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Walter W. Magee



Memorial Addresses
DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES IN MEMORY OF
WALTER W. MAGEE
LATE A REPRESENTATIVE
FROM NEW YORK



Seventieth Congress

APRIL 15, 1928



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Biography

WALTER WARREN MAGEE, was born in Groveland, Livingston County, N. Y., May 23, 1861; attended the common schools and Geneseo State Normal School; was graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N. H., in 1885 and from Harvard University in 1889; studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1891, and commenced practice in Syracuse, N. Y.; served as a member of the board of supervisors of Onondaga County in 1892 and 1893; corporation counsel of Syracuse 1904-1914; elected as a Republican to the Sixty-fourth and to the six succeeding Congresses, and served from March 4, 1915, until his death in Syracuse, N. Y., May 25, 1927; interment in Oakwood Cemetery.

Proceedings
in the
House of Representatives

Walter W. Magee



Proceedings in the House of Representatives

MONDAY, *December 5, 1927.*

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution and ask its adoption.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read (H. Res. 11) as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of HON. WALTER W. MAGEE, a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The question was taken, and the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. SNELL. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect for our late deceased colleague, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER. The gentlemen from New York moves that the House do now adjourn. The question is on agreeing to that motion.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 2 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Tuesday, December 6, 1927, at 12 o'clock noon.

WALTER W. MAGEE

SATURDAY, *December 10, 1927.*

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Craven, its principal clerk, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Hon. WALTER W. MAGEE, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

MONDAY, *March 19, 1928.*

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the passage of the following order, which I send to the desk and ask to have read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ordered, That Sunday, April 15, 1928, at 12 o'clock noon, be set apart for memorial exercises in commemoration of the life, services, and character of the late WALTER W. MAGEE, former Representative from the thirty-fifth district of New York.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the order will be agreed to.

There was no objection.

SATURDAY, *April 14, 1928.*

The SPEAKER. The Chair designates the gentleman from New York [Mr. Parker] to preside to-morrow for memorial exercises on the late Representative MAGEE.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS

SUNDAY, *April 15, 1928.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. Parker.

Rev. Frank W. Collier, of the American University, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, the source of life and love, Father of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, in whose care are our loved ones, the living and the departed, manifest Thy presence in our sorrow-stricken hearts as we come to express our respect and esteem for those who gave themselves so fully to the service of their country. We thank Thee for their lives, as that of those who leave their permanent callings, devoting their lives to the public service with its uncertainties and risks. Such truly become our servants. And we do well to tarry for this solemn hour in this historic Hall, the scene of the faithful labors of our friends who have gone to their eternal reward, and thus honor their memory. Bless those bound to them by the ties of blood whom they loved and who loved them. May Thy tender solace assuage their grief. Bless these their colleagues in the public service, who labored with them for their country's good, and bless the country they served so well. We ask in the name of Him who is the resurrection and the life. Amen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the special order.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ordered, That Sunday, April 15, 1928, at 12 o'clock noon, be set apart for memorial exercises in commemoration of the life, services, and character of the late WALTER W. MAGEE, former Representative from the thirty-fifth district of New York.

WALTER W. MAGEE

Mr. SNELL. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution which I send to the desk and ask to have read.

The Clerk read (H. Res. 167) as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. WALTER W. MAGEE, late a Member of this House from the State of New York.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House at the conclusion of the exercises of this day shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

Memorial Addresses
on
Walter W. Magee

Memorial Addresses



Address by Representative Madden *Of Illinois*

Mr. SPEAKER: It was my privilege not only to have a very intimate acquaintance with WALTER MAGEE, whose memory we meet here to-day to honor, but I classed him as one of my most beloved friends. He was a member of the Committee on Appropriations, over which I have the honor to preside, and as a member of that great committee he acted as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, in which he had a very deep interest, and in the success of which he had an abiding faith. We will not meet WALTER MAGEE face to face again, and every day since the day of his death I have continued to mourn his passing. It is natural that we should pass away, just as natural as it is that we should be born. We come into the world without being consulted, and, generally speaking, we pass along out of the world without having anything to say about it. During our term on earth, if we live rightly, we live to build up a superstructure on a great foundation that will make for better living and more comfort for those who follow. The world is very much improved because of the fact that WALTER MAGEE lived. He was one of the men who in his everyday life was a living example of true worth. He believed that every man should do his duty, both to himself and to his friends, to

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those who were successful as well as to those who were unsuccessful, and above all he believed that as a citizen of a great country he owed a duty that could not well be ignored. He did not try to ignore it. He sought for opportunity to engage upon the things that his duty called him to do and he did those things cheerfully. He approached every subject upon which he was called to act with a determination to put the searchlight of publicity into the study of the problem which might be involved. He had a courage that was never failing, which knew no turning.

His integrity was unimpeachable. He maintained a moral standard that was worthy of emulation by everybody. Those of us who knew him well looked for him every morning with pleasure. He always came with a smile to find out what there was that he could do to advance the interest of the country that he loved so well. He had no desire to evade the responsibility. He never ran away from something that meant hard work. He approached every problem, as I have said, with a firm determination that the outcome of the study that he was called upon to make in connection with the problem should be in the interest and for the advancement of the race.

