

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Acts and Resolves

As Passed by the

Seventy-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1917

Including Acts and Resolves of the Special Session of the
Seventy-Seventh Legislature held in 1916.

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1917

RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Seventy-Eighth
Legislature

1917

Chapter 35.

Resolve, in Favor of Ida E. Heath of Chelsea.

Ida E. Heath. Resolved: That there be, and hereby is, appropriated, to be paid to Ida E. Heath of Chelsea, Maine, widow of Orrin E. Heath of Chelsea, deceased, the sum of one thousand dollars; five hundred dollars payable in the year nineteen hundred seventeen, and five hundred dollars payable in the year nineteen hundred eighteen, as compensation for the death of her husband, killed November eighth, nineteen hundred sixteen, while working on state aid road in the town of Chelsea.

Approved March 22, 1917.

Chapter 36.

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.

Acceptance of oil painting of General Charles W. Tilden to be hung in rotunda of State House. Whereas, At the annual reunion of the sixteenth Maine Regimental Association, held in Portland in nineteen hundred and fifteen, 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 sixteenth 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 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 twenty-seven, eighteen hundred sixty-one, and was promoted to captain of that company June twenty-fourth, eighteen hundred sixty-one; he took part with his regiment in the first battle of Bull Run on July twenty-first, eighteen hundred sixty-one, in the Peninsular campaign and in the Seven Days' battles near Richmond in the spring of eighteen hundred sixty-two. At the formation of the sixteenth Maine Regiment in eighteen hundred sixty-two Captain Tilden was commissioned its lieutenant-colonel on June twenty-third, eighteen hundred sixty-two, and with this regiment his subsequent military career was closely identified.

During the military activities that followed, he had command of the regiment in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Laurel Hill, North Anna River, Tolapotomy, Cold Har-

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

General Tilden was captured and confined in Libby Prison for eight months. In February, eighteen hundred sixty-four, he escaped by crawling through the famous "Rose Tunnel" and came back to his regiment in March of that year. He was again captured on August nineteenth, eighteen hundred sixty-four, at the battle of Weldon Railroad, but on the next day, while being taken from Petersburg to Richmond, he leaped from the railroad track, rolled down an embankment twenty feet high and the next morning came into the Union lines in front of his own brigade.

On January eight, eighteen hundred sixty-three, he was commissioned colonel and was breveted brigadier-general in March, eighteen hundred sixty-five. In February, eighteen hundred sixty-five, he commanded the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, of the 5th Army Corps. When General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, General Tilden turned to his officers with great emotion and said: "For four years I have fought, endured and suffered for this consummation; now I am satisfied."

After the war General Tilden returned to Castine, his native town, and remained there fourteen years. He then removed to Hallowell, where his death occurred on March fourteenth, nineteen hundred fourteen. General Tilden was a representative to the legislature from Castine soon after the war; was secretary of the Maine senate for ten years; and was also inspector general of the National Guard under two administrations. He was buried at Castine; and

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

Resolved, That the governor and council be, and hereby are, authorized and directed, in the name of the people of the State of Maine to accept said painting from the said 16th Maine Regimental Association; to cause the same to be hung in the rotunda of the state house and to provide for a public presentation thereof at such date as may be agreed upon by said association and the governor and council.

Approved March 22, 1917.