

1969

# **In Memoriam**

## **FORMER SENATORS**

**James P. Boyle**

**Harold J. O'Loughlin**

**Milton C. Lightner**

**William L. Petersen**

**George H. O'Brien**

**Charles W. Root**

**A. O. Sletvold**

# **State of Minnesota**

**Senate Chambers**

**Wednesday, March 19, 1969**

**2:00 o'clock p.m.**



**SENATE CHAMBER**

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**

**—for—**

**Former Senators**

**JAMES P. BOYLE**

**HAROLD J. O'LOUGHLIN**

**MILTON C. LIGHTNER**

**WILLIAM L. PETERSEN**

**GEORGE H. O'BRIEN**

**CHARLES W. ROOT**

**A. O. SLETVOLD**

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

Introduced by Mr. Holmquist, for the Committee on Rules and Legislative Expense, on February 28, 1969.

#### **A SENATE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR DECEASED FORMER SENATORS**

*Whereas*, the Almighty God has seen fit in His infinite wisdom to remove from our midst by death, since the last session, the following persons who were former members of the Minnesota State Senate: The Honorable James P. Boyle, The Honorable Milton C. Lightner, The Honorable George H. O'Brien, The Honorable Harold J. O'Loughlin, The Honorable William L. Petersen, The Honorable Charles W. Root, and The Honorable A. O. Sletvold.

*Whereas*, the high character and public service of these men merit an expression of respect and veneration for their memory.

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved*, that the President of the Senate be and he is hereby directed to appoint a committee of five members of the Senate who shall arrange for and report such resolutions and memorial exercises as in the judgment of the committee will fittingly express the respect and sentiment which the members of the Senate feel for the memory of their late fellow members.

Pursuant to the foregoing resolution, the President appointed the following members as a committee on resolutions and memorial exercises:

Messrs. Cliff Sommer, Chairman, Eugene F. Welter, Roy W. Holsten, Wendell R. Anderson and C. J. Benson.

Mr. Sommer moved, pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 3, adopted on February 28, 1969, that the rules of the Senate be so far suspended, that the memorial services for deceased Senators be made a Special Order of Business for Wednesday, March 19, 1969, at 2:00 o'clock p.m. Which motion prevailed.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

### SPECIAL ORDER

Wednesday, March 19, 1969

Two o'clock p.m.

The President announced the order of business to be memorial services set pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 3, adopted on February 28, 1969, in honor of Former Senators: James P. Boyle, Milton C. Lightner, George H. O'Brien, Harold J. O'Loughlin, William L. Petersen, Charles W. Root and A. O. Sletvold.

Mr. Sommer moved a call of the Senate.

Anderson, E. J.	Jude
Anderson, J. T.	Kalina
Anderson, W.R.	Kirchner
Arnold	Krieger
Ashbach	LaBrosse
Benson	Larson, L. W.
Bergerud	Larson, N.
Blatz	Laufenburger
Brown	Leiseth
Bursch	Mammenga
Coleman	McCarty
Conzemius	McKnight
Davies	Metcalf
Dosland	Mosier
Franz	Nelson
Gage	Novak
Glewwe	Nyquist
Grant	Ogdahl
Greig	Olson
Grittner	Parks
Hansen, Baldy	Perpich, A. J.
Hansen, Mel	Perpich, Rudy
Hanson, N. W.	Popham
Hanson, R.	Rosenmeier
Harren	Sinclair
Higgins	Sommer
Holmquist	Sundet
Holsten	Ukkelberg
Hughes, J. M.	Wanvick
Hughes, Keith	Welter
Jensen, C. A.	Wolfe
Jensen, V. K.	Wright
Josefson	

Mr. Sommer moved that further proceedings under the call of the Senate be dispensed with and the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to bring in the absent members. Which motion prevailed.