WALTER MAGEE was an ardent Republican, and as such he never faltered. He was a very bitter partisan, it might well be said; but in the exercise of his partisanship he recognized the rights of others to think and act as they thought best. If they differed from him, he was not angry. He tried to convince

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them by the logic of his own attitude that they were wrong and that he was right; but if he was unable to do that, he did not sulk, he smiled. He had a difficult task to perform in connection with his great work on the Committee on Appropriations. Democrats and Republicans alike will agree that he performed it well. The breath of suspicion was never cast upon the motives of WALTER MAGEE in connection with his action upon any public question, and I am sure that my Democratic friends on the committee who served intimately with him will agree with that. Everyone who knew him would say that. He first wanted to know what was right, and then it did not make any difference how much work there was to do to accomplish the right, WALTER MAGEE did his part in connection with its accomplishment. He was not afraid. He did not run away from criticism. He never trimmed his sails, he always met foursquare every wind that blew.

Let it blow as hard as it would, or adversely as it liked, WALTER MAGEE was there with a firm determination to do the right and to stand before the wind to the extent of his ability.

Oh, I do not know of anybody I loved any better. I got the word of his sudden death a thousand miles away from where it happened. I was shocked beyond measure. I could not go to help lay him away because I was under the doctor's care myself, but he lives in my heart. Every breath I take breathes a friendship for his memory and I thank God that by his example while he lived the world is better.

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I was taught to believe, and I still believe it, that we will meet again, and what a joy it is to breathe that thought. It is an inspiration to live right, and we men who are open to the criticism of the unjust, as we are frequently, we men who give ourselves to the world, so to speak, particularly to our country, without hope of emolument or reward, do so because we are interested not in ourselves, not in our particular neighbor, but in the Nation, in the world and its advancement, in the movement forward of the human race. Most of us do not have to serve here for a living. Thank God we do not, but we choose to serve because we want a broader field in which to render the service we think our Nation needs than we could render in other fields. Some will think we serve because we want employment. Not at all. And that was not the spirit in which WALTER MAGEE served. He served at a great personal sacrifice. He served because he loved his country and because he loved his fellows, and he was willing to make any kind of a sacrifice that his life might not be lived in vain.

Oh, what a man he was and what a life he lived, how we men can afford to emulate him, and how his name, though not conspicuously emblazoned on the highways or on signboards nailed upon telegraph poles, will live in the future. His name is emblazoned deeper than that. His name is emblazoned in the hearts and in the minds of men, and the children of the coming generation will be taught to understand that it is men of the type of WALTER MAGEE who make for the richness of the

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patriotism, devotion, and unselfishness in men that builds up the nations of the world and makes them move forward to better things, greater liberty, greater happiness, and greater prosperity for humanity.

WALTER MAGEE came from the greatest State of the American Union. I am sure the people from whence he came will revere his memory. That he deserved it no one can doubt; that he worked for the advancement of his particular community, while still thinking nationally, nobody knew better than I. He served directly with me on the great Subcommittee on the Post Office Department, in which we have 350,000 Americans employed, and the Treasury Department, through which every dollar of the Government's funds must pass. And what a service he rendered there, in addition to his services as chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture. What a service! Never absent; always working; always searching for new and better things to be done in the interest of the Nation and succeeding marvelously in everything he undertook. All of this was an inspiration to his associates. He had no personal ax to grind. He was only interested in his country. It was his only client. He could not be induced by any influence of any kind to deviate from the path of rectitude.

He was proud to be an American, proud that he lived in a land where every citizen is a sovereign and where every man and every woman and every child is free to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. He used to say how

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proud he was that he lived in a land where labor was exalted to comfortable homes, where the printing press, and the church followed close upon the march of empire, where caste was ignored, and where the humblest child of poverty could aspire unrebuked to the highest places in the gift of the Nation. He used to say that men from the worn-out monarchies of Europe could not help but discern that the noblest trend of human progress lay in the direction of republics. In this form, he said, the latent possibilities of the human race might best find expression; that while it guaranteed patriotism, devotion, unselfishness, integrity, truth, and industry, it would make its own reward and live to tell the story of the great achievements of men who gave themselves unselfishly, without thought of self in any form, to the great service of their country, their people, and the world.

God bless the day that gave America WALTER MAGEE and men of his type.

Address by Representative Dempsey
Of New York

Mr. SPEAKER AND COLLEAGUES: WALTER MAGEE came to the House of Representatives with a thorough training for his work here. He was a university man. He had been the corporation counsel of one of our great cities. He had acquired the habit of public work and of public thought. He came to this House with a large representation from his own State, probably the largest delegation which had ever come here, and which remained here for a long time.

WALTER MAGEE was not a man of any views except extreme ones. He never could see a matter in a halfway. He always saw it from one side or the other, and whenever a question arose in this House which was strongly fought, WALTER MAGEE was always on the one side or the other. In our delegation we had clashing ambitions. We had men who aspired at the same time to the same place and MAGEE was always on the one side or the other of all questions, and it is a curious fact that although he was not a compromiser, although he was not a harmonizer, although he took strong views on every question, MAGEE never created personal antagonism. The men with whom he disagreed, those on the opposite side of questions, liked WALTER MAGEE just as well as those with whom he agreed. He went through the clashes in the delegation, he went through the fights on the

floor, with not alone the sincere respect, but also with the love and affection of all those in the House who knew him well, and with those who differed from him loving him and admiring him just as much as those who agreed with his side of questions. His strong attitude toward men and his strong position on public questions was perhaps best illustrated in the fight of Mr. Mann for Speaker. Those of us who were here in those days remember well the tremendous feeling that was engendered in that fight.

