



NORTH DAKOTA STATE MEMORIAL STONE

PROCEEDINGS HELD IN THE
WASHINGTON MONUMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C., AT THE
DEDICATION OF A MEMO-
RIAL STONE PLACED IN THE
MONUMENT BY THE STATE
OF NORTH DAKOTA, APRIL 20, 1926



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WASHINGTON
1926

RESOLUTION No. 263

Resolved, That the proceedings at the exercises at the dedication of the North Dakota memorial stone in the Washington Monument, April 20, 1926, at three o'clock postmeridian, be printed, with illustrations, as a House document.

Attest:

WILLIAM TYLER PAGE,
Clerk.

(11)

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PROGRAM

Mrs. ERIC A. THORBERG, *State Regent, North Dakota, National Society
Daughters of the American Revolution, Presiding*

Music.....	Marine Orchestra.
Invocation	Mrs. Rhett Goode, chaplain general N. S. D. A. R.
North Dakota song (by Margaret E. Planke).....	Audience.
Presentation of memorial stone.....	Mrs. Eric A. Thorberg, State regent of North Dakota N. S. D. A. R.
Unveiling of memorial stone.....	Miss Virginia Ladd.
Acceptance of memorial stone.....	Maj. U. S. Grant, 3d, Director Public Buildings and Grounds.
Music.....	Marine Orchestra.
Address.....	Mrs. George Morley Young, vice president general from North Dakota N. S. D. A. R.
Address.....	Mrs. Anthony Wayne Cook, presi- dent general N. S. D. A. R.
North Dakota song (by Taylor).....	Quartet (Dr. Sterling Bockoven, R. L. Nordness, Dorothy Perrott, Nancy Featherstone; Grace C. Nordness, accompanist).
Address.....	Hon. O. B. Burtness, Member of Congress, first district, North Dakota.
Song, Kipling's "Recessional".....	Quartet.
Music.....	Marine Orchestra.

INVOCATION BY MRS. RHETT GOODE

Chaplain General, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Our Heavenly Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, we are here this evening to place in this wonderful monument, built as a tangible tribute for all time to him who symbolizes the noble heritage of the past, a memorial stone from the great State of North Dakota, a State full of the history of those early days when the trail was blazed into the western wilderness with much suffering and many handicaps.

Thy daughters, O Lord, stood side by side with the valiant, intrepid men of their families, enduring much pain and privation, but like Thy children of old, they went bravely on because Thy hand was held out to guide and protect them.

To-day we are paying deference to the rare courage and sacrifice of those pioneers by placing this memorial stone in honor of their loyalty and courage.

Their quest, O Lord, will always be an inspiration in our national life, and we pray that this memorial may stand for all time as a symbol of patriotic achievement.

Hear us, dear Saviour, while we reverently repeat the earnest supplication of that great patriot and Christian gentleman, George Washington, who, "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," always looked to Thee for guidance in not only the momentous affairs of the Nation but in the little things of daily life.

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou will keep the United States in Thy holy protection, that Thou will incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou will most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that

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charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy Nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRESENTATION BY MRS. ERIC A. THORBERG

State Regent, North Dakota Society, Daughters of
the American Revolution

Madam President General, Maj. Ulysses S. Grant, 3d, and distinguished guests: The heart of North Dakota is full of joy to-day; we are proud to be gathered here to honor the memory of George Washington by adding our State's tribute.

This great monument, silent though it stands, is a message in its massive simplicity, its loftiness, reaching as if for inspiration to the heavens, of the ideals for our country as propounded by George Washington.

The stone which North Dakota will place to-day with those of her sister States symbolizes North Dakota's willingness to live that we may be a part of this idealistic Republic and our people so live that we may enjoy its blessings; rich in the heritage left us by the pioneer men and women who made their struggle against the greatest obstacles, hopeful always, building well. To-day we link the past with the present as we cement not only this rock, but the loyalty of our people, symbolic of unity in our devotion to this our land.

The name "Dakota" in the tongue of the native Dakotan, the Indian, means "the confederation of tribes"; to us to-day it means "the confederation of races," children of the crucible; we are blessed with the possibilities of developing a great and glorious country.