**Prayer by Reverend Leman Olsenius, Chaplain of the Senate.**

John 11:21-27

“Almighty, Merciful and Eternal God! Thou hast by reason of sin appointed unto men once to die: but, that we might not remain forever in the power of death, Thou hast given Thy Son Jesus Christ, Who knew no sin, to suffer death for us, and through Him hast taken away the sting of death. Help us to remember that we also at Thy good pleasure shall be called hence and our bodies return to dust. Grant us grace to remember that we have not here an abiding city. Teach us to seek the things that are eternal and so to walk in accordance with Thy Holy Will that on the last day we may arise to everlasting life.

“We thank Thee, O God, that Thou hast called us to remember our colleagues who have been summoned to the life where, ‘Age shall not weary nor the years condemn.’ For the lasting contributions which they have made, for the labor given our great state, for the gentleness of their character, for the breath of their sympathies, for their power of their convictions, for their patience and courage, for genius for friendship, their loyalty to a great tradition, all of which has made this world richer, we thank Thee, O God.

“Bless these loved ones who mourn their passing and surround them with Thy love and mercy. We thank Thee for these friends. Grant that we all may be worthy of our friends and true to those who trust us. Send us back to our tasks with new cheerfulness and hope, gladly to accept whatever Thou dost give us to do or endure. As we wait for the cloudless day to dawn when the shadows flee away, give us unquestionable confidence in Thy Holy Will, and unto Thee shall be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

The President of the Senate recognized the Senator from Steele, Dodge and Olmsted Counties, Mr. Sommer, Chairman, Special Committee on Memorials, who addressed the Senate on behalf of the Memorial Committee, as follows:

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

By Special Order of this Senate, now in its 66th Session, and in accordance with a very fitting and long standing tradition, this hour has been set apart in recognition of the public service of former members of the Minnesota Senate, who have since our last session, departed this life and entered the portals of the Great Beyond.

We do this to show our respect for those former members whose voices are stilled; to express our sympathy to their loved ones; and in recognition of their public service.

This Memorial observance is in their honor.

It is the Senate's final tribute to:

Senator James P. Boyle  
Senator Milton C. Lightner  
Senator George H. O'Brien  
Senator Harold J. O'Loughlin  
Senator William L. Petersen  
Senator Charles W. Root  
Senator A. O. Sletvold



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

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

It is with respect and honor that I today pay tribute to the memory of a former member of this body, The Honorable James Patrick Boyle, who passed away on March 4, 1968 at Tucson, Arizona, at the age of 87 years.

James Patrick Boyle was born in St. Cloud, Minnesota in 1880. He attended parochial and public schools in St. Cloud and Melrose, Minnesota. He attended the Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana, and in the early part of the century entered law school at the University of Indiana at Bloomington and was graduated from there about 1905. Senator Boyle practiced law for a short time in Indianapolis, later returning to Minnesota and opened a law office in Eveleth where he remained until 1915. During these years he served as assistant county attorney for St. Louis County.

Senator Boyle served in the 1911 and 1913 sessions of the Minnesota State Senate representing the 62nd district.

In 1915 Senator Boyle moved to Douglas, Arizona and opened a law office in partnership with the late Cleon Knapp. About 1930 the law firm was moved to Tucson. At the time of his death, Senator Boyle was the senior member in the firm of Boyle, Bilby, Thompson and Shoenair of Tucson, Arizona.

Senator Boyle was devoted to his family and to his community and enjoyed the friendship of a great many people. He was a life-long member of the Roman Catholic Church. During his earlier years he was known for his ability as a public speaker and often addressed church and civic groups. Politics was one of Senator Boyle's main interests during his entire lifetime. He always considered it a privilege to serve others.

Senator Boyle is survived by his wife, Hulda; two sons, James P. Boyle, Jr. of Prescott, Arizona and John M. Boyle of New York; two brothers, C. L. Boyle of Cleveland, Ohio and Joseph F. Boyle of New York City; four sisters, Misses Cecile, Nora and Irene Boyle of Duluth and Mrs. John P. Lein of Coronado, California; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. To them we extend our sincere sympathy.