Although Mr. Mann had been the undisputed leader of this House for many years, it was not an easy thing, it was not a pleasant thing to espouse his cause, and yet you will all remember that WALTER MAGEE made the best speech, the most convincing, the most eloquent, the most forceful speech that he made in his whole career for James R. Mann at the desk at which I am standing to-day. This was his supreme effort. He put his whole soul and energy and life and thought and devotion into it, and it is a tribute to his courage, it is a tribute to his devotion to his friends that he was able, in spite of the fact he was not on the popular side, that he was not on the winning side, but was on the side on which it was hard to fight, that he made that fight with all the earnestness he possessed. You will remember, later, it was not difficult for anyone to be for his chief, Mr. Madden, and you will remember how devoted he was to Mr. Madden when the time came to fight for him for Speaker.

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So, throughout his career, he had the unique distinction of being an extremist in all his public views, an extremist in his devotions, in his likes and dislikes, yet he had the distinction, in spite of all this, of inspiring a universal affection and an equally universal respect.

I think all of us here to-day can say honestly, and not in a spirit of eulogy, not because it is an occasion of this kind, not because it is the thing to say on a day like this, but I believe every man here who remembers WALTER MAGEE can say that they remember him with affection, they remember him with admiration, that they have no unkind thoughts, no unpleasant memories, that all of his associations were agreeable and friendly and inspired liking and respect.

Address by Representative Buchanan
Of Texas

Mr. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN: It was my good fortune, soon after my election to Congress, to be placed upon the Committee on Appropriations. After serving there a while it was my greater good fortune to be placed upon the subcommittee which makes the appropriations for the Department of Agriculture.

In my service on this subcommittee with the Hon. WALTER W. MAGEE as chairman I came into intimate and close contact with him. I became intimate with him and got to know him well. He was one man whom to know well meant to love him. For many years we labored together on this committee. Never during all this period did one harsh word or a single dissension rise between the members of the subcommittee. There was perfect harmony, perfect accord, with WALTER MAGEE guiding the course of that committee.

It has been said here that he was an extreme partisan. Maybe so; I did not discover it in all these years of service. Never during the many occasions I had to deal with him in making appropriations did he permit politics to enter into our deliberations; never did he permit politics to influence his vote upon any appropriation, but with a broad mind taking within its grasp the interests of our entire country, he acted for the best interests

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of our country. Gentlemen, WALTER MAGEE was a real American patriot.

Friendship! I think if there was ever any man who recognized the ties of true friendship, WALTER MAGEE was that man. If there was any man who ever followed the precepts of the great poet who said, "Those friends thou hast and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel," that man was WALTER MAGEE.

He and I were intimate friends; I think as close as men could be. Though he came from the North and I from the South, he a consistent Republican and I a consistent Democrat, we were intimate and close friends. There is nothing that he could do for me that he did not do. Of course, I would ask nothing dishonorable, because even if I were so inclined, I would know better than to approach him with such a thought, for, of all things, WALTER MAGEE's guiding star was to be right. When he made up his mind what was right he never compromised with wrong. I do not care to draw comparisons, but in all my associations with others it has never been my pleasure to have met a man who was purer in his ideals. I do not believe he ever entertained a dishonest thought—I think that he was incapable of entertaining a dishonest thought.

This, gentlemen, is my conception of his character, and as has well been said by the chairman of our committee, Mr. Madden, the world is better for WALTER MAGEE having been born and having lived in it. His life is an example that might well be emulated.

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We shall miss him and mourn the vacant chair of one of our most capable and patriotic public servants. No truer or more unprejudiced patriot ever bore the frank mannerism of party alignment, untainted by partisan malice and vindictive politics, than did the chivalric personality of our genuine friend and devotee to the public weal.

Farewell, if ever fondest prayer
Avail for others weal on high—
Mine will not all be lost in air,
But waft thy name beyond the sky.

And—

If in that high world which lies beyond
Our own, surviving love endears;
If there the cherished heart be fond
The eye the same, except in tears,
How welcome those untrodden spheres!
How sweet this very hour to die!
To soar from earth, and find all fears
Lost in thy light—Eternity.

It must be so: 'Tis not for self
That we so tremble on the brink;
And, striving to o'erleap the gulf,
Yet cling to beings severing link.
Oh! in that future let us think,
To hold each heart, the heart that shares:
With them the immortal waters drink,
And soul in soul grow deathless theirs.

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Address by Representative Tilson
Of Connecticut

Mr. SPEAKER: Having had the privilege of serving for twelve years with WALTER MAGEE, and having become somewhat close to him in personal friendship, I feel that I should not let this occasion pass without voicing just a few words of eulogy and commendation of the life, character, and public services of this distinguished public servant. A man of sterling character, a public-spirited citizen of high standing in the community where he lived, and a lawyer of excellent repute, he brought to his service in this House qualifications of an unusually high order.