The color of this granite bowlder is significant to us who know and love North Dakota of God's promise to us. In its rosiness is reflected the glory of her sunrise and sunset, the beauty of her rolling prairies, her majestic buttes, the rosy hopefulness of her people, the beauty of her flower, the wild rose; all these beauties of nature are reflected there as if from sky to earth and back.

Historically the stone typifies splendid womanhood. In 1804-5 Lewis and Clark led an expedition into this virgin country now North Dakota. At a place near the Missouri

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River they camped for the winter, uncertain of the country westward. Sakakawea, Indian bird woman, gladly turned her face west, her course as true as the bird flies, her eye and ear keen, her feet fleet; it was the heroic task for the Indian girl, with papoose strapped upon her back, to lead Lewis and Clark on their journey west. This stone was taken near the point where Sakakawea met Lewis and Clark.

Any stone, no matter what its size, would be too insignificant to express the heart of the people of North Dakota. Upon the face of this memorial stone the people of North Dakota set their seal, and in the dedication of the stone we rededicate ourselves in its presentation.

UNVEILING

At this point the stone was unveiled by Miss Virginia Ladd, daughter of the late Senator E. F. Ladd of North Dakota.

ACCEPTANCE BY MAJ. U. S. GRANT, 3d

Director of Public Buildings and Grounds

Madam Regent, ladies, and gentlemen: It is a great honor and a great pleasure for me, as a representative of the United States within the modest limits set by law, to accept on behalf of the Federal Government from the great State of North Dakota this memorial stone, which is now an integral part of the Washington Monument.

We think that this monument is an appropriate memorial to the founder and great first President of our country. By its very simplicity and lofty grandeur it seems to symbolize his great character and inspiring purpose. We are glad that your great State has its part in this monument, which points out to the world the highest type of American and the example we should all emulate to be worthy of the country, the greatness of which has so largely resulted from his individual efforts.

The first monuments of mankind were piles of stone built by contributions from passing travelers, each placing a stone as he went by to more permanently mark his homage to some beloved or cherished departed spirit. Following this primitive thought, ever since the beginning of the construction of this monument, contributions of stones have been desired from the individual States, the secure and permanent union of which was the principal object to which George Washington devoted his life.

I am personally very happy to be here on the occasion of the adding of the North Dakota stone, and I hope that when you go back you will state to the citizens of your State how much their gift is appreciated and impress upon them that they now have a stake in this city and that this stone is not only a constant reminder to all the visitors to the Monument that North Dakota is a great and important part of our Union, but also that its people are interested and have pledged a continuing interest in the National Capital.

ADDRESS OF MRS. GEORGE MORLEY YOUNG

Vice President General, North Dakota National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Madam President General, Madam State Regent, citizens of North Dakota, and guests: In the placing of this tablet North Dakota completes the interior of this monument, with the exception of two stones.

We have no apology to make for this. At the time of the building of this monument North Dakota as a State did not exist.

After the close of the American Revolution many of the younger men moved into western New York and Ohio. Their children moved farther on to Michigan and Wisconsin, their children to Minnesota, Dakota, and other States in the far West. All of these generations have known privation, including the last one named, which is represented here to-day. They have all been pioneers. They have been people who worked long and hard to establish homes, rear and educate their children, and do their share toward supporting churches and those community movements looking toward better living and better citizenship. They have in this heroic way borne silent tribute to the immortal Washington.

To-day, these, the lineal descendants of the men who were with Washington, the Lees, the Greenes, the Clarks, the Hern-dons, the Winchesters, the Adamses, the great-great-grand-children of these men bring from the quarries of North Dakota this stone, a token of love from our State to the memory of George Washington.

ADDRESS OF MRS. ANTHONY WAYNE COOK

President General, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Madam State Regent, distinguished guests, representatives of the State of North Dakota: As president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, it is a privilege to join with the sovereign State of North Dakota in the dedication of this, its memorial stone in the Washington Monument.

North Dakota's stone is the one hundred eighty-fourth memorial block to be placed in this monument to George Washington which so fittingly overlooks his home on the Virginia shore and the National Capital named in his honor.