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

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

Milton C. Lightner was elected to the Senate in 1931 after 10 years of service in the House of Representatives.

He served in the Senate from 1931 to 1955, and was elected President pro tempore in the 1947 session.

Born on December 13, 1886 while the frontier was still officially a fact of American life, he was a life-long resident of St. Paul, residing at 506 Summit Avenue for a major portion of that time.

A graduate of St. Paul Academy, Yale University and Harvard Law School, Senator Lightner's life spanned a major portion of our history as a state.

A side-light that illuminates the changes that Senator Lightner witnessed during his lifetime was his job as a caddy at a golf course that was located approximately where the Governor's mansion stands today.

Senator Lightner married the former Evelyn Finch in 1913.

He was a partner in the Lightner-Young law firm, founded in 1916.

His civic accomplishments include service as President of St. Paul's Lincoln Republican Club, the first political organization of its kind in the nation; Senior Warden of Christ Episcopal Church, and a past member of the St. Luke's Hospital Board.

During his 24 years in the Senate, Senator Lightner liked to be known, along with the late Senator A. J. Rockne of Zumbrota, as "watch-dog" of the state treasury. Physically imposing and meticulous in his attention to every detail of legislative activity, Senator Lightner's conservatism was a badge he wore with great pride.

Senator Lightner died on March 11, 1967 after a life of service to his community. He is survived by Mrs. Lightner and their two children, Mrs. John Markham of Washington, D. C. and William H. Lightner II, of San Francisco, as well as a sister, Mrs. Harriet Frazier and a brother, Drake.

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

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

It is my privilege today to pay tribute to the memory of the late Senator George H. O'Brien. Senator O'Brien served the people of the 58th district for 16 years as a member of the Minnesota State Senate.

George O'Brien was born March 24, 1891 at Sanborn, Wisconsin and moved to the Grand Rapids-Cohasset area of Itasca County at the age of 10 years. He was a resident of Itasca County for 67 years attending schools in Grand Rapids and Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Senator O'Brien was the owner of the Riverside Hotel (now the Downtowner) in Grand Rapids from 1930 to 1956. He then owned and operated the Travelodge Motel in Victorville, California from 1959 to 1962 at which time he retired and returned to Grand Rapids.

Mr. O'Brien was active in the Knights of Columbus, the Lions Club, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the American Legion, and the Itasca Barracks of World War I Veterans. In 1957 the Junior Chamber of Commerce presented its Good Government Award to Senator O'Brien.

Senator O'Brien was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1942. During his 16 years in the Senate he served on the Committees on Civil Administration, Education, Finance, Public Highways, Towns and Counties, Rules and Legislative Expense. He was Chairman of the Committee on Reapportionment in 1947 and 1949 and Chairman of the Committee on Public Domain from 1951 through 1957. Prior to his service in the Minnesota State Senate, Mr. O'Brien served one term as Itasca County Sheriff, was chairman of the County Draft Board during World War II, served on the Hospital Board, commanded the McVeigh-Dunn American Legion and was Cohasset postmaster before entering the army in World War I.

Senator O'Brien passed away August 6, 1968 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, Nell; a son, James G. O'Brien of Grand Rapids; three sisters, Mrs. Sylvester Wagner of Grand Rapids, Mrs. Margaret Miesen of Waterloo, Iowa and Mrs. Sylvester Mooers of Avoca, Iowa; five brothers, Raymond and Clement of Cohasset, Dillon of Marble, Eugene of Broken Bow, Nebraska, and Harold Phair of International Falls; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

To the family we extend our sincere sympathy.

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

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

It is a particular privilege to have an opportunity to pay public homage to a former member of this body whom I knew personally, Senator Harold J. O'Loughlin.

Senator O'Loughlin was elected to the Senate from the old fortieth district in 1954 and re-elected in 1958. While in the Senate he served on the following committees: Judiciary, Cities of the First Class, Committee on Committees, Elections and Reapportionment, Public Domain, Public Highways, Taxes and Tax Laws.