Early in his service here he was assigned to the great Appropriations Committee which affords extraordinary opportunities for broad, varied, and effective service. He was faithful and constant in his work, giving himself unreservedly to the arduous exacting duties always devolving upon members of the Appropriations Committee of this House. For a time he served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, and in that capacity displayed a remarkable grasp of the numerous and many-sided questions requiring consideration in making appropriations for the benefit of this basic industry. He was a member of the advisory group of his party known as the steering committee of the House, and in this capacity was influential in the

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consideration and decision of many of the difficult problems presenting themselves for solution in connection with the work of the House.

WALTER MAGEE was a forceful and effective debater and possessed fine capacity of explaining and directing the consideration of his bills on the floor of the House. He was probably at his best in the public forum of political debate and was recognized as one of the very effective stump speakers of his party. He was sought as a speaker before political and other clubs as well as on the stump during political campaigns and was always ready to do his part in this direction.

The country is fortunate in being able to draw to its public service such men as WALTER MAGEE, who at the sacrifice of personal and financial fortune are ready to give themselves unreservedly to the service of the public in places of great and trying responsibility. In his death this House, his district, his State, and the entire country suffer a great loss.

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Address by Representative Abernethy
Of North Carolina

Mr. SPEAKER: The death of a real friend so overwhelms one that time alone can alleviate the sorrow. Humbly and meekly I approach this sad occasion to do reverence and honor to one of the best, truest, and tried friends of my official life. The untimely taking of the distinguished statesman whose life, character, and service we memorialize here to-day has made deep and profound impression upon me.

Day by day we are impressed with the uncertainties of life. We see our comrades being stricken one by one; and if we believed this life ended it all, terrible would be the picture.

It was Victor Hugo who said:

The nearer I approach the end, the plainer I hear around me the immortal symphonies of the worlds which unite me. It is marvelous, yet simple. It is a fairy tale, and it is a history. For half a century I have been writing my thoughts in prose, verse, history, philosophy, drama, romance, tradition, satire, ode, song—I have tried all. But I feel that I have not said the thousandth part of what is in me. When I go down to the grave I can say, like so many others, "I have finished my day's work," but I can not say, "I have finished my life." My day's work will begin the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley, it is a thoroughfare. It closes in the twilight, it opens with the dawn.

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This beautiful realization of immortality and the hereafter recognized by all of us and the foundation of our belief in God and His greatness and goodness gives to us hope and comfort that the splendid life and works of our friend WALTER WARREN MAGEE are not finished but will be glorified, transformed, and continued in a better clime and in more beautiful surroundings.

Address by Representative Snell
Of New York

Mr. SPEAKER: We are met here to-day to pay respect to our departed colleague, who served in this House with distinction to himself and honor to his country.

WALTER MAGEE was my personal friend. We came here in the Sixty-fourth Congress, and from the very first, coming as we did from the same part of the State, we became very closely associated, not only politically but personally. He was a man of more than ordinary personality and very strong likes and dislikes. When he had once made up his mind on anything you might just as well consider that settled, for no matter what the argument he never changed. Yet he was of the kindest disposition, always sympathetic, and most friendly to everyone.

He was a lover of sports and outdoor life and always took a deep interest in athletic contests of every kind, and in earlier life was an athlete of no mean repute.

In his congressional duties he was one of the most conscientious Members I have ever known, and every request, every duty, received careful and scrupulous attention.

He was assigned to the Appropriations Committee early in his service, and from the very first up to the last he gave that work the best there was

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in him. I doubt if he ever missed a meeting of his committee, and by nature, as well as by legal training, he was especially well fitted for that work. He mastered every detail, and when he handled a bill on the floor he knew it from beginning to end, which was his secret of success as a subcommittee chairman.

For many years I occupied an office near to his, and there was hardly a day he did not drop in for a few minutes to discuss various matters pertaining to our work, and in all these years I do not now remember an important measure that we did not vote on the same side.

In every way WALTER MAGEE was a real man, and when he once told you what he was going to do, you did not need to ask him the next day where he stood. He was as sure and solid as they make them, and my great regret is there are not more like him in public life. For in these troublesome times we need men of his ability, character, and determination. No man ever said that WALTER MAGEE lacked the courage of his convictions or did not have the backbone to stand up for what he believed to be right.

The larger part of his mature life was given to public service, and every act was characterized by that able, honest, and faithful administration that contributes to the welfare and happiness of our people. He loved political campaigns and debates, and it was here that he was at his best. He was a most popular political speaker in our part of the State, and everywhere he spoke they

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wanted him the next year. He certainly will be missed when they call the roll of faithful party men in the coming presidential election.

By his death not only his family and the State of New York but the American Congress suffered a great loss. He was one of our most useful and valuable Members and a man we could ill afford to lose.

WALTER MAGEE, the man, has gone to his last resting place, but the influence of a useful life, strong personality, and indomitable devotion to the public welfare will long live in the hearts of a devoted people.

Address by Representative Griffin
Of New York

Mr. SPEAKER: When WALTER WARREN MAGEE was called to take his place at the judgment seat of the Great Father of us all, a pang of grief cut keenly into the hearts of all who knew him. All seemed to feel a personal bereavement. Staggered and shocked by the blow, nevertheless there soon came to every lip the most generous, kindly, and tender encomiums, for no man ever occupied a seat in this body who left behind him sweeter or more fragrant memories. Fortunate are those who knew him, for his was a personality that spontaneously disseminated kindness and human sympathy and dispelled at once the mists of mistrust which so often keep men of real sterling merit from establishing closer acquaintanceship.

