

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HARRIS JOSEPH RYAN (d. 1934)

Harris Joseph Ryan died July 3, 1934, in his sixty-ninth year. He graduated from Cornell University at twenty-one years of age, and there became assistant professor of electrical engineering at twenty-three, associate professor at twenty-six, and professor at twenty-nine.

At thirty-nine he came to Stanford as head of the Electrical Engineering Department, and so continued until his retirement three years ago. His work during almost thirty years at Stanford brought him an international reputation.

His most eminent contributions, described in various publications, lie in the fields of generation of extreme high-voltage currents and transmission of electrical power over long distances. In recognition of the increasing importance of his researches the electrical industries constructed the Harris J. Ryan Voltage Laboratory, of which he was director.

His accomplishments were acknowledged in many other ways. He was president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Director of the Anti-Submarine Supersonics Laboratory of the National Research Council at Pasadena during the World War, and a member of the National Academy of Science. He received the degree of LL.D. from the University of California, and the Edison Medal from the Institute of Electrical Engineers. During fourteen years he was consulting engineer to the Los Angeles Aqueduct Power Project.

Honor to the engineer, scientist, and inventor was paralleled by admiration and affection for the man.

Quick in comprehension and warm in sympathies, he was as gracious in opposition as in agreement; he generously shared his own interests and instantly responded to the interests of others. His generous nature was further evidenced by the establishment of a research fellowship in electrical engineering. With these qualities and his eager curiosity and contagious enthusiasm, he was a constant delight and inspiration to his associates.

We hereby resolve that the foregoing be inscribed on the minutes of the Academic Council and that copies be sent to the Board of Trustees and his family in appreciation of the great spirit of Harris Joseph Ryan.