

## WILLIAM S. BEARDSLEY

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable William S. Beardsley, Governor of Iowa, begs leave to submit the following:

William S. Beardsley was born at Beacon, Iowa, located in Mahaska County, on May 18, 1901, the son of William and Carrie Shane Beardsley. He was fatally injured in an automobile accident at Des Moines, Iowa, on November 21, 1954, at the age of 53 years.

He was educated in the public schools at Birmingham, Iowa, in Van Buren County, and graduated from the Birmingham High School and the Bowen Institute of Pharmacy and Chemistry then located in Brunswick, Missouri.

He was united in marriage with Charlotte E. Manning of Birmingham. To them were born three sons and two daughters. One son, William, died in infancy.

Almost penniless when he came to New Virginia in 1922, he borrowed the money to buy a drug store. He paid for the store and then being a firm believer in the farm land of our beautiful state, purchased 900 acres of farm land near New Virginia. He moved to this farm in 1940 and continued to be actively engaged in its operation until his death.

He was elected Senator from Clarke and Warren Counties, serving in the Forty-fifth, Forty-fifth Extra, Forty-sixth, Forty-sixth Extra, Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth General Assemblies. At that time he thought he was out of politics, but when Harold Felton died from a heart attack at the beginning of the Fifty-second legislative session, a special election was called and Bill was elected to the House of Representatives from Warren County. He was elected Governor in 1948, re-elected in 1950 and re-elected in 1952, being the third man in 107 years of statehood to succeed himself to a third term. He was elected by the largest vote ever given a candidate for office of Governor in Iowa. Well loved by all those in New Virginia, he carried his home township in the 1948 race for Governor by 335 to 16.

He was a member of the Methodist Church, several Masonic bodies, I.O.O.F., and the American Academy of Political Science.

Mr. Beardsley had championed the cause of highway safety perhaps more than any other Governor and it was ironical that he should lose his life in a highway accident.

Mr. Beardsley is the only Governor of Iowa to pass away while in office. Services were held in the office at the State House where he had spent so many years, after which the body was taken to New Virginia, Iowa, for the funeral and burial.

Bill, as he was affectionately known to all, willingly devoted his time and effort not only to the affairs of the State of Iowa but to his own county and community as well. He was loved by all who knew him and some of his happiest hours were spent behind the counter in his drug store serving malted milks and soft drinks to his fellow townsmen.

He is survived by his wife, Charlotte; two sons, Blaine and Dan, both of New Virginia; two daughters, Mary (Mrs. Henry F. Schieg), Appleton, Wisconsin and Charlotte (Mrs. Doyle E. Stickel), New Virginia; a sister, Mrs. Morris Fisher, La Jolla, California, and four grandchildren.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Fifty-sixth General Assembly:* That in the passing of the Honorable William S. Beardsley, the people of the entire State of Iowa have sustained a great loss and the Senate 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 on the Journal of the Senate, and that the Secretary of the Senate be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the members of the family of the deceased.

G. D. BELLMAN,  
L. M. BOOTHBY,  
DEVERE WATSON,

*Committee.*

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

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### JAMES M. BELL

MR. PRESIDENT: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late James M. Bell, begs leave to submit the following:

James M. Bell, 77, born March 28, 1876, one of Burlington's best known political figures since the turn of the century, died on Monday, August 3, 1953, in Burlington, Iowa.

He was a former mayor of Burlington, former State Senator, and Democratic candidate for Congress. He was often mentioned, too, for other posts, and late in 1950 was a candidate for the appointive post of Internal Revenue Collector for Iowa.

Mr. Bell, for years prominent in the councils of the Democratic party in Burlington, was also active in district and state political circles. He was recognized as a hard campaigner who pulled no punches; who was soft spoken, always courteous, ever pleasant.

"He was of the old school," a long time associate commented. "He was always in the thick of the fight. He remembered his friends, kept a watchful eye on his opponents."

While in the insurance business in Burlington for years, he was best known for political activity.

Twice he just missed being his party's choice for Congressman from the first district. Each time he led other candidates in the field, each time he fell short of the required 35 per cent of the total vote and each time he was counted out at his party's district convention.