With WALTER MAGEE there were no such barriers. There was the light of kindness and trustfulness in his genial eyes, and his smile was like the generous warm flash of the morning sunshine.

In a large parliamentary body such as this it is naturally difficult to establish many close friendships. The bulk of the membership consists of men of distinction who have been the recipients of high honors from their local constituencies and they are thus accustomed not only to deference but to having the initiative toward friendship taken by others. Blest indeed is he who can take and bear

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high honors with humility. Only the salt of the earth can do it—for that is the sure sign of genuine greatness.

The world is gradually shifting its viewpoint in the admeasurement of men. Historians no longer accord the laurel to those who have built up their reputations on violence, ambition, and injustice. The prize of true greatness is rather given to those who have founded their careers on kindness, generosity, and justice. Bluster and ostentation, pride and haughtiness, are no longer the fashion.

History accords the highest places to the good; and likewise in our admeasurement of the men of our own day we give our love, our admiration, and our devotion to those whom it is possible to count among our friends. Such a man was WALTER WARREN MAGEE. Without attempting to touch upon his mere earthly successes, or to praise his political achievements, or without even attempting to consider the place which he is destined to occupy among the statesmen of our country, I feel that it is only my function and my duty here to-day to express my personal estimate of him as a man and as a friend and as such to register my humble opinion that WALTER WARREN MAGEE was one of those rare personalities whom to have known was a joy and to have counted as a friend was a legacy to be cherished and forever remembered.

*Address by Representative Hancock
Of New York*

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like, if I may, to pay my very humble and sincere tribute to WALTER MAGEE, whose memory we are here to honor, from the standpoint simply of a friend and constituent. When WALTER MAGEE died on May 25 last the people of the thirty-fifth congressional district of New York were saddened, for they loved WALTER MAGEE as it is seldom given to a man in public life to be loved by those whom he served. We admired him for his ability and attainments. We respected him for his strength and courage, but he was held high in the affections of the tens of thousands who claimed him as a personal friend, because he had the personality and those human qualities which endear one to his fellow beings. He was straightforward, sincere, simple, loyal, gracious, considerate, and bore himself with the unaffected dignity which befitted his position and which marks a gentleman. We were proud of WALTER MAGEE, proud of his blameless life, his career of usefulness, his position of prestige and influence in this body. We were proud to be represented by such a man. Like his legion of friends, I hold in fond memory the kindly smile, the warm handclasp, and the hearty "How are you?" with which he greeted us.

The life of WALTER MAGEE has many prototypes among those who have made this Nation great. Born in comparatively humble circumstances on a

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farm in western New York, he had no inheritance of material wealth, but he was richly endowed with character, with health, with ambition, and with native ability. He went to the public schools in his neighborhood and for a little while to the Geneseo Normal School. His family could afford to carry his schooling no further, but, determined to have a higher education, he worked and saved the money which took him through Exeter Academy, from which he was graduated in 1885, and through Harvard University, from which he was graduated in 1889. He studied law in Syracuse and was admitted to the bar in 1891. He entered upon his professional career as a lawyer without the backing of wealthy or influential friends but with the enthusiasm and earnestness that was characteristic of him. His ability as a lawyer and his fidelity to his clients soon brought him recognition as a leader of the bar. He was known as an aggressive, uncompromising, fighting trial lawyer, who always came into court fully prepared, feared no opponent, was confident of himself, and sure of the justice of the cause he espoused.

Early in his career he was elected supervisor of Onondaga County, a position he held in 1892 and 1893. In 1904 he became corporation counsel of the city of Syracuse and definitely gave up private practice for public service. For 10 years he held that office with distinction. The zeal with which he safeguarded the city's interests, and the incorruptible integrity he exhibited in that office will be gratefully remembered by his contemporaries as long as they live. In 1916 he was elected to the

Sixty-fourth Congress, and he was reelected to successive Congresses with increasing majorities until his death.

You who served with him here have borne eloquent testimony to the affection and respect in which he was held by his colleagues and to the great and enduring service which he rendered to his country. I as his successor enter upon my career in Congress with a feeling of great humility and with the knowledge that I can find no more perfect model on which to fashion my career here, be it short or long, than that of WALTER MAGEE.

I knew him best as a man and a citizen. If I were asked to name his outstanding trait, I would say it was his loyalty, and in my creed there is no finer human attribute. It embraces courage, steadfastness, and unselfishness. No higher tribute can be paid to any man and no more inspiring epitaph inscribed upon his monument than the simple words "He was loyal." It means more than extravagant encomiums and fulsome praise. WALTER MAGEE was a loyal man, loyal to his country, to his church, to his family, to his principles, to his friends, and his loyalty was militant, unwavering, and outspoken. No one ever remained long in doubt as to where WALTER MAGEE stood.

He never worshipped the God of Mammon. He never devoted his splendid abilities to the accumulation of dollars. He was more concerned with the welfare and prosperity of the country he loved and served than with his personal fortunes. He lived modestly and gave generously according to his means, but he was lavish in giving time and effort

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to a cause in which he believed or in behalf of a friend. His death at the time of his greatest usefulness, in the full vigor of his manhood, was a tragic loss to his community and to the country. In these days of radicalism, bolshevism, sentimentalism, and internationalism we need the sturdy Americanism of WALTER MAGEE.

