

## HONORABLE J. D. MORRISON

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life, character and public services of the late Honorable J. D. Morrison of Grundy county, Iowa, begs leave to submit the following report:

J. D. Morrison was born at Pittsfield, Illinois, on December 4, 1850. He received his initial education at a district school near his home. He also attended commercial college in Quincy, Illinois. After his graduation from that school he moved to Clinton county, Iowa, where he taught school for several years. In 1883 he was married to Carrie Atwood and to this union there was born one daughter and one son. Mr. Morrison moved to Reinbeck immediately after his marriage, where he was employed as a bookkeeper. Later he entered the insurance and real estate business and carried on this work for many years.

Mr. Morrison lived an active and full life. He was consistently elected a delegate to the Republican party's county convention. During President Taft's administration he served as postmaster at Reinbeck. He was also a member of many organizations, one of which was the Reinbeck I. O. O. F. Lodge.

Mr. Morrison represented Grundy county in the state Legislature during the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth Extra General Assemblies. As a public servant his first thought was always of the sense of duty he owed to the people of the state as a whole rather than to some group which was seeking a special advantage for themselves.

Mr. Morrison passed away March 1, 1939, at the age of eighty-eight years.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Forty-eighth General Assembly, That the state has lost a valued and beloved citizen, and the House of Representatives would tender, by this resolution, its sincere, heartfelt sympathy to his beloved family in their sorrow.*

*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.*

C. W. ROSS,  
HENRY W. BURMA,  
DEAN W. PEISEN,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted, April 12, 1939.

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 HONORABLE OLEY NELSON

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare resolutions commemorating the life, character, and public services of the Honorable Oley Nelson of Story county, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

Oley Nelson was born in a log cabin in Rock county, Wisconsin, August 10, 1844, and passed from this life at his home in Slater, Iowa, on April 15, 1938. His father served in the Civil War and died in service.

He enlisted June 17, 1864, in Company D, 49th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, which was known as the University regiment. He was discharged September 16, 1864, after illness rendered him unfit for further service.

In 1867 he came to Iowa in a covered wagon with his mother. For a few years he worked in Des Moines and at one time he worked for a contractor, hauling material to build the state capitol. He later engaged in mercantile and banking business in Slater, always displaying keen interest in his community. He represented Story county in the Twenty-first and Twenty-second General Assemblies and for fourteen years served as sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives.

He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 30 at Ames, Iowa, for forty years, and was a member of Grenville M. Dodge Camp, Sons of Union Veterans for twenty-seven years. He was department patriotic instructor and in 1927 was elected Department Commander of Iowa. In 1931 he was National Chief of Staff, and was elected senior vice-commander-in-chief the same year. He was elected national commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1935—the third man from Iowa to attain that office.

While a member of the General Assembly, Mr. Nelson was one of the foremost advocates for the establishment of a soldiers home. It was largely through his efforts that one was established at Marshalltown, Iowa.

Mr. Nelson was not only a good soldier, a loyal statesman, but he lived up to every measure of a real citizen. He contributed to the civic welfare of his home town, Slater, Iowa, which place remained his residence until the time of his death. Though he gained national recognition as National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic he always remained, to his neighbors and friends, just plain "Oley Nelson."

A fitting tribute was paid to Mr. Nelson by Ray Murray in the following lines:

#### OLEY NELSON

"He shall not die!"  
Although I stood beside his bier  
And dropped a tear  
To see the soldier I once knew,  
Still garbed in blue,  
Asleep beneath the flag that he  
Had fought to keep unstained and free.

Asleep he lay, nor knew nor heard  
A single, solitary word  
Of all the praise we offered here  
To one so dear;  
Just lay asleep, his fighting done,  
Now mustered out with victory won.

The lights are out, 'tap's' echo creeps  
 Across God's camp, our soldier sleeps;  
 But all the things for which he fought,  
 The ideals that he ever sought  
 Have been passed on to you and I;  
 He's answered Taps,  
 But shall not die!"

*Therefore, Be It Resolved*, That in the passing of the Honorable Oley Nelson, the county of Story and the state of Iowa has lost a valuable and honored citizen and the House of Representatives of the state of Iowa, Forty-eighth General Assembly, tender, by this resolution, its sincere sympathy to the surviving members of his family in their sorrow, and

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House of Representatives and that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, Forty-eighth General Assembly, be instructed to send an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

ALBERT STEINBERG,  
 JAMES E. IRWIN,  
 E. M. LICHTY,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted, April 12, 1939.

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#### HONORABLE JOHN ORR

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee appointed to prepare a resolution commemorating the life, character and public services of the late Honorable John Orr of Keokuk county, begs leave to submit the following:

John Orr was born February 18, 1850 in County Down, Ireland, and died at the home of Mrs. Jennie Garrett in Sigourney, Iowa, April 13, 1939, at the age of eighty-nine years, one month, and twenty-six days. He suffered a stroke of paralysis from which he never rallied.

In 1870 he came with his parents, brothers, and sisters to America. They settled in Rock Island county, Illinois. Six years later they moved to Iowa, and in 1879, came to Keokuk county, locating on a farm near Thornburg which was his home for fifty-nine years.

He was married January 12, 1898, to Anna L. Johnston who preceded him in death in 1922. A brother, Robert Orr, with whom he was closely associated in business, died last December. Surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Jane Harding of What Cheer, Mrs. Agnes Dunbar of Cedar Rapids, and Mrs. Belle Biglow of Edmonds, Washington.

Mr. Orr served as Keokuk county Republican Representative in the Iowa Legislature during the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, and Forty-first General Assemblies. He was prominent in Masonic circles and was made a Mason in Ireland at the age of nineteen years, and has held a continuous membership in the Order more than seventy years. At the time of his death he was a member of the Masonic Lodge and O. E. S. at Thornburg, Iowa Consistory at Cedar Rapids and Shrine at Davenport.