During the lifetime of Washington the territory now included within the confines of the State of North Dakota was a primeval wilderness unknown to the hardiest and most daring explorers of that era and inhabited only by wild animals and roving Indian tribes. To-day as one of the northernmost boundary States between the United States and the Dominion of Canada its broad fertile prairies flourish with the largest wheat fields within the national domain. Our Nation, grown great and powerful in full realization of the dream of its Washington, is proud to help depend upon the bounteous yield of North Dakota's abundant harvests for the partial sustenance of its millions of inhabitants. The part that North Dakota has played in the development of the Republic is a wonderful page in that thrilling national history of ours and an integral part of the bravery and the courage which were manifested by the pioneer men and women who made possible the winning of the West.

Throughout the 125 years that have elapsed since the death of Washington we are remembering that his was the faith that never wavered, his the courage that was not dismayed by defeat, his the wisdom that was broader than any taught in schools, and his the loyalty that kept selfish purpose subordinate to the demands of patriotism and honor.

Every memorial stone within the Washington Monument has its story and its sermon. In becoming a part of the splendid

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whole this North Dakota stone reminds us that "out of the disconnected fragments" George Washington molded a whole and made it a Republic. Let the sermon in this North Dakota stone be the urge which its dedication gives us to consecrate ourselves anew to the well-being of the Nation which George Washington established "in an enduring frame of constitutional Government."

DEDICATION ADDRESS OF HON. O. B. BURTNESSE

Member of Congress, First District, North Dakota

Madam Regent, fellow North Dakotans, ladies and gentlemen: On February 22, 1842, Abraham Lincoln said, "To add brightness to the sun or glory to the name of Washington is impossible. Let none attempt it."

The correctness of this pregnant statement made by the "preserver of the Union" concerning the "Father of his Country" 84 years ago has particularly appealed to me since I was asked by the State regent of the North Dakota National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution to speak for a few moments on this occasion. I realize full well my inability to express in words the feelings of the people of our beloved State as they are permitted to-day to add one stone to this beautiful monument erected by the grateful people of this Republic to the memory of George Washington. Nothing that I could say would do justice to the theme or properly portray his accomplishments and his contribution to our country.

In all stages of civilization there seems to have been a desire on the part of all peoples to erect something that can be seen, something more or less enduring, as a means of perpetuating the memory of loved ones. The human mind abhors oblivion. It recognizes the brevity of our common existence. It desires to connect the present with the past and to link both with the unseen future. It has an abiding faith in the hereafter.

There is perhaps no city in the world, and certainly none in America, where we are permitted to see within a short space so many evidences of regard for National heroes and benefactors of the human race as here in Washington. The parks, the squares, the open spaces before public buildings, the circles, the gardens, Statuary Hall and niches and corners of the Capitol Building are all literally filled with busts, statues, fountains, and other forms of memorials to men and women who have rendered distinguished service to their country and to society.

It is but fitting and proper that outstanding among and towering above the rest of these are the two monuments to the

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two greatest of all Americans, Washington and Lincoln, both memorials remarkable illustrations of the engineering skill of man, both begging proper description of their superb but simple beauty, but both greatest by far because they are symbols of the confidence, love, and veneration in which the American people hold these immortal names.

The daughters of the great Army of which Washington was Commander in Chief a century and a half ago have made this occasion possible. They deserve the thanks and appreciation of all North Dakotans. It is my firm conviction, however, that in so doing they have but expressed by definite and outward act the longings, the aspirations, and the patriotic fervor of all of the people of the State. I note from the stone that these ladies claim no credit for themselves; no mark or label indicates that it is furnished by them; it has chiseled upon it the seal of North Dakota, containing its motto "Liberty and union, now and forever, one and inseparable"; the gift is presented in the name of the State. No North Dakotan climbing these steps need hereafter entertain a feeling of disappointment or humiliation because his State is not represented. When he reaches this point, the 350-foot landing, a point above all the other State memorials and higher by 20 feet than the top of the statue on yonder Capitol dome, he will find here this beautiful piece of granite quarried from the soil of his State. He will not only be keenly interested, but he will be proud of his State; he will feel a closer bond of unity between North Dakota and the Capital of his Nation; he will more easily visualize the fact that he is a son of the "Father of his Country."

To me there is something both tragic and inspiring in the history of the building of this obelisk. Immediately upon Washington's death in December, 1799, Congress adopted a resolution proposed by John Marshall that a marble monument be erected "to commemorate the great events of his military and political life." As far back as 1783 the Continental Congress had ordered an equestrian statue to be built "to testify the love, admiration, and gratitude of his countrymen." But the young Nation struggling in poverty, weighted down by the debt of the Revolution, could much easier vote statues on paper than build or pay for them.

