

# JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

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## MEMORIALS

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HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
DES MOINES, IOWA, APRIL 19, 1919.

By direction of House of Representatives the various memorial resolutions relating to deceased members are herewith published as a part of the journal of the House. They were all presented by special committees appointed for that purpose at various times during the session and all adopted.

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### JAMES ALBERT SMITH.

MR. SPEAKER—Your committee appointed to draft a resolution concerning the life and public service of the Honorable James Albert Smith, of Mitchell County, Iowa, a member of the House of Representatives in the twenty-second and twenty-third general assemblies and also in the twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second and thirty-second extra session, thirty-third and thirty-fourth general assemblies in the Senate, beg leave to report the following facts:

James Albert Smith was born in the village of Castile, Wyoming County, New York, February 4, 1851, of New England parentage. He received his education in the district schools and, at the age of eighteen, came West and settled at Osage, Iowa. He was married in 1874 to Mary Alice Crego. He passed away at his winter home in Pasadena, California, January 12, 1918.

For several years after coming to Osage, he was actively engaged in civil engineering. Later, he and his brother, G. W. Smith, conducted a grocery store and, after a few years, the brothers engaged in the lumber business. G. W. Smith dying from pneumonia while in Wisconsin looking after the standing-timber end of the business, James A. continued the business alone. He developed wonderful business ability and his business grew rapidly and was extended until, at the time of his death, he had one of the biggest business organizations in the state. He was president of the Jas. A. Smith Lumber Company, the Royal Lumber Company, the Smith-Hovelson Lumber Company, the Smith-Thielen Lumber Company, the Superior Lumber & Coal Com-

pany, all with headquarters in Osage and with branch offices in Iowa, Minnesota, Dakota and Nebraska. These branch yards numbered about seventy-five.

He was vice-president of the Farmers' National Bank of Osage and had other banking connections at Osage and other points. In 1887, Senator Smith was elected as trustee of Iowa College, now Grinnell College, and served in this capacity until the time of his death. In accordance with his desires, his sons and daughter attended this college and he was liberal in support of the endowment.

He was a prominent member of the Congregational Church at Osage and took great interest in the work of the church. The last time he appeared at any public gathering in Osage or Mitchell County, was at the annual church meeting, the day before he left for California, and he spoke with considerable emphasis of the interest he took in his home church and the prospects for its future and had in mind the sixtieth anniversary celebration of the church, to be held some ten months later, in November, 1918. His interest was manifested by his presence at practically all church services and by his most liberal support and, in his will, which was drawn several years before his death, he made strong provisions for the financial benefit of his home church and for other church and educational work.

He was a York Rite Mason and a member of the Shrine. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

He leaves, beside his wife, seven children—six sons and a daughter: Fred C. Smith, Lee A. Smith, Stanley R. Smith, Lloyd Smith, Richard J. Smith, Merrill G. Smith, and Mrs. Robert Leach. His son Stanley R. Smith was an active member of the thirty-seventh general assembly, being elected from Bremer County.

After serving for several terms on the school board and the city council, he was elected to, and served in the House of Representatives in the twenty-second and twenty-third general assemblies and in the Senate without interruption for the twenty-eight, twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-second extra session, thirty-third and thirty-fourth general assemblies. In his last years as a member of the Senate, he was president pro tem, at the same time acting as chairman of the appropriations committee. He was generally regarded to be one of the ablest men in the Iowa Senate, being held in the deepest respect alike by republicans and democratic members. Senator Smith was a republican in politics.

His funeral was largely attended by influential men of the state and the following is an excerpt from an appreciation delivered at that time by the Honorable A. B. Funk, which sets forth the high esteem in which his companions in the betterment of Iowa held him:

"Senator Smith seemed to have years of service and satisfaction yet due him. He had lived well within the rules which make for length of days. He had never permitted appetite to menace health or minimize strength. He was clean in mind and heart and habit. Why such a man and such a life should be denied the allotted span of existence, we may not know and it is idle to cavil with destiny.

"While Senator Smith was prepared to live in enjoyment and usefulness, he was by no means unprepared for life's greatest adventure, even unrelenting death itself. He had not neglected to apply mind and heart to the problems of eternity. All the years of his life, he had lived in faith believing and in death, he was soothed and sustained by an unfaltering trust in the sublime promises of revealed religion. The living mourn their loss, not his. He fought a good fight and kept the faith. He achieved largely and honorably in affairs material. He made distinct impression upon a generation of important history and experience. He leaves seven children worthy of their sterling parentage. There is bereavement deep and abiding in the shadow of this decree of destiny but those who mourn are substantially sustained by memories precious and practical. More and more, will they realize how very much of a man was the Honorable Jas. A. Smith."

United States Senator A. B. Cummins said of him:

"I feel so keenly the loss of a dear personal friend that it is with great difficulty I bring myself to give an estimate of his worth as a republican. I have known him for thirty years and, during much of the time, intimately. Above anything else, he was a man of perfect courage and there are not many of them. What he believed to be right, he would say and do, no matter what the consequences might be. He was high-minded and unselfish and his first concern was always for his country, his state, his family, and his friends. He was strong and influential because, when he believed in a cause, he fought for it with unrelenting zeal. His place will not easily be filled in either the industrial, political, or social life of the state."

Thus it is, one by one they are called, some in infancy, some in old age, and others in their prime, or just when, from broad and versatile experience, high and noble natures, they are most useful to their fellow men, their state and nation. At just such a time, was the life of James Albert Smith suddenly terminated. He was in a position to give strong advice concerning matters of highest importance in the state and no other man in the state was better read nor more fully informed on national problems than was this State Senator. If he had sought higher office within or without the state, he would have honored the office, be it that of Governor or Congressman, and his constituents would have been made proud. His family mourn his departure, the community sadly miss his genial nature and wise counsel, and the state of Iowa has lost one of its biggest men.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved,* That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk transmit an engrossed copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

A. E. BROWN,  
J. M. SLOSSON,  
W. W. SAYLOR.