

William Frederick Brooks was elected a member of this body in the general election of 1918 and served continuously until his death on March 19, 1928.

Senator Brooks was a scion of an old English family, an offshoot of which settled at Watertown, Massachusetts, about 1630. The descendants of this family were New Englanders who were prominent in mercantile, army and political circles. A branch of the family from which Senator Brooks sprang settled in Battle Creek, Michigan, where Senator Brooks was born on March 1, 1863. In his early childhood the family moved to Minneapolis. His father became an important figure in the mercantile world and in 1875 was one of the organizers of the hardware firm of Janney, Brooks & Sons, of which Janney, Semple, Hill & Company is the successor.

After arriving in Minneapolis young Brooks entered the public schools of the city, graduating in 1880 from Minneapolis Central High School. His technical education was taken at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Worcester, Massachusetts, where he received the degree of mechanical engineer.

Senator Brooks led an unusually busy and useful life. He was an extremely hard working and industrious man. He had great initiative, he never shrank from assuming responsibility. He was active in mercantile life as a manufacturer, a wholesaler and a retailer. He also served as a director of The Minnesota Loan and Trust Company of Minneapolis. In 1916 he retired from active business and from that time until the hour of his death he was a political and civic leader.

His influence in this body is too well known to you who served as his colleagues to be dwelt upon in this resolution. He was kindly, considerate, fair, industrious, painstaking and fearless. While he was an active partisan in politics, being a Minnesota member of the National Republican Committee, his partisanship never carried him beyond the bounds of propriety, and never was manifested in the slightest degree in the performance of his senatorial duties.

On January 11, 1888, Mr. Brooks married Caroline Bell Langdon, a daughter of Robert Bruce Langdon, then a railroad builder and capitalist of Minneapolis. His wife and one son, Robert Langdon, survive him.

In civic life, after he retired from business, Senator Brooks was at the command of his fellow citizens in all associations and activities for the development and betterment of his city and his state. He was active in a great number of clubs and organizations, a member of the New York Mayflower Society and the New England Historical and Genealogical Society. He was a Governor for many years of the Minneapolis Club and at one time served as its President. He was a Governor for many years of Minikahda Club and was twice elected its President.

He was an advocate of wholesome sport and pastimes. He was an ardent golf player and was recognized as an authority on the development and architecture of golf links and the growing of grasses for greens. He served as President and Director of the Minnesota State Golf Association, a Director and Vice President of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, Vice-President and Director of the Western Golf Association, and was a member of the greens section committee of the United States Golf Association.

He rendered valuable services during the World War in every activity and organization where a civilian could be useful. He devoted his entire time to these various activities. He early saw the future of aeronautics and organized the first Aero Club in Minneapolis, being its first President. He continued his interest in aeronautics after the war and was instrumental in procuring for the City of Minneapolis the Wold-Chamberlain Airport.

He was an organizer of exceptional ability, and had the faculty of inducing others to follow his leadership and to assist him in his undertakings.

Senator Brooks died suddenly. He was cut off from his worldly activities while his mind and body were active and virile. He has left a memory of friendship, loyalty and usefulness, which is a blessing to his friends and an example to his successors.

It is fitting that this memorial should be spread upon the permanent records of this Senate, and that his widow and son and many friends should know of the affection and the esteem in which this body holds him.

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Martin, Mr. Saggau, who presented and read the following Memorial Resolution:

*To the Honorable State Senate of the State of Minnesota:*

Your special Committee, appointed for the purpose of preparing a memorial resolution commemorative of the life and service of the late Frank A. Day of Martin County, who was a former member of the Senate of the State of Minnesota, respectfully submits the following:

In paying tribute to our departed colleague, Frank Arah Day, the Senate gives recognition to a man unique in Minnesota public affairs—a man whom all are pleased to regard as a friend without thought of political or other differences.

Few, if any, in Minnesota have been more actively connected with the history and development of the state. For more than fifty years as editor, publicist, politician, and legislator, he held prominent place.

Senator Day was a pioneer, a man of the common people, self-made and self-educated.

Born on a pioneer farm near the forgotten village of Attica, Green County, Wisconsin, September 30, 1853, he knew in childhood the struggle and privation common to all who go forth to conquer a new land.

Here, while still very young, at an age when the youth of today are not accustomed to toil, he learned and performed the daily tasks common to the farm. He often referred to these as the happiest days of his life. He attended the little district school and acquired, the rudiments of a liberal education, acquired, for the greater part, outside school room walls. By his own admissions he was a rebellious and unwilling scholar.

