

Ex-Gov. Alex J. Groesbeck, 79, Succumbs to Heart Ailment

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Detroit—(AP)—Former Gov. Alex J. Groesbeck, who served three terms as Michigan's chief executive, died shortly after noon Tuesday of a heart ailment.

The 79-year-old Groesbeck entered Jennings Memorial hospital Friday. His physician said Groesbeck suffered a turn for the worse Monday.

Groesbeck had suffered from a chronic heart condition for a long period.

Elected in 1920.

A Republican, Groesbeck was elected governor in 1920. He served three terms. Prior to entering the governor's office, Groesbeck served as attorney general for two terms.

After his retirement from public life, the former governor devoted himself to a law practice and a variety of private interests in which he amassed a fortune.

Groesbeck was a bachelor and lived with a sister here.

The legislature by resolution paid tribute to the memory of Groesbeck. Standing and with heads bowed the presiding officers of the two houses declared the resolution of sympathy approved.

Sponsored by Sen. Charles T. Prescott and Felix H. H. Flynn, longtime friends of Michigan's former governor, the resolution stated:

"The members of the Michigan legislature grieved to learn of the passing of Alexander J. Groesbeck, who ably served the state of Michigan as governor from Jan. 1, 1921 through Dec. 31, 1926, and the state of Michigan as attorney general from Jan. 1, 1917 through Dec. 31, 1920.

"Great Statesman."

"As an inspired public servant Alexander J. Groesbeck contributed to the formulation of sound policies of government which during the years have proven invaluable to the people of the state of Michigan.

"Alexander J. Groesbeck is considered one of the great statesmen of the state of Michigan.

"Resolved that the members of the Michigan legislature pause in memory of the life of a great man and a great statesman, Alexander J. Groesbeck."

Gov. Williams issued a statement saying, "Michigan has lost a true elder statesman in the passing of Alex J. Groesbeck. Personally, I



ALEX J. GROESBECK.

shall miss his support and presence. He was one of our greatest governors. His six years in office as chief executive coincided with Michigan's growth as the center of the automotive industry and the mass production capital of the world.

"His death gives the present generation cause to remember that Michigan's present greatness is not an accident but flows from the wisdom and leadership of men like Alex J. Groesbeck who were not afraid to blaze new trails for the public good."

A lawyer and businessman as well as a politician, Groesbeck was an advocate of business principles in government and one of his first acts when he entered the governor's office in 1921 was to reorganize state offices along business lines.

Under the program which he put through, there was created an administrative board with supervisory control over all administrative departments and officers. It was the most highly centralized government Michigan had seen, with the governor, himself, as general manager of the whole.

He virtually lived in his office. He spent 18 hours a day at his office in the many weeks of each year when governmental business was pressing. It was estimated his salary actually figured only \$1 an hour for the time he put in on duties of the office.

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