Whatever the great adventure of death holds for us, we know all is well with our friend, but we can ill afford to lose such a man. We knew him as a generous and kindly friend, as a great and patriotic American, and as a high-minded and upright man. We loved him in life, we mourn him in death, and we will cherish and honor his memory always. The world is better because he lived; we are better men for having known him.

Address by Representative Kerr
Of North Carolina

MR. SPEAKER: Over the door of every profession, every occupation, every calling, the world has a standing advertisement: "Wanted—A man." There are men yet in this world, there will ever be those who can not be seared by avarice or seduced by power, there will ever be those who are gentle and the servant of a tender conscience, who have learned to love all beauty, whether of nature or of art, those who hate vileness and respect others as they do themselves.

The recollection which I shall ever cherish of WALTER WARREN MAGEE, and which I am sure was certainly one of the outstanding attributes of his useful and noble life, was that wonderful, gentle sympathy which so soon engaged the interest of those with whom he came into contact and won their complete confidence; his handshake was magic; his companionship was the inspiration of the fullest confidence; and when he told you he was interested in you and your project you could no longer doubt.

I deeply regret that the Congress of the United States offers so few opportunities for its membership to become intimately acquainted; I am convinced that it takes long years of congressional contact for us to learn of each other in a sense which will truly uncover our ideals and make

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known our real integrity, ability, and usefulness. Service upon a committee brings us together, and usually this is the touchstone of our friendship and the medium through which we form our estimate of each other. It is here we often make the friendships of a lifetime and fix the proper estimate of value upon each other's service; and if you will stop to think, this contact is very limited even in a long service.

It is a common experience in this life that we meet along its pathway some congenial spirit—some pilgrim—whose character is replete with human sympathy and surcharged with that which the world loves, though it may sometimes fail to reward, unselfishness; when we do we have a deeper appreciation of human life and a firmer conviction that there is something akin to God in that creature made in His image.

I shall leave to others to speak of the exalted and useful career of our beloved colleague; a short acquaintance does not qualify me to speak of these things as well as others. It is this tribute I wish to add to whatever may be said on this occasion. Mr. MAGEE's gentleness and his sympathy, his unselfish interest in the welfare of his fellow man, his ability to work with and aid others, those qualities made for him a majestic personality and made him, in my opinion, one of the most useful men who ever entered the portal of this Hall.

The narrow, stingy soul is not lovable; people shrink from such a character; there must be heartiness in the expression, in the smile, in the hand shake, in the cordiality, which is unmistakable.

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The divine instinct in man impels him to long for the sunshine and loathe the shadows. It has been well said that "if you radiate sweetness and light, people will love to get near you." Those who wanted to get near WALTER WARREN MAGEE could do so; you did not have to tear away any conventionalism; there was nothing artificial about him, and when you came near him the gentleness of his nature, the warmth of his personality, and the magic of his soul held them by an indefinable force which no eventuality of life could sever.

I wish I knew the whole history of our colleague's life. I apprehend that he has ever been the simple, unselfish servant of his fellow men, the big-hearted, generous friend—ready to help everybody and everything out of their troubles. We are not surprised that he was honored as few men can be in this life by his fellow men. It is this kind of man who puts most into life, and real success should ever be determined by what we put into life rather than by what we take out of it.

WALTER WARREN MAGEE was a man—just such a man as the world will ever need; he crossed the stage and made human history nobler, and left behind an influence which will bless the world ten thousand years. May his example of friendship and fidelity keep guard in this great Chamber as long as the Republic shall exist, and may the sweet, tender recollections of his life make happy all those who loved him.

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Address by Representative Crowther

Of New York

MR. SPEAKER AND FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE: The Grim Reaper shows very little consideration when he demands his toll. The rich and the poor, the high and the low, must answer the summons, and as one of our great writers has said:

The spear of the prince and the staff of the pauper must eventually lie side by side.

So the call came to our friend and colleague WALTER MAGEE. At the height of his career the cup of life, all fragrant with success, was dashed from his lips.

When I came here in the Sixty-sixth Congress he had been here for four years. He was my friend from the very moment of my acquaintance with him, and he never lost an opportunity to greet me with a cheery "Hello, Frank," and a clasp of the hand that was genuine. His favorite expression, "What's on your mind," was not a mere perfunctory question, for he was always ready and willing to listen to your troubles, real or imaginary, and from his great fund of experience give you in a few well-chosen words, his advice. His word was as good as his bond, for to him truth was an imperial virtue.

His taking-away was very sudden. The news came to us all as a tremendous shock, coming as it did without a note of warning of any kind.

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It has been said that he was an ardent partisan in his political faith, and I think that statement has been made advisedly. However, he was a fair fighter and never struck a blow that was foul. He has gone from our midst, but his memory will remain with us all as the years go by; and, after all, that is the beauty of these services. We come here not to mourn or to sorrow, but to say a few words in memory of these men whose courage and integrity made an impression upon us during life and who served their country with patriotism and devotion. This hour we can devote to tender recollections, and at the same time scatter just a few flowers, a few roses and forget-me-nots, along memory lane.

The blessing of immortality and our belief in it tells us that we shall see him again some day. Until then we shall just say, with the great poet—

He is not dead, he is just away.

I admired WALTER MAGEE because he had courage, the courage to speak and to vote his convictions, and this characteristic is the more valuable in this day and generation when the tendency in political life is too often to say the expedient and the soft thing rather than to say the thing that is sometimes harsh and disagreeable. He served in this House over a period of more than twelve years. During this time he earned and merited the respect of Members on both sides of the aisle.

