

elected its captain. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel of the regiment when less than twenty-four years old, June 9, 1863. He was with his regiment, commanding it all of the time, in its great history at Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Columbia, and at the grand review at Washington, and was mustered out June 6, 1865. He then returned home and devoted himself to farming and stock raising. He was elected county auditor of Washington county in 1875 and was reelected in 1877, serving four years. In 1884 he was elected a presidential elector, running as a Republican.

In 1891 Mr. Palmer was elected Senator and was reelected in 1895, serving inclusively from the Twenty-fourth to the Twenty-seventh General Assemblies. He resigned as Senator at the close of the Twenty-seventh and accepted the appointment by Governor Shaw made on March 22, 1898, as a member of the Railroad Commission. By reason of election he continued to serve in this position until 1915.

The Palmer farm home was only a few miles from Washington, but the last twenty-five years of his life he and his wife, who was Letitia Helen Young before their marriage in 1866, and who survives him, resided in the city.

Mr. Palmer was outstanding and useful in church work, in politics, in social life, and in every other useful activity of the community. He was a life-long member of the United Presbyterian church; for over thirty years was superintendent of the Sunday School, and for practically all his active life was a member of the church choir. Popular with all classes because of his fine personal qualities, he was an especial favorite among his war comrades. He had few equals as a camp fire speaker. He received the highest honors the Grand Army had to bestow, being commander of the Department of Iowa for the years 1907-08, and grand commander of the national organization in 1914-15.

It might well be said of Colonel Palmer, the words that were spoken of our first President, that he was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." His devotion and loyalty to his neighbors and friends not only in his home county but in his state was always uppermost in his mind, and his integrity and faithfulness in his home and public duties was always of a high order and above reproach, and in his passing his community, his state, and nation have lost a most valuable and loyal friend.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of the Senate, and that the Secretary be directed to send an engrossed copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

WILLIAM CARDEN,
J. R. FRAILEY,
F. M. BEATTY,

Committee.

Senator Frailey spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND SENATORS: When the Senator from Henry said that Colonel Palmer had a devoted friend in me, he should have reversed it and said that I had a devoted friend in Colonel Palmer.

One of my earliest recollections when I was budding into young manhood, was the sagacious guidance of this grand old man, whom we all love in Iowa, as the mentor, not only of the Republican party, but of the youth of that part of the state.

He was what I like to call one of the old oaks of Iowa, the sturdy oaks that were the pioneers, and are almost all gone now; and he typified that type of pioneer.

He was perhaps the most popular man, personally, that I have ever known, during his career in Iowa politics, and he got that political career not through guile but through honesty of character, and the loveliness of his disposition.

As a Senator he left a record unparalleled to none, and is remembered as one of the great men that went out of the Hawkeye state at the time of the rebellion.

Colonel Palmer led one of the finest regiments of all that vast militant body of the boys in blue who saved the union.

And now this intrepid, chivalrous soul has passed in review, not before Abraham Lincoln, but before the Great Commander of the universe.

Senator Carden spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT: I imagine that there are none of the members of this Senate but who have either known or heard of Colonel Palmer. He was an outstanding character in Iowa history. He was one of the early citizens that came to our state. Col. Palmer went through the country schools and then was a teacher and when he was teaching the Civil War broke out and Colonel Palmer was one of the first to offer his services in behalf of his country. He was in the war but a short time when he was so badly injured that he had to be sent home, but he was so filled with the tremendous importance of what was going on that with his arm in a sling he organized a company and was elected its captain and with this company he went back to the conflict.

Colonel Palmer was an outstanding figure in the history of Iowa and history will so record him. He was without a doubt one of the bravest men that ever served on the battle front. I was told by one of his comrades that during one of the fiercest conflicts of the struggle, when his regiment was becoming discouraged and offered to surrender, Colonel Palmer went around among his men and pleaded with them to advance, and in response to his request, they advanced and the battle was won.

Such was the life and character of Colonel Palmer. No greater citizen ever lived in the state of Iowa, no better officer ever served in the state of Iowa. He filled the position of State Senator on this floor for two terms, eight years, in a most credible manner. He was then appointed as member of the Railroad Commission by Governor Shaw and served in that capacity for 19 years, doubtless the longest term in that capacity of any man who ever filled the position. In our part of the state everybody knew Colonel Palmer and to know him was to love him.

The resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.