

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the legislature of Wisconsin respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to maintain the present scope of the forest products laboratory and to extend its activities commensurate with any federal program projected for emergency reforestation developments. Be it further

Resolved, That properly attested copies of this resolution be sent to the President and to both houses of the Congress of the United States; to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and to each Wisconsin member of the Congress of the United States.

[Jt. Res. No. 83, A.]

[Deposited Mar. 28, 1933.]

No. 50, 1933.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to the death and public services of General Charles King.

General Charles King, veteran of five American wars and Wisconsin's premier soldier, died suddenly Friday afternoon, March 17, 1933, at his home in Milwaukee. To the sound of taps and amidst the flags of the country he had served for seventy years, his body was laid to rest in Forest Home Cemetery at Milwaukee on Monday afternoon, March twentieth.

General King was one of the most celebrated members of a family of five generations of soldiers. He was born in Albany, New York, October 12, 1844, and boasted a military ancestry unequaled in the United States. Including his surviving son, Rufus, naval lieutenant commander, six generations of Kings have served their country in one branch or another. Two have been West Point men.

Participation by the Kings in military affairs began in the Colonial wars, when Richard King, Maine shipbuilder, was captain and commissary at the siege of Louisburg. His eldest son, Rufus, in 1775, a senior at Harvard university, became major and aide-de-camp to General Sullivan in the Long Island campaign in the Revolutionary war.

General King often dated his military activities from the time, when at the age of twelve, he became a marker in the First regiment, Wisconsin state militia, of which his father, General Rufus

King, was commander at the time. When fifteen he became drummer boy for the Milwaukee Light Guard.

At the age of seventeen he joined the union forces in the Civil War and as a mounted orderly carried dispatches for his father, General Rufus King, commander of the famous Iron Brigade. In 1862, after a year's service, he was appointed to West Point by President Lincoln.

From 1874 to 1879 he served throughout the Indian campaigns in the west. He was active in the Sioux campaign, which is best remembered today for the Custer massacre. He commanded a troop in the Apache campaign in Arizona and was engaged in action at Diamond Butte, Black Mesa and Sunset Pass, where he was severely wounded. He declined a brevet captaincy for "gallantry and distinguished conduct in action against hostile Indians", and after a leave of absence on account of wounds, took command of the advance guard in skirmishes at Slim Buttes in the Sioux campaign.

He retired from wounds received in the line of duty in 1879, a few months after he had been named a captain. He at once entered the service of the national guard of Wisconsin, serving as army instructor at the University of Wisconsin for two years. He was colonel and aide-de-camp to both Governor Rusk and Governor Hoard, and was named adjutant general in 1895. He retired two years later to become assistant inspector general, which position he held at the opening of the Spanish war.

Recognized as a military genius, he was called from retirement when the Spanish war broke out, given the rank of brigadier general, and assigned to the momentous task of organizing a brigade in San Francisco.

The Philippine insurrection in 1899, saw him in action at the head of his brigade. A campaign followed against a force greatly outnumbering his own. It was brilliant and successful. He was recommended at the time by his division, corps and army commanders for promotion to major general, a rank which he at last attained in 1929.

When America entered the World War in 1917, General King was seventy-three years old, and as he had never been an observer in any of his country's wars he saw no reason to be one in its greatest conflict. Although the government because of his advanced age denied his request for an overseas assignment, he took hold actively in Wisconsin's military affairs and aided in

raising, equipping and training troops. He continued actively on duty until 1929, when failing health necessitated the retirement order. He well earned the title of "father of the Wisconsin National Guard". His final assignment, made under a war department order, was to St. John's Military Academy as instructor in military science and tactics.

The general's military fame was almost equaled by his literary record. Some of his sixty books had wide distribution in several European countries. Perhaps his most popular work was his first novel, "The Colonel's Daughter".

Many of his later works dealt with Indian wars and other military subjects, a number of which he was commissioned to write by the United States government. His knowledge of his country's military history probably exceeded that of any other man, and for the last year he had been engaged in writing a new military work.

On November 20, 1872, he was united in marriage with Miss Adelaide Yorke, at Avoca plantation house, in Carrol Parish, Louisiana. The couple celebrated their golden wedding in 1922.

The general's survivors include three children and four grandchildren. The children are Commodore Rufus King, United States navy, Hampton Roads, Virginia; Mrs. Carol McIntyre, Negaunee, Michigan; and Mrs. Eleanor Simeon, Providence, Rhode Island.

The grandchildren are Charles Rufus King, son of Rufus, attending an eastern college; Douglas, medical student at the University of Michigan, and Ann, children of Mrs. McIntyre, and Eleanor, daughter of Mrs. Simeon.

Keen, clear-minded and amazingly active to the end, he had, when the final call came, rounded out a well spent life, and with his passing thousands stand eager to pay him homage; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That this resolution be spread in full upon the journals of both houses as an appreciation of the public service rendered by General Charles King, and that properly attested copies of this resolution be sent to his children and grandchildren as an expression of heartfelt sympathy of the members of this legislature.