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Finally the Washington Monument Association was formed in 1833. Chief Justice John Marshall was its first president and James Madison its second. This association succeeded in raising about \$88,000 by 1848, and the cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1848. What an array of color was then present, military and civil. The widows of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison were there, President Polk and his Cabinet, George Washington Park Custis, the adopted son of the great chief, to say nothing of Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, both of whom were then Members of Congress. Personal contributions continued; \$300,000 was collected in all, and from 1848 to 1854 the first 150 feet were erected, whereupon work was discontinued. Among many difficulties encountered was the Civil War. What a desolate sight this monument must have been in its unfinished state. Pictures show it as an unsightly pile in most unattractive surroundings, with the footings bared, derricks and scaffolding surrounding it.

Was it more than a coincidence that such should be its state during the four deplorable years of Civil War when the very Union was at stake? Did it not look like an insult to Washington and his work? Some suggested it should be torn down. What would have happened if the Union had not been saved? Would it have remained a half-finished monument to Washington as emblematic of a divided country? Surely Washington himself would not have wanted it finished in such an event by either the North or the South. "An indissoluble union of the States under one head" was one of the four things "deemed essential to the well being" as disclosed by his letter to the governors of the States as early as 1783. No one doubts his loyalty to his beloved Virginia, but the fervor of his very soul for the Union is shown in the following sentence in his farewell address:

The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations.

The Union was saved. The completion of the Monument slowly but surely reattracted the attention of the country. The Government took over the completion in 1876, and the capstone was set on December 6, 1884. It was dedicated on

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February 21, 1885. I like to think of the windows at the top as the eyes of the spirit of Washington looking out upon the Nation and seeing a reunited and a happy people just as he would have wished them to be.

Only about one-half of the tract of land constituting the present State of North Dakota was a part of the United States when Washington served as President and at the time of his death. The balance was part of the great Louisiana Purchase made in 1803 from France. Dakota was separately organized as a Territory in 1861.

As one born in Dakota Territory, the son of pioneers thereof I wish I might pay proper tribute to those who went to Dakota from other States and other countries and there broke the sod and endured the hardships of pioneer life. Many men and women would deserve specific mention, but lack of time forbids. They builded better than they knew. They brought to the Territory strength, virility, industry, thrift, character, a desire for a home where they could rear and educate their children love of country, and love of God. Those of us who have come later can never repay our debt of gratitude to them. Their splendid work made it possible for them in the late eighties to ask, and for a grateful country to grant with enthusiasm, statehood to two young Commonwealths, North Dakota and South Dakota, a similar privilege being granted at the same time to Montana and Washington.

A striking incident is the fact that the enabling act was approved on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1889. Shortly thereafter our constitutional convention was held. A splendid document consonant with republican principles of government was adopted and ratified as the fundamental law of the State and our people had thereafter representation in the enactment of Federal legislation and full control over all matters reserved to the States on an equal footing with the original States.

For 36 years therefore North Dakota has been represented by a star in our country's flag. During that time we have enjoyed a marvelous development of which we have reason to be proud.

Famous at first largely for the production of wheat, as "the bread basket of the world," we are fast becoming a State with a diversified and scientific system of agriculture. Oats, barley,

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flax, and rye have from the beginning had an important part in our farming operations. More recently, however, the value of dairy products alone exceeds not only that of any one of these secondary grain crops, but far exceeds the combined value of any two of them. The proceeds from hogs at the present time are larger than those from any one thereof. Corn, beef stock, poultry products, and potatoes are each now as important in our scheme of production as flax oats, barley, or rye. Tremendous advances have also been made in recent years in the production of sheep and wool, tame hays, sugar beets, alfalfa, sweet clover, and honey. It will, however, be years before we reach the zenith of our agricultural production.

Other sections of our Nation know little or nothing about our coal and clay deposits. Estimates give us a potential supply of lignite of 516,000,000,000 tons. From North Dakota clay has been produced some of the very finest of pottery. A mere mention of these facts is sufficient to indicate future possibilities that can not now be estimated. Our contribution to the Nation's wealth, to her export trade, and to purchases of products of other States has indeed been very substantial.

