

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, Honored Guests:

I rise today in deep respect and humility to pay tribute to the memory of the late Senator James A. Carley, a truly great man.

Long an honored and distinguished member of this body, Senator Carley died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home in Plainview, Minnesota, on May 14, 1952. He was then in the eighty-third year of his life and in the thirty-eighth year of his service to the people of this state, both as a member of the House of Representatives and the State Senate.

In his long and varied life, a review of which is the story of a true pioneer, one cannot fail but note that the dominant characteristic is that of service to the people of his community.

Born June 17, 1869, on a farm near Oronoco, Minnesota, he left home in early life to attend the Wasfeajv Seminary near Mantorville. In later years he attended Hamline University in St. Paul, the Winona State Teachers College in Winona, and completed his education upon graduation from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1894. During his early years in the practice of his profession at Plainview, he also taught school in one of the nearby rural districts.

In 1896 he was elected to his first public office and served until 1900 as Wabasha County Attorney. During his residence in Wabasha he married Mary Chamberlain of that city who survives him.

Returning to Plainview in 1900 where he resumed the practice of law, Senator Carley became mayor of the village and subsequently village recorder.

In 1909 he was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and served in that capacity until 1915 when he was elected to the State Senate. He continued in that capacity until 1929, returning again to the Senate in 1935. From then he served continuously until his death. As a member of this body, Senator Carley served with an honor and distinction that is accorded but few men. He was fearless in his approach to public problems to an extent which transcended partisan principles and partisan control. His name and his memory will long endure in this Capitol.

Aside from the elective offices which he held, Senator Carley served his own community in many capacities, climaxing his devotion and generosity to his home by giving to the people of his community a beautiful 200 acre tract of land on the White Water River, South of Plainview, now designated in his honor as the Carley State Park.

Of such a man, almost any tribute after death is woefully inadequate, and no people are more conscious of that fact than are those who lived with and knew Senator Carley. His accomplishments and his character have become a permanent memorial in the hearts of the people. Sadly we regard his departure, for such a man will not pass this way again."

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Redwood, Mr. Zwach, who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, and Honored Guests:

I am highly honored today to pay tribute in this appropriate ceremony to one of my predecessors in this body, and one of the distinguished citizens of my district, The Honorable Frank Clague, of Redwood Falls. His was a long life and he spent it all in the service of his people.

He was elected to the House in this Legislature in 1902 and served through the session of 1907. He was unanimously elevated to the Speakership in the 1905 and 1907 sessions, and was the first Speaker in the then new Capitol building.

He came to the State Senate in 1909 and served through the 1913 session. He was a very active member of this body as the journals of the Senate will show. Among other committees, he served on the important committees of Finance, Rules and Judiciary. He also was author of bills on the Initiative and Referendum and took an active part in the proceedings that put the Minnesota legislature on a non-partisan basis. He resigned from the Senate after the 1913 session to start the practice of law.

In November, 1918, he was elected district judge of the 19th Judicial district, a position which he resigned after one year because it was too confining for a man of his activity.

In 1920 he was elected to Congress from the old 2nd Congressional district. He was a member of that body from 1920 through 1933, when he voluntarily retired. He saw important service on both the committees on Agriculture and Appropriations.

His life was typical of the struggles of the past century. Born in 1865 in Warrensville, Ohio, he had the privilege of knowing James A. Garfield, who was a nearby neighbor, and greatly influenced his life toward public service.

His was a constant struggle to secure his one ambition—schooling. Ill during much of his youth, he longed for the healthful climate of the midwest. By employment on a river schooner,

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