His forceful presentations and his charming personality will be missed in this House of Representatives. He has solved the great problem

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and his soul is marching on. His plan of life is well expressed in the closing lines of Bryant's masterpiece, *Thanatopsis*:

So live that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams.

Address by Representative Black
Of New York

Mr. SPEAKER: To commemorate the services of a departed and worthy colleague is a sorrowful but inspiring ceremony of the Congress. We whom the Almighty has left to carry toward completion the tremendous work of governing in which the late Hon. WALTER MAGEE participated modestly and effectively can look back upon his services and receive a moral impetus toward a conscientious character of public effort.

Representative MAGEE was my neighbor in the House Office Building. In no walk of life have I ever met a more courteous man. His industry in behalf of his constituents was unflagging. His attention to general legislation was given with a patriotic devotion. The special work of his own committee attracted him to an almost absorbing degree.

Such officials as he have served greatly to elevate the standing of those in political endeavors in the public mind. He gave far more than he received from the people.

Those who loved him and who mourn him may find consolation in the great respect and affection that we who worked beside him honestly entertained for this distinguished Representative from New York whose memory we would honor to-day.

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Address by Representative Fish
Of New York

Mr. SPEAKER: It is an honor and a privilege to come here to-day and speak in memory of my friend and colleague WALTER MAGEE, to pay tribute to him on account of his sterling qualities and because of his notable and distinguished record as a national legislator. I assume that most of you Members of the House when you first came to Congress looked for some older and experienced Member and relied upon him to solve the difficulties that arise and the various problems with which a new Member is confronted. I never knew WALTER MAGEE before I came to the House, but I was immediately attracted to him by his lovable personality. I always went to him when in difficulty and always received a sympathetic hearing and sound advice. There was no Member of Congress who had better or sounder judgment on all political matters. There was one important issue in which we were both very much interested and that was to try to have established in the House of Representatives a special committee to handle veterans' relief legislation. For almost a year, as the older Members of the House will recall, a bill was pending in the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce to increase the pay of the attendants of the blinded soldiers from \$20 to \$40 a month, but because of the excessive number of bills that went to that committee it was impossible to secure a hearing or

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get action on this very small but important piece of legislation. Through the influence and efforts of WALTER MAGEE, who was a member of the important steering committee, the bill was finally reported out and passed in the House. As a result of the delay in reporting that particular bill, and because of his interest in it, the House was made aware of the fact, which to-day we all must acknowledge, that it was utterly impossible for the great Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce to properly handle soldier relief legislation along with their other work.

As the sponsor of that bill to afford relief to the blinded veterans, I want to give all credit to WALTER MAGEE not only for having the bill reported out and passed, but practically for initiating and calling the attention of the House to the fact that if the veterans were to secure the relief to which they are entitled through legislation, it was necessary to establish a new committee in this House. He had for the disabled soldiers not only the lip service which is common to all of us, but he had in his heart the profoundest sympathy for them and felt earnestly that we should do more for the disabled soldiers and not permit veteran relief bills to be sidetracked or delayed. He believed that we should not simply compensate and hospitalize and rehabilitate the disabled soldiers, but that they should have priority in legislation and that there should be some sympathetic legislation passed whereby the soldiers should automatically come into their rights. It was in this connection that I formed the closest association with WALTER MAGEE,

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and when anything came up affecting the disabled soldiers before the Committee on Veterans' Relief was established, we new Members of the House who were veterans always went to him as the one we could depend upon to help us get the legislation we were trying in those days to secure for all of the disabled soldiers, and we never went in vain. He was a fearless champion of the disabled veterans and was always willing to give of his time and energy in their cause.

He was so modest that other Members of the House probably did not know that WALTER MAGEE was practically the leader in securing justice, not charity, for our disabled veterans. WALTER MAGEE always tried to use his influence to help other Members, and I for one feel under great obligations to him because when I first came to Congress eight years ago he was one of the closest friends I had in the New York delegation and the one upon whom I could always depend for encouragement and advice.

He was a lovable character and had a charming personality. It is not surprising that all of his colleagues from New York and his Democratic friends have come here to-day to do honor and pay tribute to his memory.

None knew him but to love him, nor named him but to praise.

Address by Representative MacGregor
Of New York

Mr. SPEAKER: In the days that have passed since our good friend and colleague WALTER MAGEE crossed the river that marks the unknown shore it has seemed to me that he has just gone away and will be back with us once more. We have mightily missed his hearty handshake and his sincere salutation. From him emanated an atmosphere of wholesomeness, sincerity, honesty, and earnestness of purpose. He was all that the term expresses "a man." He stood among his fellow men with an upright head and straightforward eye, unafraid and unabashed. His thoughts and his actions were open books. He had a clear conscience and was unafraid. He had nothing to conceal. He had strong convictions of right and wrong and did not hesitate to express them.

What a great asset he was to the country which he served. He brought to his labors here a well-trained mind, a fixity of purpose, unstinted diligence, and sound judgment. He sought no plaudits. He avoided the forensic arena, but in the councils of the Members of this body, where the mighty questions affecting the destiny and welfare of the country are determined, he was a

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tower of strength. His passing away was a great loss to the Congress, to the country, and to the community that he so ably represented.

