

There are so many things/so well known/about the man we honor here tonight/that few things could be said/which are not already familiar to all of you. However, there are several things, I am sure, the gentlemen who are to speak/will talk about/that all of us do not know/about Governor Byrnes.

Often it is true/that great men grow in greatness/in direct proportion to the distance we stay away from them,or they grow in greatness with time/after they are no longer in the public eye. Governor Byrnes is not like either of these two kinds of men.

He is one whose greatness is realized even more/when we are close to him. His ability and integrity have always stood unquestioned/as he has been subjected to the constant scrutiny of critical appraisal/throughout his career of 45 years.

It is true that time has enhanced our respect for him, but not because/we have been looking back on some one no longer active in public life. It has been because, as he continued in public office, we have been better able/to recognize the qualities covered by a simple modesty/becoming one of such stature.

Governor Byrnes gave up world renown to return home/and earn for himself/greater recognition and greater appreciation/by taking up the responsibilities of a critical period in South Carolina history.

Sometimes the facing of day to day problems, such as some of those which confronted him, was more difficult/than the more remote and less tangible matters of world affairs. I am sure that he encountered no harder problems/nor any less susceptible to solution/than some of those ^{he} ~~he~~ faced/during the four years he served South Carolina as Governor.

~~I suspect~~ ^{I suspect} there were times when he would not have been unhappy/to have exchanged the Governor's chair for a place across the table/from old acquaintances who spoke in foreign languages.

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But whether James F. Byrnes occupied a chair at the conference table in Moscow, in Paris or in London -- or whether he occupied the Governor's seat -- or sat on the Supreme Court -- or at the President's right hand -- or in the United States Senate, or in the House --, he always kept a perspective/which many covet/but few attain.

Wherever he has been/and whatever his mission, Governor Byrnes has had the thoughtfulness/and has taken the time/to remember those around him. He has made their problems his problems. He has made himself responsible for doing good for his fellow South Carolinians/and for his fellow-men.

Many who attain high position -- yes, even greatness -- lose the relationship of friend to friend/with the people they represent. But Governor Byrnes has deepened and strengthened the ties of friendship/among the people of his native state, even though for long periods/he seldom had the pleasure of seeing them and participating in the friendly relations/which he so deeply enjoys.

I hope that he will have the opportunity in the years to come/to catch up on those moments he has given up in past years/while he so unstintingly served his state and his nation.

END