

In Memoriam

William A. Murphy = 1867 = 1909

Proceedings
in the
Supreme Court of the State of Nevada

SATURDAY, April 30, 1910.

Present: Hon. F. H. NORCROSS, Chief Justice,
Hon. J. G. SWEENEY, } Associate Justices,
Hon. G. F. TALBOT, }

and officers of the court.

The committee heretofore appointed to draft appropriate resolutions expressing the sorrow of the court and bar due to the death of Honorable MICHAEL A. MURPHY, formerly a Chief Justice of this court, presented the following memorial:

To the Honorable Supreme Court of the State of Nevada:

Your committee, appointed to prepare a memorial of the late Judge MICHAEL A. MURPHY, who died in Carson City, Nevada, October 26, 1909, respectfully report as follows:

MICHAEL A. MURPHY was born in the State of New York on the 29th day of September, 1837.

In 1853 he crossed the continent and located in Trinity County, California, but in 1863 the mining excitement at Aurora, Nevada, allured him, and on the 16th day of April of that year he arrived there, and thus began his career in Nevada, which was destined to continue for almost half a century, and which was to bring to him among the highest professional and public honors that the friendship and devotion of a people could confer.

In 1867 Judge MURPHY was admitted to the bar, and com-

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menced the career which covered many years in public office and in the realm of professional endeavor.

The year following his admission to the bar Judge MURPHY was elected Assessor of Esmeralda County, but with the resolution firmly fixed in his mind to pursue his legal studies while holding this office, and to acquire additional knowledge of the law, so that when he should begin his real career as a lawyer he would be well grounded in the elements of the law.

After serving for four years as Assessor a loyal constituency proudly elevated him to the office of District Attorney, and thereby afforded him an opening in the great profession in which his ambition had become centered and in which time and destiny were to exalt him to the highest rank as a lawyer and jurist.

In 1878 his prominence had become state-wide and he was chosen to the office of Attorney-General, which office he held for the term of four years.

In 1883 Judge MURPHY began his career on the bench by becoming the District Judge of Esmeralda County.

In 1888 he was elected to the Supreme Bench of the State of Nevada, and the opinions rendered by him display that great care, caution and research which ever marked his efforts.

In 1903 he again became a District Judge and served for the term of four years.

This distinguished jurist retired from the bench in January, 1907, and resumed the practice of his profession, with his office at Carson City. Clients came to him immediately, and he was employed to represent some of the most important land and mining interests of the State. In land and mining law he was preeminent.

Judge MURPHY was not an orator, and neither did he possess what may be termed a scintillating mind, but he

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owned a firm and steady intellect, unfailing industry, and a confidence that loyal service has its reward, and with these attributes he won success and died honored and loved by thousands.

Judge MURPHY is survived by a son and a daughter, who were present at his death. His wife, who was Martha J. Meyers, and to whom he was married in 1859, died in December, 1892.

Blessed with success in his profession and with domestic happiness, he died looking back upon the successful years that devotion to duty had won.

Judge MURPHY was prominent in Masonic circles. He was a member of Carson Lodge No. 1, F. and A. M., and Lewis Chapter No. 1, R. A. M., having held the highest offices within the gift of these lodges. He was also a member of Islam Temple, Mystic Shrine, of San Francisco, and De Witt Clinton Commandery No. 1, K. T., of Reno. He was Master for many years of Esmeralda Lodge No. 6, of Hawthorne, Nevada. In 1885 and 1886 he was Grand Master of the F. and A. M. of Nevada, and in 1900 he was Grand High Priest of the R. A. M.

In disposition he was kind and generous and ever true to his friends. His whole life was characterized by a sincere devotion to the cause of charity. It is doubtful whether the State ever afforded a more striking example of kindly benevolence. His thoughts were constantly of those he loved, and his countless acts of comforting kindness, sometimes at great personal sacrifice, come as a sweet and noble heritage to those he left behind.

Therefore Be It Resolved, That this court be requested to cause this memorial to be spread upon the records of this court as a mark of the esteem and respect of the bench and bar of this State, that a copy thereof be published in Volume

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XXXI of the Nevada Reports, and that a certified copy thereof be forwarded to the son and the daughter of Judge M. A. MURPHY.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. STODDARD,
SAMUEL PLATT,
ALFRED CHARTZ,
C. H. BELKNAP,
M. S. BONNIFIELD.

The resolutions were approved by the court and ordered to be spread upon the minutes and published in the next report, and the Clerk was directed to forward copies to the son and the daughter of deceased.

In further honor of his memory the court adjourned for the day.
