

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 155

House of Representatives, Feb. 7, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Military Affairs, five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Allan of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

RESOLVE authorizing the Governor and Council to accept picture or oil painting of General Charles W. Tilden, to hang in the rotunda of the State House.

Whereas, At the annual reunion of the 16th Maine Regimental Association, held in Portland in 1915, it was voted to procure an oil painting of the commander of the regiment during the Civil War, the late General Charles W. Tilden of Hallowell, for presentation to the State of Maine, free of cost, provided the state would accept the same and cause it to be hung in the rotunda of the State House; and

Whereas, The surviving members of the 16th Maine Regiment, in presenting this portrait of their beloved commander, are actuated by a desire to express their love and esteem for one of the ablest, bravest and most patriotic officers who went out from Maine to serve with them, on marches, in battles, in hunger and thirst, and in dangers of all kinds during the Civil War; and

Whereas, It is fitting that General Tilden's eminent military career should receive public recognition, and that the State of Maine should honor his memory by causing his portrait to be placed in its Hall of Fame by the side of portraits of other men who have served the state with honor; and

Whereas, General Tilden was commissioned First Lieutenant of Company B, 2nd Maine Regiment, on April 27, 1861, and was promoted to captain of that company June 24, 1861; he took part with his regiment in the first battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, in the peninsular campaign and in the seven days' battles near Richmond in the spring of 1862. At the formation of the 16th Maine Regiment in 1862 Captain Tilden was commissioned its lieutenant-colonel on June 23, 1862, with which his subsequent military career was closely identified.

During the military activities that followed, he had command of the regiment in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Laurel Hill, North Anna River, Tolapotomy, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Thatcher's Run, White Oak

6 Road, Five Forks and Appomattox. At Fredericksburg the
7 regiment lost more than half of the number of men engaged.
8 At Gettysburg on the first day it was ordered to hold back
9 the whole force of the Confederates at any cost, while the
10 remainder of the corps fell back to Cemetery Ridge. This
11 duty was well performed, but at a fearful cost; only thirty-
12 eight remaining out of two hundred and eighty-seven that
13 went into battle. Every line and staff officer was either
14 killed or captured and the flags were torn into small pieces
15 to save them from capture.

General Tilden was captured and confined in Libby Prison
2 for eight months. In February, 1864, he escaped by crawling
3 through the famous "Rose Tunnel" and came back to his
4 regiment in March of that year. He was again captured on
5 August 19, 1864, at the battle of Weldon Railroad, but on
6 the next day, while being taken from Petersburg to Rich-
7 mond, he leaped from the railway train, rolled down an em-
8 bankment twenty feet high and the next morning came into
9 the Union lines in front of his own brigade.

On Jan. 8, 1863, he was commissioned colonel and was
2 breveted brigadier-general in March, 1865. In February,
3 1865, he commanded the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, of the
4 5th Army Corps. When General Lee surrendered at
5 Appomattox, General Tilden turned to his officers with great
6 emotion and said, "For four years I have fought, endured
7 and suffered for this consolation; now I am satisfied."

After the war General Tilden returned to Castine, his native

2 town, and remained there fourteen years. He then removed
3 to Hallowell, where his death occurred on March 14, 1914.
4 General Tilden was a Representative to the Legislature from
5 Castine soon after the war; was secretary of the Maine
6 Senate for ten years; and was also inspector general of the
7 National Guard under two administrations. He was buried
8 at Castine; and

Whereas, There has passed into the Shadow of the Beyond,
2 the beloved companion, the noble patriot and soldier, the
3 honored citizen, the man whose life was so full of lofty
4 aspirations, so full of worthy deeds that at every stage of his
5 earthly journey, in every calling or vocation in which he was
6 engaged, no worthier example could be presented for
7 emulation in his day or generation; be it therefore

Resolved, That the Governor and Council be and hereby
2 are authorized and directed, in the name of the People of the
3 State of Maine to accept said painting from the said 16th
4 Maine Regimental Association; to cause the same to be hung
5 in the rotunda of the State House and to provide for a public
6 presentation thereof at such date as may be agreed upon by
7 said association and the Governor and Council.