While a young and impressionable lad there came the great struggle between the states. His interest therein was heightened by the fact that an elder brother, as well as most of the young men of the community,

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in a short time he shipped on a cattle boat back again for New York. The West appealed to him and in 1876, Senator VanHoven came to St. Paul where he obtained work in a commission firm, and two years later his father and family came to America and the father and son engaged in the commission, live stock and packing business in St. Paul and Sioux City, which business continued for many years. In 1886 the Senator founded the VanHoven Incorporated plant at New Brighton. In 1902 he was appointed a member of the St. Paul Board of Public Works and in 1909 was made president of that Board. The following year he was elected to the State Senate and was re-elected in 1914 and 1918. During the last few years of his life he devoted all of his time to the real estate, packing house, by-products and insurance business, operated by himself and his son.

Such in brief is the history of the life work of Senator VanHoven.

Of his great services to the State and community in which he lived it is only necessary to say that no man was more public spirited or had the welfare of his City, State and County more at heart than had he.

Senator VanHoven came to his district when it was new and scarcely settled. He was a pioneer, a builder and one of the founders of that district. He was honored and respected by all who knew him and was among the last of the early settlers in that district to solve the great mystery.

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved*, by the Senate of the State of Minnesota, that in the death of the Honorable Peter H. VanHoven the State and Nation lost one of its wise counselors, a devoted servitor, and a valued citizen.

That the people of the State whom he served so long and so well will long remember him for his devotion to their interests, with an eye single to their welfare.

Mr. Orr then delivered the following eulogy:

While I am a member of the Committee on Memorials, I have had no part in the preparation of the several memorials as here presented, not even the one which I read myself. I have served nearly the entire time with all of these men who have finished their work and passed on to their reward. By the memorials here presented we have written indelibly into the record the names of these illustrious members whose spirits have winged their flight to the realm of Peace since our adjournment in 1927. The record of each, as written, is a short one. Alas! too short, for they were good men and true, and words are but helpless messengers to express one's feelings at such a time.

That death loves a shining mark was evidenced when it entered our Chamber to lay its icy hand upon all that was mortal of courteous, genial, lovable William Brooks. He was my seatmate, sitting directly behind me all of the years that we served together in the Senate. There are many interesting incidents that occur during the sessions of the Senate that men comment upon only to those who are near at hand at the time they occur. The close proximity of our seats made me a constant conferee with this lovable character, and I quickly grew to know and respect his splendid worth. The last conversation I had with

him was over the telephone the day before he died. He had called me to express his appreciation of some resolutions which he knew I had caused to be introduced at the Republican City and County Convention in Ramsey County. At the conclusion of the conversation I asked him if it was not possible for him to reconsider his expressed intention of retiring from the position of National Committeeman. He informed me that there was no such chance, that he had burned all of his bridges behind him, that he had talked the matter over with his wife and was going to California on the morrow, but that upon his return he expected to send for me and that during the play of a game of golf he would tell me the whole story. Almost in the twink of an eye Death stalked upon the scene and the pleasure of that promised comradeship was withdrawn. He died too soon. But he lived long enough to impress his splendid personality not only upon the City and State in which he lived, but more particularly upon this Senate of which he was so conspicuous a part. In all his mingling with men he attracted friends and never lost their friendship; he won respect and honor and never forfeited either.

Senators Steen, Madigan and Van Hoven were of that quiet type whose voices were rarely heard in this Senate, but they nevertheless exercised a large influence in shaping the legislation that has found its way upon the Statute books of the State. It was my privilege to visit personally all of these Senators in their respective Cities since the adjournment in 1927. I can add nothing to the splendid tributes already paid them by the memorials here presented.

It would seem that the Grim Reaper had already made sufficient invasion of the Senate and that we might go the balance of the way without losing more of our membership. This, however, was not to be the case, for the Messenger of Death came yet again and took from our midst one of the oldest of the public men of the State in the person of Senator Frank A. Day of Fairmont. I shall not attempt to add anything to the splendid resolution here presented as a eulogy to him. Two years ago I made some remarks in the Senate in reference to one who was near and dear to me. These remarks seemed to make a lasting impression upon my good friend Day, and he asked me a number of times if I would not put them in the Journal. Fortunately or unfortunately they have passed from recollection. Were I able to reconstruct them now I would be more than glad to speak them again as applicable to his useful life.

"Thus pass away the men of might  
Whose noiseless footsteps stamp the age.  
Their thoughts that fill the earth with light  
Still flow and blaze on memory's page."

Members of the Senate, these men have passed away; some of them months and some of them years before our memorial service here today. Those near and dear to them have followed their remains to the very brink of the grave and poured out an ineffectual libation of grief to their memory. Our action here today would therefore seem to be an idle ceremony were we not to learn something from the lives of men who have given so largely of their time and of their service in the interest of their State.

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