to his peace, be pleased of

Thy love to let this be; and mercifully keep us from every act which may deprive us of the sight of him as soon as our trial-time is over, or mar the fullness of our joy when the end of the days hath come.

Pardon, O gracious Lord and Father, whatsoever is amiss in this our prayer, and let Thy will be done, for our will is blind and erring, but Thine is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Senator Searls of the Twenty-eighth District offered a resolution concerning the death of the late Governor George L. Lilley, and moved that the resolution be adopted.

Senator Searls spoke as follows:

Mr. President:

It is a remarkable fact that no Connecticut Governor has died in office since the adoption of our Constitution in 1818, so, never since that time, possibly never before in the history of the State, has a Joint Convention of the Legislature assembled for the sad purpose which now calls us together. The birth and death of any human being is shrouded in mystery. Our life is ever changing, and yet is changeless. We come from the unknown, and we return whence we came, the mortal part to the embrace of its mother earth, and the immortal to drift out upon that dark and unknown sea that rolls around all the world. This mystery deepens when a man in the strength of his power, known and beloved, holding high position in the State, with every promise of many years of important public service, almost without warning lays down his burden and passes beyond the confines of earth and time. Such a mystery calls us together today. To this mystery is superadded the element of tragedy. I need not weary this Assembly with details which you fully understand and appreciate. Be it enough for me to say that our beloved Governor, after a successful and honorable business career, was induced to accept public office. His rise was rapid.

Elected to the common council of his own city, he later became a member of the General Assembly, then Congressman-at-Large, and then Governor. Never defeated, he had just fought his greatest fight, had won his greatest victory, and, inspired by the loftiest purpose, had entered upon his high office with the brightest promise of success, and with the good will of a large majority of those who had most bitterly opposed him, when, without warning, in the twinkling of an eye, like a flash of lightning from a clear sky, the bolt fell. His tempest-tossed life was ended, and the State mourns to-day the departure of one of its most beloved citizens, its chosen chief magistrate, stricken down in the pride of his intellect, in the vigor of his manhood and in the service of the State. The highest honor that the Roman Senate thought it could bestow upon a citizen was its declaration that he had deserved well of the republic, and the verdict of our people, I believe, will be that our departed friend and honored Governor likewise in his day and generation deserved well of his State. Good men and true who have lived well and served faithfully in the places to which they have been called are beacon lights of our civilization, answering each to each down the illuminated ages. Do these men who have fought a good fight, finished their course, and kept the faith as our lamented Governor has done altogether vanish from the earth when the grave closes upon them? Apparently, in many instances, "Yes"; in reality, never. A stone thrown into the ocean makes ripples near the shore as it sinks, and those ripples soon are merged in the wild surges of ocean billows, but that ocean is affected to the farthest shore, although imperceptibly to mortal ken; so a word is spoken, and is lost to human ear, but science tells us that the vibrations in the ether which they cause expand and expand beyond the confines of this little world, until, passing through illimitable space, they break against the great white throne; so the worthy life of a worthy man in its results is imperishable. Governor Lilley's work is done, and well done, and will live after him. Never shall I forget the afternoon when his body was laid to rest