I can not say, I will not say,
That he is dead; he is just away.
With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand
He has wandered into an unknown land,
And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be, since he lingers there.
Think of him still the same, I say:
He is not dead, he is just away.

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*Address by Representative Clarke
Of New York*

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE: Our beloved and departed friend, WALTER W. MAGEE, entered the House of Representatives mentally trained and morally anchored; and in the drift of things, as I see them in the country to-day, there was never a more outstanding need for men who are fixed and grounded in the fundamentals of government as was our splendid colleague.

In the offices of friendship I doff my cap to the memory of a loyal friend, of a faithful comrade, even in adversity. WALTER MAGEE came into my home as one almost unknown. He left there as one beloved. It has been said that in the warp and woof of this Government of ours, in its very fabric, are those who have put unrequited toil and unrecognized achievement. WALTER MAGEE is one of those; and if our Government goes on to its greater and greater destiny of impressing upon the world the leadership of democracy and the fundamentals, if you please, of a Government of opportunity for anyone, without regard to birth or creed, religion or tradition, it is because men of WALTER MAGEE'S type have put of themselves into this Government and held it true to the course charted in our Constitution.

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Faithful in service, yes, faithful in all that goes to make life dear, it can be truthfully said of WALTER MAGEE as the poet Lowell himself has said:

The beauty of his better self lives on
In minds he touched with fire, in many an eye
He trained to Truth's exact severity;
He was a teacher: why be grieved for him
Whose living word still stimulates the air?
In endless file shall loving legislators come
The glow of his transmitted touch to share.

Address by Representative Taber
Of New York

MR. SPEAKER: WALTER MAGEE represented the district adjoining mine in Congress for over 12 years. At home he lived only 25 miles from me. In the four years that I served with him—and all that time on the same committee with him, the great Committee on Appropriations—I found him most courteous, most helpful, and always devoted to his work.

He was a close student and devoted himself to the task in hand till he had mastered it. He was a forceful and convincing speaker and was often in demand in a political campaign.

In presenting the appropriation bill, of which he annually had charge, he showed marked skill and was always able to secure its passage without any substantial amendments being adopted.

To his constituents and to his district he was most faithful and spent his entire time in serving them.

With a group of other Representatives I had dinner with him in the House restaurant the last night of the session. He was cheery, enjoyed his dinner, and seemed much better than in the early winter, and I was greatly surprised and shocked to hear of his death.

His life was devoted to the people of his district and he rightly held a firm place in their affection.

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Address by Representative Byrns
Of Tennessee

Mr. SPEAKER: I deem it a sad privilege to have the opportunity of paying a brief but heartfelt tribute to the life and character of our departed friend and colleague, Hon. WALTER W. MAGEE, who for years ably and faithfully represented the thirty-fifth district of New York in the House of Representatives. I served with him on the Committee on Appropriations and was brought into even more intimate contact with him while serving with him on one of its most important subcommittees. I have sat around the committee table with him for weeks at a time in the hearings preliminary to the preparation of some of the most important appropriation bills. It is in the close contact and the intimacy of the committee room that one can best form a correct opinion of the ability and the fidelity of a colleague. And it can be truly said of WALTER MAGEE that those who knew him best like him most. I have never known a man who was actuated by a higher sense of public duty, and it was this high sense of duty which controlled him throughout his career as a Member of Congress. He was a strong party man and earnestly believed in the principles of the political party to which he gave loyal support and allegiance. But he never permitted partisanship to dictate his course on public questions which did not involve matters of strict political policy.

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He was a faithful and able representative of his district and a loyal servant of his State and country. When the news of his sudden passing during the recess of Congress was flashed over the country his colleagues, without regard to party, were greatly shocked and deeply grieved. They mourned the loss of a loyal friend and a faithful public servant. He passed away in the prime of his useful life. His record has been made—a record that is shot through with service and fidelity. Liszt made the theme of his “preludes” the beautiful thought that each event of life is but a prelude leading up to the harmony of death. And this same thought is applicable to the life of WALTER MAGEE. He has left a memory which we all will cherish and a record of noble service that we should all strive to emulate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In accordance with the resolution previously adopted, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the House now stands adjourned until to-morrow, Monday, at 12 o'clock noon.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 35 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Monday, April 16, 1928, at 12 o'clock noon.

Proceedings
in the
United States Senate

Proceedings in the United States Senate

TUESDAY, *December 6, 1927.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Chaffee, one of its clerks, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. WALTER W. MAGEE, late a Representative from the State of New York, and transmitted the resolutions of the House thereon.

FRIDAY, *December 9, 1927.*

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions of the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Chief Clerk read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. WALTER W. MAGEE, a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect this House do now adjourn.

Mr. COPELAND. Mr. President, I send to the desk resolutions and ask that they be read and acted upon.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be read.

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The resolutions (S. Res. 36) were read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Hon. WALTER W. MAGEE, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. PHIPPS. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative, I move that the Senate adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned, the adjournment being under the order previously made, until Monday, December 12, 1927, at 12 o'clock meridian.

TUESDAY, April 17, 1928.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Chaffee, one of its clerks, communicated to the Senate the resolutions of the House (H. Res. 167) adopted as a tribute to the memory of Hon. WALTER W. MAGEE, late a Representative from the State of New York.

