

Death

§ 1. In General

The death of a Member of the House, or of an officer or official of the House, invokes certain well-established procedures for accord-ing respect due to the memory of the deceased. Similar formalities, possibly more elaborate, are fol-lowed upon the death of a Presi-dent, Senator, head of state, or other national or foreign dig-nitary. These procedures are al-most always invoked by unani-mous consent or privileged resolu-tion. The procedures include the formal announcement of death, resolutions of sympathy, adjust-ment of the whole number of the House, appointment of Members to a funeral committee or commit-tees, adjournment as a mark of respect, and lying-in-state cere-monies.

When a Member dies, provision must be made for maintenance of a staff and offices until another Representative is elected to rep-resent the district.⁽¹⁾ Arrange-ments are also made for disposi-tion of the Member's papers.⁽²⁾ The House attends to these con-tingencies by unanimous consent or resolution.

The purpose of this chapter is to present both the procedures to

1. See § 4, *infra*.

2. See § 3, *infra*.

which the House traditionally ad-heres following a death and those rare procedures that the House has undertaken on other occa-sions.

The accounts of proceedings fol-lowing upon the deaths of some individuals will be found to be more detailed than others in order to reflect infrequent or anomalous proceedings that the House has undertaken.

The reader may wish to consult other chapters on such subjects as the assembly of Congress,⁽³⁾ Mem-bers' oath of office,⁽⁴⁾ party organi-zations,⁽⁵⁾ recesses,⁽⁶⁾ adjourn-ments,⁽⁷⁾ and House ceremonies.⁽⁸⁾

On the subject of death, for precedents prior to 1936, the read-er is referred to 5 Hinds' Prece-dents §§ 7107–7223, and 8 Can-non's Precedents, §§ 3560–3598.

§ 2. Effect of Death on House Business; Presumptive Death of Mem-ber

The death of a Member is only formally recognized in one place

3. See Ch. 1, *supra*.

4. See Ch. 2, *supra*.

5. See Ch. 3, *supra*.

6. See Ch. 39, *infra*.

7. See Ch. 40, *infra*.

8. See Ch. 36, *supra*.