Born in Portland, Oregon on November 30, 1900, he was a resident of St. Paul for the 50 years prior to his death, residing at 1137 Portland Avenue in St. Paul during his years of service as senator.

A graduate of the College of St. Thomas and the University of Minnesota Law School, Senator O'Loughlin had a distinguished varied career of service to both state and community.

An attorney in St. Paul, he also served as assistant editor of the Catholic Digest, and was an active member of the Christ Child Society, the St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary, the Little Flower of Maryknoll Auxiliary, and served as an advisor to the Guild of Catholic Women. He was also a member of the Serra Club, an organization of Catholic men who encourage vocations to the religious life.

Even the circumstances surrounding his death illustrate the dedication characteristic of his life, for he suffered his fatal heart attack while participating in a Christ Child Society dinner on April 27, 1968.

Senator O'Loughlin's wife, the former Tess Gilmore, preceded him in death in 1961. During the years of their marriage they were widely known to friends and neighbors for the depth of their mutual attachment and their shared desire to serve community and state.

Senator and Mrs. O'Loughlin are survived by their son Terrance and their daughter Mrs. Bruce Odlaug, both of St. Paul, and four grandchildren. The Senator had two sisters who survive him, Mrs. Marguerite Johnston, Portland, Oregon, and Mrs. Elizabeth Westbrook, Rosemount, Minnesota.

Perhaps only those of us who are privileged to serve in public office can fully understand and appreciate that a difference in governmental philosophy divides us only on that particular issue and in no way complicates or interferes with our high esteem for the individual as a sincere and dedicated man.

Senator O'Loughlin and I were in some ways divided on the philosophy of government, but I would like to think that we shared not only a common Irish heritage, not only a distant family relationship between us, but that in a far more important sense we shared in common a desire to be active in the search for solutions to the problems of our times.

Senator O'Loughlin will be remembered by former colleagues and friends on both sides of the aisle as a gentleman, a gentleman with a dedication to his people. The lives of all of us have benefited because of this dedication.

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Marshall, Kittson, Pennington and Roseau, Mr. Sinclair, who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

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

The Senate today is proud to honor the memory of former Senator William L. Petersen.

Bill Petersen, as he was known by his multitude of friends, was a resident of the Village of Lancaster in the northwest corner of the state. He was elected to the Senate in 1930 and served during the regular session of 1931 and the regular and special sessions of 1933. During his term of office he was a member of the Civil Administration, Elections, Game and Fish, Judiciary, Markets and Marketing, Public Domain and Temperance committees. He was an articulate and able spokesman for the district that he represented. Although he did not seek re-election to the Senate he continued to be active in Republican party politics, at one time serving as chairman of the state convention.

Mr. Petersen was born on a farm in Bartlett township, Todd County, on August 25, 1882 and passed away at Karlstad, Minnesota, July 27, 1968. He is survived by his wife Esther who he married in 1910 and by three daughters, Mrs. J. E. (Esther Ann) Haas of Rochester, Mrs. Orval (Katherine) Lund of Lancaster and Mrs. Robert (Carley) Engwall of Bloomington; one brother, Ed Petersen of International Falls and ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Senator Petersen graduated from the Verndale high school in 1898. Following his graduation from the St. Cloud Normal in 1903 he became principal of the Watertown school. He studied law at the University of Minnesota, attending nights while teaching in the Minneapolis and Richfield schools. He was admitted to the bar in 1909, opening an office in Lancaster the same year.

Lancaster was a pioneer community when Mr. Petersen arrived there, having been founded a few years before, following the construction of the Soo Line railroad through northwestern Minnesota. Throughout his lifetime Mr. Petersen devoted his talents and energy to the development of this community. He was active in village affairs, having served as legal counsel for the village and the school district. He was a lifetime member of the Lancaster businessmen's club. He was a Lion, a member of the State Bar Association, a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Shrine and the Scottish Rite. He served as chairman of the area draft board, and of the county bond drive committee of World War II. He served on the Kittson

County fair board for many years. He helped organize and was a director of the Northwest State Bank of Hallock.

