

# HIGH HONOR PAID CRESSY'S MEMORY

## Full Military Burial Rites Accorded N. H. Actor at St. Petersburg

Clippings from Florida papers speak volumes in a tribute of respect to the memory of Will Cressy, veteran of the stage and impersonator of rural life, whose New Hampshire associations were near and dear to him throughout a life of extraordinary success. He was accorded full military burial honors at St. Petersburg, after which the body was cremated at Orlando.

Services were held on the lawn of the Cressy estate in the North Shore section, the flag-covered casket being surrounded by flowers and blooming plants. Among the mourners were people from all walks in life—from a street urchin for whom he always had a kindly word, to old-time friends who had followed his career for years.

The simple but impressive services were in charge of L. M. Tate post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, of which Mr. Cressy was an honorary member. In addition to the post's ritual there was the burial service conducted by Rev. Kerrison Juniper, a Congregational pastor, who concluded with a splendid eulogy of the veteran actor, playwright and humorist.

### Full Military Honors

Then with full military honors the casket was placed in the hearse which was escorted from the residence by the post colors and firing squad and delegations from the Knights Templar and Consistory. Accompanying the widow and intimate friends to Orlando was a group of veterans headed by Leo Morrill.

In his eulogy, Mr. Juniper said: "Through the ministry of humor, pathos and laughter, he won his way into the hearts of the people of America and other countries, lifting them above the gloom and despondency of life. He was an ambassador of good cheer. A merry-maker of the first rank. His humor was a gift from God and he used his talent to the utmost of his ability.

"He was always ready to go the other mile in loving service to help those who were down and out, sick and sad. A man of the common people, he lived for others on the sunny side of life. He went about doing good with a smile for you and for me.

"His private life was as wholesome as his public life. Mr. and Mrs. Cressy worked together as a team. They were an ideal pair, real pals for 39 years. He loved his wife with an affection that was touching in the extreme. On my last visit to his home before he passed away, we were together alone, he, pointing where Mrs. Cressy was sitting, said: 'That little woman has been with me all the way. She does everything for me.'

"Today he is honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and every club and lodge of which he was a member—honored for his service in the great war. He went overseas as a private citizen, but as a loyal and faithful servant in time of his country's need. As a result of being gassed in France his end came much sooner than it would have otherwise. So it can be truly said he gave his life for his country.

"The world is richer and sweeter because Will Cressy lived upon this earth."

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Will's death was in St. Petersburg, Florida on May 30, 1930. This NH newspaper obituary describes the Florida news coverage of the funeral arrangement that followed. Earlier, Will and Blanche had built what they referred to as their "estate" in St. Petersburg, and they pose before this in an undated picture before his death.