We have not only a rich, fertile soil, valuable material resources, and a healthful climate, but we also enjoy a scenery that is varied and beautiful. From the Red River Valley to the Bad Lands there is something unique, something different from that found in any other State. Naturally we are all hopeful that Congress will soon give favorable consideration to the establishment of the proposed Roosevelt Bad Lands Park, thus preserving for future generations in its weird and rugged beauty, the country in which Theodore Roosevelt lived and where, according to his own testimony, he regained his health and vigor so as to make possible his later strenuous life so full of service to America.

North Dakota is first and foremost a State of happy and contented homes. Most of our residents came for the very purpose of acquiring a piece of land and a permanent home. But even those who came with a less serious motive generally chose to remain. No one has better interpreted the hold that the West acquires over its residents than our favorite North Dakota poet, James Foley. Let me quote the last stanza of

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his poem, *A Letter Home*, expressing as the author does the heart thoughts of a Dakotan by choice in a letter to his father in the East:

Yes, I love you, daddy, love you
with a heart that's true as steel,
But there's something in Dakota
makes you live and breathe and feel;
Makes you bigger, broader, better;
makes you know the worth of toil;
Makes you free as are her prairies
and as noble as her soil;
Makes you kingly as a man is;
makes you manly as a king;
And there's something in the grandeur
of her seasons' sweep and swing
That casts off the fretting fetters
of your East and makes you blest
With the vigor of the prairies—
with the freedom of the West.

Twice we have responded promptly and willingly to our country's call in time of war. The National Guard units and other volunteers from North Dakota rendered signal service in the Spanish-American War. No State has a better record than North Dakota in the World War, whether it be in the matter of producing food for the armies of our country and its Allies, in the donations for the Red Cross and other war-relief activities, in the subscriptions for Liberty bonds, or in the furnishing of the very cream of our young manhood and womanhood for the field of battle. Altogether 31,303 North Dakotans were enlisted in the military and naval services, many of whom made the supreme sacrifice.

Such is the State, situate in the very heart of the American continent, midway between the Atlantic and the Pacific, which to-day reaffirms its loyalty to the Union in these simple exercises. Just as it knows that its little stone in this monument would amount to naught without the support and assistance of every other stone therein and without the firm foundations upon which this monument is erected, so does it also recognize that standing by itself it would be without strength or influence in the larger affairs of men and of nations, but that properly joined and cemented with the other 47 splendid Commonwealths, each represented by its own individual star in the Nation's flag, it is

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an integral part of the greatest country on earth—the strongest influence for justice, righteousness, and liberty in all the world. Our system of Government demands that each part, as well as the completed whole, should ever enjoy the concern and protection of all its citizens. We here rededicate that State to those principles of civil and religious liberty which are the essential foundation stones for our American institutions, those principles and ideals assured to us and, as we hope and pray, to future generations so largely by the efforts of him who was “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

CLOSING REMARKS OF PRESIDING OFFICER

We can not close to-day without an expression of appreciation to our president general, Mrs. Anthony Wayne Cook, to Mrs. Rhett Goode, chaplain general, to Mrs. George M. Young, vice president general from North Dakota, to the Hon. O. B. Burtness, and to Maj. U. S. Grant, 3d, all, whose days hold too few hours for their many tasks and yet they have come to us to-day.

To the Marine Orchestra and to the quartet, Doctor Bockoven, Mr. Nordness, Dorothy Perrott, Nancy Featherstone, and their accompanist, Grace C. Nordness, who have delighted us with their music we are keenly appreciative.

To Judge A. M. Christianson, chief justice of North Dakota, who gave so generously of his time and efforts, again to Hon. O. B. Burtness, Nelson A. Mason, and to Maj. Ulysses S. Grant, 3d, who have helped so splendidly with all details, we owe a debt of gratitude.

The North Dakota Daughters of the American Revolution feel no small pride that it was our patriotic organization that was commissioned to undertake the task of securing this stone and having the honor to represent our great State of North Dakota in its dedication.

I feel sure each heart here to-day would have known real joy if they could have been privileged to see the stonecutter, a Bohemian by birth—an American, a North Dakotan, by choice—Hynek Rybnicek, as he so skillfully executed this trust with love in his heart for his new homeland. With the hand of the artist he has with a perfection almost beyond belief taken this boulder, polished it, and cut upon its face the great seal of the State of North Dakota.

