

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

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

The Memorial Committee of the Senate honored me greatly in requesting that I at this time present the tribute of the Minnesota State Senate to the memory of Honorable Frank E. Putnam, for many years a member of this body. I am particularly proud to do so because of the fact that my father, the late John D. Sullivan, also served in the State Senate from 1911 to 1931, during all of which time Senator Putnam was a member. Senator Putnam, however, was elected to the Senate in 1902 and served continuously until January, 1931. Many times have I heard my father speak of Senator Putnam in terms of highest praise. In his opinion, no member of the Senate surpassed, if equalled, Senator Putnam in ability, courage, and integrity. He and my father were the closest of friends, and strangely enough ended their service in the Senate at the same time. I had but slight personal acquaintance with Senator Putnam, but I met him on several occasions when he was passing through St. Cloud and stopped to visit my father.

Frank E. Putnam was born in Grafton, Vermont, January 9, 1857, and his death occurred in July, 1944. He attended the common schools and Vermont Academy in the State of Vermont, and thereafter for a time taught school. He received his legal education at the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor.

In 1885 he came to Minnesota and was admitted to the Bar at Fairmont, on September 9th, that year, taking his oath of office before Judge Martin J. Severance of the judicial district of which Faribault and Martin counties then were a part. He began the practice of law in Wells, Faribault County. He practiced law for nearly fifty-nine years, and during that time was associated with four others in partnerships. His first law partner was the late Honorable James H. Quinn, who at one time was judge of the newly created Seventeenth Judicial District, and who later became associate justice of the Minnesota State Supreme Court. This partnership was terminated by Mr. Quinn's elevation to the bench. During the course of this partnership, Mr. Putnam moved to Blue Earth, and the partnership continued there until ended as stated.

The second partnership was at Blue Earth with Jacob N. Nicholson, now deceased. In 1911 Chris Carlson became a partner under the firm name of Putnam and Carlson. Later, Rector H. Putnam, son of Frank E. Putnam, upon his graduation from Harvard Law School and after the end of the first World War of which he was a veteran, entered the law firm of Putnam and Carlson. The practice of the law firm extended well over the state, but the office remained in Blue Earth. This partnership continued unbroken until the death of Senator Putnam.

In 1889 while still a young man, Frank E. Putnam moved from Wells to Blue Earth, the county seat of Faribault County, and that city became his home for the long remainder of his life.

On July 3, 1893, he was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Rector, who, as his widow, survives him. It will be noted that the marriage exceeded the golden period of fifty years. To this union were

born two children, the son, Rector H. Putnam, and a daughter, Alice B. Putnam, now Mrs. George Barnes, of Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

Senator Putnam had a most remarkable record as a legislator, having served in the Minnesota State Senate for twenty-eight years. In recognition of his ability as a lawyer and of the confidence accorded him by lieutenant governors and his fellow senators, he was appointed and served twenty consecutive years as chairman of the Judiciary Committee of that body.

He was city attorney of Blue Earth, and county attorney of Faribault County for six years. He was for a number of years a member of the State Board of Law Examiners, and from 1926 to 1927 was president of the Minnesota State Bar Association. He was associated with the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Blue Earth, and its successors, as a director, continuously from 1899 to the time of his death.

His law practice was extremely large, and it would be difficult to estimate the number of cases in which he was employed as counsel. The number would run into the several hundreds, at least. Many of his cases were of outstanding importance. His record as a lawyer is unexcelled in all the history of the state. In September, 1935, on the fiftieth anniversary of his admission to the Bar, he was honored by the Bar of his district at Fairmont. An unusual feature of the celebration was the presentation to him of a large, well-worded, complimentary testimonial. This testimonial bore the signatures of the Judge of the District Court and of every lawyer in the district. It is difficult to conceive of a finer tribute. It is doubtful if any other lawyer in the state was ever so honored.

The testimonial is as follows:

'To Honorable Frank E. Putnam, Greetings:

Honorable Frank E. Putnam, of Blue Earth, Faribault County, Minnesota, having completed fifty years continuous practice of the law in the State of Minnesota, the major portion in the Seventeenth Judicial District, and during said time having served twenty-eight consecutive years in the State Senate of said State, twenty years as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of that body, as President of the Minnesota State Bar Association, and for years as a member of the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners,

*Now Therefore*, in recognition of said period of practice and said public service, we, the undersigned, Judge and members of the Bar of said Judicial District, do hereby extend to said Frank E. Putnam, Our high regard for him as a citizen, Our appreciation of his splendid service as a lawyer and as a public official, Our good will, Our best wishes, and Our affection.

Done at Fairmont, Minnesota, this Seventh Day of September, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-five'.

This testimonial was signed by Judge Julius E. Haycraft, and by the thirty-three members of the Bar of said District, one of whom is now a member of this body, Honorable Frank E. Dougherty, Senator from Martin County.

Senator Putnam practiced law in his county, district and state for almost fifty-nine years. During all of that period his record was without blemish. He at all times enjoyed the highest respect

and esteem of everyone with whom he came in contact, either in his practice as a lawyer or in his other daily life. He had the admiration of his fellow lawyers and the trust of his fellow senators, and, greater than all, the everlasting love, confidence, and esteem of those who knew him best, his fellow citizens.

Senator M. D. Carey of this body, now representing the legislative district formerly represented by Senator Putnam, requested particularly that his own personal tribute to Senator Putnam be included in this memorial. Senator Carey instructed me to express for him the admiration and respect that he had for Senator Putnam. He said that he knew of no other man who so completely possessed the love, honor, and respect of his fellow citizens. That his death was a distinct loss not only to his home community and district but to the entire state.

In conclusion, we of the Senate of the State of Minnesota today pay tribute to the life and worth of our former member, Frank E. Putnam. We honor his memory, and we extend our deepest sympathy to his sorrowing family for the great loss which they and we have sustained."

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

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

Again we are called upon to set aside a few moments of our time to remember those with whom we have served and who now have answered the call of He who doeth all things well.

I have been asked to say a few words in memory of one who served in this body before I had the honor to become a member. I knew our former member, Senator Bessette, for many years—not in the sense of a personal friend, but as one who, like I, was interested in the problems of our state and especially of our beautiful north country. We differed in our economic and political philosophy, but to his credit, which is typical of a true American, this difference of opinion was unimportant. He represented the Iron Range as a Senator from the 61st District. He fought for the interests of the Range and especially was interested in the problem of our depleted forest resources. Of recent years he represented the Timber Producers Association as Secretary. Those who knew him best can testify to his courtesy and honesty of purpose. Quiet spoken, he always had a smile and a kindly word of greeting. We respected his opinion, as he respected those who disagreed with him. What more could any one say? Such tolerance is the greatest safeguard of democracy. We need more citizens like Fred Bessette. He gave of his best and our section of the state will long remember him as one of our most respected citizens. To give of one's self to the best of our ability in the homely duties of citizenship is the best monument that can be erected to the memory of any man. In the hearts of his friends he will live. To his memory they can say 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Well done.'

I know, you who served with him, will join with me in extending to his family our deepest sympathy at the loss of a loved one, and