

EUGENE SCHAFFTER

Mr. PRESIDENT—Your committee appointed to prepare resolutions commemorating the life, character and services of Eugene Schaffter of Wright county, Iowa, beg leave to submit the following report:

Eugene Schaffter was born at Lynchburg, Virginia, September 3rd, 1864. He was the son of Charles Albin and Lucy (Hall) Schaffter. Mr. Schaffter's parents were natives of Switzerland, where the father followed the printers' and machinists trades. When the family came to America he followed the printing trade in Virginia and served as public printer and finally moved to Paxton, Illinois, in 1880, his son moving with him.

Two years later the family moved to Eagle Grove, Iowa, and the father bought the town paper, which he published until his death in 1894.

Eugene Schaffter received his education in the public schools and the Collegiate and Normal Institute of Paxton, Illinois. He worked at newspaper reporting in Batavia, Illinois, until 1882, when he secured a position as stenographer and clerk for Railroad Superintendent Burt. For a short time he was with Mr. Burt at Clinton, and was the same year returned to Eagle Grove and was chief clerk for Mr. Hopkins, Burt's successor.

In 1890 he resigned and went to Europe, spending considerable time in that part of Switzerland where his parents were born and later entered the University of Berlin for one term.

On his return to America, he again entered the employ of the Northwestern at Eagle Grove, and in 1899 after seventeen years of service in this kind of work, he resigned and entered the law practice with D. C. Filkins. Two years later Mr. Filkins moved to Minneapolis, and Mr. Schaffter continued the practice alone until ill health forced him to give his work up, about two months before his death.

Mr. Schaffter was married to Miss Hattie Hecket, and she and their two daughters still survive.

In 1908 he was delegate to the Republican National Convention, and in 1918 was elected senator, and served in the Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth sessions. His term would have expired January 1, 1923, and it was his intention to ask re-election.

He was very active in Masonic circles. He was Past Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons of Iowa and Grand Masons of Iowa and Grand Illustrious Master of the Council.

He served as mayor of the city of Eagle Grove, and was president of the school board for a number of years, and was also a member of the library board.

He died at his home in Eagle Grove, Monday, October 31st, 1921, from pernicious anemia. He had been afflicted with this disease for some time, but it did not develop seriously until a few months before his death. He made several trips to Rochester, Minnesota, had several blood transfusions, but the results were not lasting. He passed away without suffering about one o'clock Monday morning.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, By the Senate of the Fortieth General

Assembly of Iowa, that in the death of Eugene Schaffter, the state and community where he lived, have suffered the loss of an influential and honorable citizen; and

Be It Further 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.

ED M. SMITH.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Senator Smith spoke in part as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—I shall always prize most highly the privilege which was mine in being associated with Eugene Schaffter. I recall following the election four years ago of hearing the old members of the Senate discussing our new associates and of hearing the highest compliments with reference to the character and ability of the new senator from Wright county.

The things that stand out in my mind concerning Senator Schaffter were his unusually sound judgment in matters of public interest, his broad vision of the public needs of the state of Iowa, his keen intellect, and his regard at all times for the rights of others. He was as gentle as a little child, loyal always to his convictions, and over and above all he had that consideration for others that marks the true gentleman.

One of the things that will always impress me was his unfaltering cheerfulness under all conditions. Two years ago when he served here with us I think now that we all knew that he was far from being well, but he bore his burden without complaining.

Between Senator Schaffter's desk and mine was the desk of the Senator from Polk and while Senator Parker is no longer a member of this body I think it would be quite fitting and proper that he say a few words of tribute.

Senator Parker spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—I am deeply grateful to the Senate for the privilege of saying a few words in memory of my friend, and the friend of all who knew him.

Eugene Schaffter was a native of Virginia and a pioneer of Iowa. He was a Cavalier by inheritance, and a puritan by environment. In him were combined the best traditions of both.

He came to northern Iowa more than forty years ago, when much of the native prairie was still unbroken. As a boy and young man he shared in the joys and hardships of pioneer life. After fifteen years of service at Eagle Grove with the Northwestern Railway Company, he began the study of law and in 1899 was admitted to the bar and became highly respected as an advocate and counsellor.

He took an active part in the civic life of his community. He believed in schools and free public libraries. He supported every cause that made for a better citizenship. He was a student of public affairs and not unmindful of the dangers that beset his country.

In 1918 he was elected to the state Senate and served in the Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth General Assemblies. He at once became one