

and sale of oleomargarine in the United States and that the representatives in congress from this state are requested to introduce some measures as may be necessary to accomplish such end; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this memorial, properly attested, be forwarded by the secretary of state to the senate and the house of representatives of the United States and to each Wisconsin senator and representative therein.

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[Jt. Res. No. 107, A.]

No. 69, 1925.

### JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to the life and services of Robert Marion La Follette.

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Wisconsin mourns the death of its most illustrious son, its senior senator, Robert Marion La Follette.

La Follette and Wisconsin are inseparable in the minds of the American people. This state has had other great leaders, men of ability and vision. No other of its sons, however, influenced so profoundly the history of the state and nation.

A native son of Wisconsin, La Follette was born in the town of Primrose, Dane county, on June 14, 1855. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin with the class of 1879, and was admitted to the bar in 1880 and in that year was elected district attorney, a position which he held for four years. He was elected to Congress in 1884 and twice re-elected. One of its youngest members, his ability won him a place on the Ways and Means committee, the most important in the House of Representatives.

After completing his last term in the House in 1891, La Follette for ten years held no public office. During this period he founded a political organization, which was the beginning of what has come to be known as the "progressive movement" throughout this country.

Elected governor in 1900, he was re-elected in 1902 and 1904. As governor, La Follette attracted nation-wide attention by his successful fight for the constructive, progressive legislation for which Wisconsin has become famous. From La Follette's ad-

ministration dates the ascendancy of the University of Wisconsin and the correlation of its activities to the public service. Under his leadership were enacted the first state-wide primary law and the first effective railroad rate regulation law in the nation, model anti-pass, railroad taxation, banking, civil service and labor laws and many other enactments which, like those enumerated, have stood the test of time and have been copied by other states and the federal government.

La Follette was elected United States senator in 1905, and after completing the work he promised to do as governor, took his seat in the senate in December of that year. From that date he served continuously as a senator until his death, being three times re-elected by unprecedented majorities.

In his twenty years of service as United States senator, La Follette was the outstanding champion of human rights and of legislation for the protection of the weak and the oppressed. In his fight to abolish slavery on American merchant ships, to prevent child labor, to limit the hours of service of railway employes and of women in industry and to safeguard the lives of the workers, he improved the conditions of labor of millions. In initiating the policy of preserving the natural resources remaining in the public domain and in Indian lands under the leasing system and in protecting the rights of the government in the naval oil reserves, he was the most comprehensive and practical advocate of conservation of his generation. In his never ceasing battles against monopoly and for railroad rates allowing only a reasonable return upon actual investment, he protected the economic interests of all the American people. In pressing forward the cause of women's suffrage and in securing the popular election of United States senators, he advanced the cause of democracy. In his successful efforts to purge the United States senate of men elected by lavish and unlawful expenditures of money, he protected the national Congress against debauchery and corruption. In his courageous advocacy of the rights of free speech and liberty of the press, he upheld the best traditions of the fathers. In the greatest struggle of his time, namely, the attainment of social justice and of industrial and political democracy, La Follette was the leader and his leadership was one of courage, ability, constructive power, vision and above all of deep and passionate sympathy with the common people.

La Follette was the recognized head of the progressive movement in the United States. Never was his influence greater than at the time of his death. Lacking organization and campaign funds, La Follette in 1924 polled five million votes for president of the United States, the largest vote ever cast for an independent candidate.

La Follette was ever the champion of the common man and the advocate of democracy. Democracy to him meant not merely political democracy but equality of economic opportunity. He fought relentlessly graft, corruption and all forms of special privilege. He never compromised a principle. He had the courage of his convictions, despite calumny and ostracism.

All who really knew La Follette loved him. Many of his political enemies were his personal friends. Largely shunning "society," he devoted himself to his public duties and to his home and fireside. His devotion to his family was exemplary. His long career was never sullied by breath of scandal, personal or political.

A man of great industry, of keen analytical mind, an outstanding student of economics, he brought to the presentation of public questions a storehouse of facts and a masterly application of philosophy to the political and economic problems of his time. His great ability, his unswerving and unselfish devotion to public service, his unimpeachable integrity, his unsurpassed courage, his consistent adherence to his ideals, generally acknowledged in his lifetime are universally conceded upon his death.

La Follette is dead. But the soul of him lives in people's hearts wherever men are striving for freedom. La Follette's voice is still, but the spirit that spoke through it is the spirit of brotherhood and righteousness, and is enduring.

Millions the world over mourn the death of Robert Marion La Follette. More intensely than elsewhere this sense of the loss of a great leader of the people is felt by the citizens of Wisconsin. He was the embodiment of the spirit of the state. Born, raised, educated within this state, laboring in behalf of its people, he was by them beloved in a personal way as was no other man in the history of the commonwealth. Therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring,* That this resolution be spread in full upon the journals of both houses to express the recognition of the state of Wisconsin of the services rendered to the state and nation by Robert Marion La Follette.