

**MEMORIAL OF THOMAS  
ARTHUR DOYLE:  
MAYOR OF THE  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE**

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Memorial of Thomas Arthur Doyle: Mayor of the City of Providence by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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ARTHUR DOYLE:  
MAYOR OF THE  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE**



Providence - City Council

**MEMORIAL**  
OF  
**THOMAS ARTHUR DOYLE,**  
**MAYOR**  
OF THE  
**CITY OF PROVIDENCE.**



**Providence, R. I.**

Prepared and Printed by Authority of the City Council.  
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## RESOLUTION

TO PRINT A MEMORIAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH  
THE OBSEQUIES OF THE LATE MAYOR THOMAS ARTHUR DOYLE.

[Approved November 6, 1886.]

RESOLVED, That the City Clerk, under the direction of Messrs. Stone, Millett, Phillips, Pierce, Marcy, Perrin and Whipple, of the Common Council, and Aldermen White and Root, be hereby authorized to arrange and print, for the use of the City Council, a memorial of the proceedings in connection with the obsequies of the late Mayor THOMAS ARTHUR DOYLE, together with the addresses delivered at the session of the City Council held October 28, 1886, the expense thereof to be charged to the appropriation for contingencies.

A true copy.

Witness:

HENRY V. A. JOSLIN,  
*City Clerk.*

## THOMAS ARTHUR DOYLE.

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THOMAS ARTHUR DOYLE, Mayor of the city of Providence, died at his residence\* June 9, 1886. The mournful intelligence of his death was announced to the citizens of the city of which he had for so many years been Mayor, by the striking of the fire alarm bells, followed by the solemn tolling of the church bells.

On the following day, the Acting Mayor, Gilbert F. Robbins, convened a special meeting of the Common Council at the same hour of the regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen, and officially announced to the City Council the death of Mayor DOYLE, by a message as follows :

\* No. 273 Benefit street, nearly opposite George street.



CITY OF PROVIDENCE.  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, CITY HALL,  
June 10, 1886.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY COUNCIL :

It becomes my painful duty to announce to you the death of Honorable THOMAS A. DOYLE, Mayor of this city, which occurred at 9.26 o'clock last evening. His long and faithful service of eighteen years as Mayor, and his great interest in the welfare and prosperity of the municipality, has made him prominent in the position which he has for so many years filled with the highest honor to himself and the people he represented.

Faithful to the trust imposed upon him as a Chief Magistrate, zealous in guarding every interest of the city, he reckoned no public duty too onerous, but devoted the best years of his life to unremitting labor for the advancement of its position to the highest rank among the cities of the Union.

In recognition of his faithful services, and as a fitting tribute to his memory, revered alike by all the citizens of this city, I recommend that the City Council take appropriate action by the appointment of a committee to make arrangements for his funeral, and to report a suitable minute to be placed upon the records of the City Council.

I have therefore convened you at this time that you may take action thereon.

GILBERT F. ROBBINS,  
*Acting Mayor.*

The City Council unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the Acting Mayor, Gilbert F. Robbins, with Aldermen Stillman White and Henry T. Root, and Messrs. Alfred Stone, Thomas A. Millett, George R. Phillips, George L. Pierce, Fred. I. Marcy, Daniel Perrin and William L. Whipple, of the Common Council, be hereby appointed a joint special committee with authority to make arrangements for the funeral of THOMAS A. DOYLE, late Mayor of the city, and to draw upon the City Treasurer for any expense attending the same.

RESOLVED, That the said committee prepare and submit an appropriate minute in respect to his memory, to be inscribed upon the records of the City Council.

RESOLVED, That the City Hall be closed for the transaction of business on the day set for the funeral.

Upon moving the passage of the foregoing resolutions in the Common Council, Mr. Stone spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:—We are called together by the President of the Board of Aldermen and Acting Mayor of the city, to perform the solemn duty which devolves upon us in this hour of the city's sorrow.

We were not surprised and yet were startled at the tolling of the bells which announced the departure of the foremost man in this city, and the birth of a soul in the great unknown which lies beyond. I speak advisedly, Mr. President, when I

speak of the death of THOMAS A. DOYLE as the departure of the foremost man of this city. Who has filled for more than a generation a more conspicuous place in the annals of our beloved city than he? Who has been a more potent factor in its growth and development? Called to serve the city as a member of this branch of the government just thirty-six years ago, he has been in its continuous service as a member of the Common Council, of the School Committee, or as Mayor from June, 1852, to June, 1886, with only an occasional intermission, and in those years when he was not in office the affairs of the city were ever uppermost in his mind. He was called to the office of Mayor during the fierce struggle for the existence of the nation in June, 1864, when the population of the city was only 54,000, and he has lived to see peace restored to the land, and the city grow to a population of 120,000 people. In that period nearly all of the school houses which are now in use were built, including the High School; this hall has been erected at a cost of more than a million of dollars, and water has been introduced to our homes—a blessing far outweighing all other improvements—and largely due to his influence and aid. All of our sewers have been built, the mileage of our streets has more than doubled, the present most efficient police system has been created, the fire department has become by its unsurpassed facilities and superior organization so effective that no city has been more exempt from large fires than ours, and the whole aspect of our city has changed beyond even *his* most sanguine expectations, and what man among us was more sanguine than he?

There is not one of us here but has differed from him in the course of his or our official careers, and yet who of us ever found in him other than a most valiant defender