

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 421

In Senate, March 30, 1917.

Reported by Mr. Butler of Knox from committee on military affairs and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE for a memorial in honor of Major General Hiram
G. Berry.

Resolved, that the sum of fifteen thousand dollars be and
2 is hereby appropriated for the erection of a suitable memo-
3 rial to commemorate the services of Major General Hiram
4 G. Berry in the Civil War, and that the character of said
5 memorial, its location at Augusta, and the expenditure of
6 said amount be under the direction and control of the Gov-
7 ernor and Council.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Major General Hiram G. Berry was a citizen of Rockland, Knox County, Maine. Always interested in military affairs, at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 he offered his services as a volunteer and was active in raising the Fourth Maine Regiment, one of the best of the famous infantry regiments furnished by the State, and was commissioned its Colonel. For meritorious service he was promoted successively to the rank of Brigadier General and Major General of the Volunteers, attaining the latter rank after less than two years' service, and solely because of his great military ability and single hearted loyalty to the nation.

In the unfortunate campaign of General Hooker against the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, General Berry commanded a division. When the Eleventh Corps, commanded by General Howard, on the Union right, was routed because some one had blundered, General Berry endeavored to bring order out of confusion and was mortally wounded almost if not quite on the firing line and died in a few minutes. He gave his life in the performance of a soldier's duty.

It has always been admitted that had Berry lived he would have succeeded Hooker in the command of the Army of the Potomac, and thus the fame acquired by General Meade would have been his.

General Berry was Maine's most brilliant soldier in the Civil War. More than half a century has passed since he died on the field of battle in the very van of his troops. The only memorial in the State to his worth and valor is the simple monument erected by his family in the cemetery at Rockland.

It is in the highest degree fitting that the State of Maine place at the Capital of the State some suitable testimonial to General Berry's memory.