

**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
ON THE LIFE
AND CHARACTER
OF JOSEPH RANKIN**

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Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of Joseph Rankin by United States Congress

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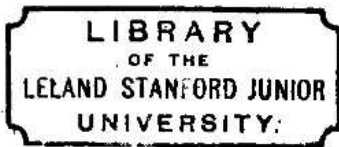
**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
ON THE LIFE
AND CHARACTER
OF JOSEPH RANKIN**

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
ON THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER
OF
JOSEPH RANKIN,
(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM WISCONSIN.)

DELIVERED IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,
FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

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JOINT RESOLUTION for the printing of certain eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late Joseph Rankin.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late Joseph Rankin, a Representative in the Forty-ninth Congress from the State of Wisconsin, twelve thousand five hundred copies, of which three thousand shall be for the use of the Senate and nine thousand five hundred for the use of the House of Representatives. And the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to have printed a portrait of the said Joseph Rankin to accompany said eulogies; and for the purpose of engraving or printing said portrait the sum of five hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved, July 8, 1886.

ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE
DEATH OF JOSEPH RANKIN.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

January 25, 1886.

Mr. BRAGG. Mr. Speaker, the painful duty devolves upon me to announce to this House the death of my friend and colleague JOSEPH RANKIN, a Representative from the State of Wisconsin, who died on yesterday, at his residence, at 2 o'clock p. m. I shall not detain the House at this time with any remarks upon his memory, but at some future time will ask the consideration of the House. At present I submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the House has heard with sincere regret the announcement of the death of Hon. JOSEPH RANKIN, late a Representative of the State of Wisconsin.

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That a special joint committee of seven members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate be appointed to take order for superintending the funeral and to escort the remains of the deceased to Manitowoc, Wis.; and the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

The question was taken, and the resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

The SPEAKER. Before declaring the result of the vote the Chair will announce the following as the committee on the part of the House:

Mr. BRAGG of Wisconsin, Mr. VAN SCHAICK of Wisconsin, Mr. STEPHENSON of Wisconsin, Mr. GUENTHER of Wisconsin, Mr. CARLETON of Michigan, Mr. HENDERSON of Illinois, and Mr. JOHNSON of New York.

The result of the vote was announced as above stated; and accordingly the House adjourned.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

March 25, 1886.

Mr. BRAGG. Mr. Speaker, two months since I announced to this House the death of my colleague, JOSEPH RANKIN, late a Representative from the State of Wisconsin. I then stated that at some future time I would invite the attention of the House to the consideration of resolutions in respect to his memory, and asked that a time be fixed when his associates and friends could speak of his virtues as a citizen and a legislator. That time, sir, has now arrived under an order of this House, and I send to the Clerk's desk resolutions which I ask to have read and considered.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the business of this House be suspended that suitable honors may be paid to the memory of Hon. JOSEPH RANKIN, late a Representative from the State of Wisconsin.

Resolved, That in the death of Mr. RANKIN the country has sustained the loss of a safe legislator, a patriotic citizen, and an able and faithful public servant.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to his memory the House, at the conclusion of these ceremonies, shall adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

ADDRESSES

ON THE

DEATH OF JOSEPH RANKIN,
DELIVERED IN THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

Address of Mr. BRAGG, of Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, the House is convened under special order as a mark of respect to the memory of my deceased colleague, the late Hon. JOSEPH RANKIN, a Representative from the fifth district in the State of Wisconsin, and to permit his friends and associates in this body to pay their tribute to his character as legislator, soldier, citizen, husband, father, and friend. Those who knew him best esteemed him most.

He was a native of New Jersey, born at Passaic September 25, 1833, but in his childhood was removed to New York, and was educated at the Homer Academy in Cortland County, then justly celebrated for the thoroughness of its teaching and the impress of manhood it stamped upon the character of its students.

In his earliest manhood he determined to cast his fortune and fate with the then young and growing West, and settled in Wisconsin in 1854, and from that time until his death he remained a citizen of that State, identified with its interests and legislation, and became a thoroughly Western man in his habits and instincts. When the black cloud of internecine strife broke and deluged the country with blood, the name of JOSEPH RANKIN was quickly attached as a volunteer

upon the muster-roll of his country, and with his life in his hand he went to battle for the Union of the States and the preservation of the nation. He was no laggard in war, but for three years did service in the field, participating in many bloody engagements; always cool and nonchalant, winning the respect of his superiors and his subordinates by his gallant example and the love of his men by his kind and considerate attention to their comfort and welfare.

The close of the war found him in Tennessee, where he remained temporarily engaged in private business enterprises until 1868, when he returned to his home in Wisconsin. He was almost immediately called into public life in his county in the management and conduct of the local business of its people, and served them so well to their satisfaction that he was advanced by them to a position of higher grade, with a more extended field for operation, and for eleven years he proved an honest, upright, and faithful representative in the legislature of the State. In recognition of his service, with full trust and faith in his honesty and capacity, the people of his Congressional district promoted him from the councils of the State to the National House of Representatives.

In 1884 he was re-elected and came to this House with the hand of death upon him, and at the opening of the session took the oath as one of its members, determined to die, if must be, with the harness on. On the 24th day of January of the present year, after a long and painful illness, at an angel's touch "the silver cord was loosened," and his spirit went hence, leaving his mortality at rest.

When I stood by this lifeless clay and looked upon the face once bright and pleasant with life and humor, the light of which had gone forever, I could not but thank the Great Father of the universe for a hope and faith instilled in me by a mother long since in quiet rest, "that death is not the end of man," but is only "sleep's twin sister," and from out that sleep will spring new life, and the body we give to earth to-day will be reproduced in His own good time, by the processes of the Infinite, whose ways are past finite comprehension, "but who doeth all things well."

It was my good fortune, sir, to have known and associated with Mr. RANKIN for many years. He was a staunch friend, but a plain, unpretending man, who had a thorough contempt for ostentation. He could not move bodies of men by appeals to their passions or to their reason, but he was a clear, practical thinker, with quick, keen perception and an intuitive knowledge of the springs of action which control the action of men as individuals, and herein was his power to accomplish wonderful results. When brought face to face with the man, he rarely failed; hence I class him rather as a manager than a leader of men. He was an experienced legislator, and, by a combination of his qualities of perception and practicality, he was a wise and prudent one, and conservative in all his leanings. As a soldier he was brave and generous, tender and sympathetic as the brave only know how to be.

I was one of the committee of this House charged with the duty of delivering his remains to his State and superintending their committal to their resting place at his home. And to speak of him as a citizen and the respect in which he was held, I need only to say the throngs of people of high and low degree, from Chicago to his home in Northeast Wisconsin, who crowded every station as we passed, and who followed the funeral cortege as it wended its way to the cemetery, is a better recognition of his worth than any words spoken by me.

I feel, sir, that I shall trespass on sacred ground to speak of his inner life in the domestic circle, but I cannot forbear saying he was a marvel of tenderness and affection to his wife and children, and he enjoyed in return the wealth of their unbounded love. May the God of the widow and fatherless ever protect and preserve them with His blessing!

As a friend JOSEPH RANKIN was strong and steadfast, and, could he speak from the tomb, would ask no more eulogistic epitaph upon the tablet at his grave than "He was true to his friends."

And now, sir, I must bid my friend farewell.

I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.