

**MEMORIAL ADDRESSES ON THE LIFE AND
CHARACTER OF ZEBULON BAIRD VANCE
(LATE A SENATOR FROM NORTH
CAROLINA), DELIVERED IN THE SENATE
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FIFTY-
THIRD CONGRESS, THIRD SESSION, NO. 151**

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Memorial addresses on the life and character of Zebulon Baird Vance (late a senator from North Carolina), delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives, Fifty-third Congress, Third session, No. 151 by Various

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53D CONGRESS, }
3d Session. }

SENATE.

{ MIS. DOC.
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(LATE A SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA)

DELIVERED IN THE
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DEATH OF SENATOR VANCE.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

APRIL 16, 1894.

The Chaplain, Rev. W. H. Milburn, D. D., made the following prayer:

O Eternal God, with bowed hearts we come to the foot of Thy throne. While the funeral knell sounds through the Capitol announcing the death of another Senator, while North Carolina mourns the departure from earth of a beloved and honored son, and the nation feels the loss, we bless Thee for his large native powers schooled in the wide experience of public affairs, and for his genial humor, enriching and illuminating all subjects he touched, making him kindly with his kind, by virtue of which he shed the influence of a wise and beneficent counsel and character upon his native State and, by virtue of his place in this Chamber, upon the land at large.

Grant to the widow and children under this sore bereavement the only comfort which can come to human hearts at such a time—unshaken faith in Thy holy Gospel and the consolation and sympathy of Thy beloved Son. As the earthly part of one of our brothers has ended upon the

border of the invisible world, grant that we hear from Thy lips, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors." We humbly pray, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH.

Mr. RANSOM. Mr. President, it is my melancholy duty to announce to the Senate the death of Hon. ZEBULON BAIRD VANCE, late a Senator from North Carolina. He died on Saturday night last at forty-five minutes past 10 o'clock, at his residence on Massachusetts avenue, in this city. Though his long-continued and serious illness ought to have prepared all of us for the sad event, still, beguiled by his own cheerful and hopeful spirit, none of us had dreamed that the white horses were coming so rapidly to his door.

His death shocks us to the depths of our hearts. It is a calamity, a sorrow, a deep public and personal bereavement. A great man has fallen in our midst; a great patriot, a great statesman, a great thinker, a great actor has passed away from our sight for this life.

He died at his post of duty with his complete armor on, with his face to the front, courageous, hopeful, useful to the last. Sufferings did not break his proud spirit, nor dim his noble intellect, nor shake his fearless fortitude. Full of years, but still in the strength of his eminent faculties, crowned with exalted honors, but still animated with yet higher aspirations and promise of doing good, physically wrecked and overcome with incurable malady, he stood firmly in the line of his comrades and at the last moment

serenely gathered his robes around him and stepped with the dignity of a Senator and the faith of a Christian from earth into eternity. It looks as if by some prophetic intuition he had returned from the spring flowers and the genial skies of Florida to lay down his sword and shield on the very altars of his country.

This is not the time for the analysis of his character; for eulogies of his virtues; for the history of his illustrious services. On some fitting day I shall ask the Senate to do justice to his honored memory.

But, sir, I should commit a very great wrong not to say now with what unspeakable pain and infinite grief the death of Senator VANCE smites the people of North Carolina. For more than forty years, in peace and in war, he has been the most beloved and the most honored son of that great State. From the ever flowing ocean, across the hills and plains and valleys to the majestic mountain tops, he was a familiar and most dear object to the hearts and homes of all our people. Language can not describe the admiration and love and gratitude of those of all ages of both sexes; of every class, condition, and race; of the whole people of North Carolina, for this great and good man, their benefactor and bulwark in prosperity and adversity. Standing by his lifeless form to-day, it is my sacred duty, representing a Commonwealth of nearly 2,000,000 souls, to shed upon his mortal ashes the tears of their affection and deepest sorrow.

He seemed, sir, as if by destiny to hold in his hands the hearts of the people, and at this moment the throbbing breasts of thousands are following his silent march to the tomb. If he had faults they were bold, brave, open faults,

which are forever eclipsed and forgotten in the splendor of a great and glorious life, and in the magnanimity of a noble nature.

As I think of the short interval at which he follows the beloved Georgian from the folding doors of this Chamber to their last rest it looks as if two tall oaks which stood over and shaded our hearthstones had fallen in the early evening, after the storm and heat of the day had passed, and before the shades of night and winter had fallen upon their autumnal leaves. Colquitt and VANCE had done their duty to their country and their fellow-men.

But I must not trust myself further. At the hour of 9 to-night the committees of the two Houses of Congress, the entire delegation of the State of North Carolina, and the special committee from the State, with the sad family and friends, will leave the capital of the Star Spangled Republic and bear the remains of Governor VANCE through the sister State of Virginia to the beautiful capital of North Carolina, and thence take them to his burying ground on the mountain side overlooking the blue torrents of the French Broad and in sight of lovely Asheville, and there leave them in the shade of the evergreens and in the mirror and melody of flowing waters to sleep with his patriotic fathers. And as the clouds at evening hang upon the bosom and eternal towers of Black Mountain, so will a shadow of sorrow rest upon the bosom of all his people. But the light of his life with the early rays of morning will dispel the gloom from the mountains and from their hearts.

And now I can only venture, in the name of the stricken Senate, with gentlest sympathy to send to the noble and

devoted woman who for months, by day and night, with unwearied vigilance, has stood by him like an angel of light and love our heartfelt condolence and tenderness, and to hold up to his brave sons the ever living beacon of their father's life. He expired solaced in the arms and affections of his wife and children. And may our Almighty Father, in His supreme and infinite goodness, bestow upon them His strength and comfort.

Mr. President, I beg leave to ask consideration by the Senate of the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with great sorrow of the death of the Hon. ZEPHYR B. VANCE, late a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

Resolved, That a committee of nine Senators be appointed by the Vice-President to take order for superintending the funeral of Mr. VANCE, which will take place to-day in the Senate Chamber, at 4 o'clock p. m., and that the Senate will attend the same.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect entertained by the Senate for his memory, his remains be removed from Washington to North Carolina in charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and attended by the committee, who shall have full power to carry this resolution into effect.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these proceedings to the House of Representatives and invite the House of Representatives to attend the funeral to-day, Monday, at 4 o'clock p. m., and to appoint a committee to act with the committee of the Senate.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

The Vice-President appointed as the select committee under the second resolution Mr. Ransom, Mr. George, Mr. Gray, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Coke, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Dubois, Mr. White, and Mr. Manderson.

He also announced as the honorary pallbearers Mr. Morrill, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Harris, and Mr. McPherson.