Mr. Petersen practiced law in Lancaster until shortly before his death. In recent years he and Mrs. Petersen had spent the winters in Arizona.

Although a busy man throughout his lifetime, Bill Petersen was ever ready to help those less fortunate. He was a man of strong convictions and was outspoken in advocating his beliefs. He was admired and respected by all who knew him. He was above all a strong family man, a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

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

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

Charles W. Root, known to his colleagues and innumerable friends as "Charlie", was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives from what was then the 33rd Legislative District, Minneapolis, in 1944 and served with distinction in that body until 1950 when he was elected to the Minnesota Senate where he served until his health indicated the advisability of his retirement from public life in 1962.

Charlie was married to Mary George Root and they have reared two children, David and Cecilia. He was an attorney by profession and practiced with William Thiel under the name of Thiel and Root.

The State of Minnesota, the City of Minneapolis and his Legislative District felt and continue to feel the influence of Charlie Root's guidance, counsel and conviction in legislative matters. Legislative achievement in his name has a foremost place. He was particularly active in the fields of finance, judiciary, municipal affairs and public institutions. In the field of public institutions, having the care of the state's unfortunate citizens, his humaneness and imaginative intelligence and the direction of his tireless energy brought about improvements of which the whole state can be proud. He had self-discipline, righteousness and religious conviction. His life was governed by these characteristics. He was intolerable of narrow-mindedness. He liked to be known as a self-made man. He believed that the strength of society depends upon the self-reliance, the dignity and the pride of its members. In his campaign literature he frequently listed his legislative accomplishments under the heading: "I am proud of these accomplishments". Principle governed all his activities. He did not compromise for less; he fought for his legislative proposals manfully, to generous victory or graceful defeat.

This man of vast courage left this world on January 2nd, 1968. Most of us here today knew him, revered him and loved him. Our lives were enriched by our association with him and having him among us. While time does not permit me to do so, all who served with him can recite incidents of his career which bear testament to the greatness of his character. No doubt many of you who served with him are now calling to mind such incidents. It is better if we just say that his departure has deeply sorrowed us, and that this Senate and this State are richer for the lifetime of unselfish service that he gave us.



The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Becker, Clearwater, Hubbard and Mahnomen, Mr. Leiseth, who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

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

A. O. Sletvold served in the Minnesota State Senate from 1935 to 1955, completing five terms. He represented the then 63rd District comprising Becker and Hubbard Counties. Mr. Sletvold served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and as a member of several important committees including the Committee on Rules and Legislative Expense and the Committee on Committees.

Senator Sletvold was born April 6, 1889, on a farm near the Village of Elizabeth in Ottertail County, Minnesota, where he grew to manhood; he graduated from the College of Law of the University of Minnesota in June, 1911, and served as City Attorney of Detroit Lakes for four years and as County Attorney of Becker County for eight years prior to his tenure of office in the Senate.

Senator Sletvold is survived by his wife, Josephine, and a son Joseph Alden Sletvold of Newton Square, Pennsylvania, with whom Mrs. Sletvold is now living.

Senator Sletvold was a hard working, conscientious member of this body and will be long remembered by his colleagues and his friends.

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Mr. Sommer moved that the memorials and personal tributes as presented and read, be approved and spread upon the pages of the Journal of the Senate. Which Motion prevailed.

Mr. Sommer moved that the Secretary of the Senate be and he is hereby instructed to send enrolled copies of the memorials and personal tributes, as presented and read, to the widows of deceased Senators or their next of kin. Which Motion prevailed.

Mr. Sommer moved as a further tribute to the memory of these former Senators that the Senate do now adjourn until 11:00 o'clock a.m. tomorrow. Which Motion prevailed.

H. Y. Torrey,  
Secretary of the Senate.