

Memorial to the Honorable Otto Albert of Grundy County

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable Otto Albert, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

Otto Albert was born in Scott County, Iowa, in 1876. At the age of four years he moved with his parents to Grundy County and received his education in the Reinbeck Public Schools. He helped his father on the farm until 1899.

In 1899 he was married to Clara B. Strohbehn, also of Grundy County, and to this union were born six children, Flora, Mabel, Harold, Lucille, Irene and Ethel. After his marriage, Mr. Albert engaged in farming for himself. In 1905, he had a farm sale and moved with his family to Idaho and engaged in the sheep industry on the range. He sold out his sheep business in 1913 and moved back to Grundy County.

Mr. Albert helped to organize the Grundy County Farm Bureau, was president of the organization for one year, and was always active in its functioning.

He was president of the township school board for seven years and was a member of the county board of supervisors for six years. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1928, serving in the Forty-third session of the General Assembly.

He died on December 5, 1945, and is survived by his wife and children.

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth General Assembly of Iowa: That in the passing of the Honorable Otto Albert, the state has lost a valuable and honored citizen, and the House expresses its appreciation of his character and public service and tenders, by this resolution, its sincere and heartfelt sympathy to his beloved family in their great sorrow and loss.

Be It Further Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

W. L. MOOTY,
LAWRENCE PUTNEY,
ARCH W. MCFARLANE,
Committee.

Memorial to the Honorable A. H. Avery of Clay County

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable A. H. Avery, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

A. H. Avery, better known as "Dad," was born near Excelsior, Richland County, Wisconsin, on May 20, 1870. Thereafter, "Dad" Avery's life was a monument of individualism, perseverance, service and integrity.

His mother died when he was three years old, and his father died when he was nine. He was educated in the rural schools and Cedar Valley Seminary, Osage, Iowa. In 1899, he moved to South Dakota and taught school at Ashland and Woonsocket until 1901. In that year, he moved to Spencer, Iowa, as high school principal, and was made superintendent the next year, in which capacity he continued for 14 years.

No matter which field you inquire, you find the humanitarian stamp of "Dad" Avery's character.

He helped found the Spencer public library and served on the library board from its birth to his death.

Many remember "Dad" Avery and his chautauqua work. He did much of the promotional work and was platform manager in Spencer, Emmetsburg and Algona.

He was instrumental in founding the Spencer DeMolay chapter in 1922, and served from that time until his death as Dad Advisor. He was always proud of the opportunity to serve and work with "his boys."

He was a P. M. Woonsocket Lodge No. 33, A. F. & A. M., Evening Shade Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M., Past High Priest of Clay Chapter No. 112, Royal Arch Masons: Past Illustrious Master, Temple Council No. 37, Royal and Select Masters; Past Commander of Asotus Commandery No. 65, K. T. Past Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery of the State of Iowa; 32 degree K.C.C.H. Sioux City Consistory No. 5.

His first wife, a daughter and a grandson preceded him in death. He is survived by four great grandchildren; seven grandchildren; three children, Mrs. Theta Tucker, Barbara Avery and Alden D. Avery; and by his second wife, Mrs. Grace Avery.

"Dad" Avery was mayor of the city of Spencer in 1926 and 1927, and served at the time as president of the Iowa League of Municipalities.

He entered the insurance field in 1916. His bearing and conduct in that field was such as to reflect great credit upon the industry.

"Dad" Avery was one of the grandest in the Grand Old Party. His friends and neighbors first sent him to the Forty-fourth General Assembly, and his humanitarian ideals and intellectual ability were such that he was returned as Representative in the Forty-fifth Extra, Forty-sixth, Forty-sixth Extra, Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth, Fiftieth, Fiftieth Extra Fifty-first, Fifty-second, Fifty-second Extra and Fifty-third sessions of the General Assemblies. He was speaker pro tempore of the Fiftieth session. Of him, his colleagues stated: "When 'Dad' Avery spoke, we listened."

A beloved member of his community, he was voted "Tops in Our Town" in July, 1950. His passing on December 7, 1950, at Spencer, Iowa, be-

reaves the state and his county of a respected and beloved citizen. Friend, neighbor, legislator, schoolmaster, humanitarian, his passing is mourned by all who were fortunate enough to be among his large list of friends and acquaintances.

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth General Assembly of Iowa: That in the passing of the Honorable A. H. Avery, the state has lost a valuable and honored citizen, and the House expresses its appreciation of his character and public service and tenders, by this resolution, its sincere and heartfelt sympathy to his beloved family in their great sorrow and loss.

Be It Further Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

PAUL COOKSEY,
J. C. DAVIS,
ARCH W. MCFARLANE,
Committee.

Memorial to the Honorable William R. Blake of Fayette County

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable William R. Blake, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

William R. Blake, better known as "Bill," was born on a farm in Jo Daviess County near Elizabeth, Illinois, October 1, 1878, coming to Iowa in 1900. He was a graduate of Elizabeth High School, Danville Normal and Chicago Park Business College. While in high school, he began to learn the printing trade. He taught school, however, before he acquired his first newspaper at Eau Claire, Michigan. In 1905, he started publishing a weekly newspaper "Enterprise" at Clermont, Iowa, and this he continued to edit and publish for twenty years.

In 1904, he was united in marriage to Bessie B. Morgan. They are the parents of two children, William Burdette and Anna Lolita.

Mr. Blake was mayor of Clermont from 1918 to 1922. He was a member of the Masonic, Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen fraternal orders.

In politics, Mr. Blake was a Republican and was Representative from Fayette County in the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Forty-first General Assemblies. Later, he became an agent of the State Bureau of Investigation and, in 1927, was appointed deputy fire marshal. He was always vitally concerned with county politics and, for a number of years, served as county chairman.