



# **Memorial Exercises: In Honor of David B. Henderson, in Hall of Representatives in Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday, March 9, 1906 (Classic Reprint)**

*Iowa; General Assembly*

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Excerpt from Memorial Exercises: In Honor of David B. Henderson, in Hall of Representatives in Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday, March 9, 1906

Mr. President: On the first day of March, 1906, in Linwood cemetery at the city of Dubuque, amidst the greatest profusion of flowers, arranged in the most beautiful and suggestive designs artistic skill could devise, in the presence of a great concourse of people representing different civic societies, the Grand Army of the Republic, the State, the citizens of Iowa, the rich and the poor, the children by hundreds, Col. David B. Henderson was laid to rest on a beautiful eminence overlooking quite an extent of country, a portion of his beloved city and, for some distance, the sweep of the majestic Mississippi. Thus passed forever from the vision of men on earth the human life that had its beginning beyond the sea sixty-six years before at Old Deer in Aberdeenshire in Scotland. It had been a life of mingled hardship, struggle, toil, battles, sufferings, joys, honors, victories, disappointments; but the path he traveled led to a height above which there was nothing in official station for a man born in a foreign land. He was one of two of all our distinguished foreign born from all nations who reached the proud eminence. No title that could ever have been conferred upon him in his native land, no station which he might have reached there could have excelled in influence the office which it remained for the. Scot, schooled on the prairies of Iowa in the pioneer days and in the battles of the Great Rebellion, to bring for the first time to the country west of the Mississippi. No flag could have enfolded his coffin there which could have represented to him that which the stars and stripes which enfolded him at Linwood told him of the hope and aspirations of mankind, the cost of liberty and an indissoluble Union, and which made him shout and cheer when he saw its beauty and was thrilled by its symbolism in a foreign land. In explanation of his enthusiasm he could only say, Oh, I am going home. David B. Henderson loved the land under the protecting folds of the American flag. He loved the people. That they loved him and that the prophet was not without honor in his own country and in his own home was made strikingly manifest by the great crowds that thronged the streets at his funeral and the sidewalks for more than a mile on the way to the cemetery. Iowa is proud of the man she has honored and who has signally honored her and brought her so great distinction.

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