

Peterson Goodwyn

(1745 – 21 Feb 1818)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Virginia born at "Martias," near Petersburg, Dinwiddie County, Va., in 1745 received his education from private tutors completed preparatory studies engaged in planting studied law was admitted to the bar in 1776 and commenced practice in Petersburg, Va., and surrounding counties during the Revolutionary War equipped his own company and rose from captain to major was promoted to colonel for gallantry at the battles of Smithfield and Great Bridge member of the State house of delegates 1789-1802 elected as a Democrat to the 8th through 15th Congresses and served from March 4, 1803 until his death at his home, "Sweden," in Dinwiddie County, Va., February 21, 1818 interment in the family burying ground on his estate.

The National Intelligencer, Tuesday, February 24, 1818

On the meeting of the House of Representatives yesterday, after the usual form of reading the journal of the preceding day's sitting -- Mr. Newton, of Virginia, rose to announce to the House the death of his colleague Colonel Peterson Goodwyn.

On me, (said Mr. M.) devolves the melancholy duty of informing this House of the death of our late worthy associate, Mr. Peterson Goodwyn, of Virginia. Mr. Goodwyn died at his seat in Virginia, on the 21st of this month. He has performed, and finished, his duties here, and with a clear conscience, and in the full expectation of the reward of his virtues, he has gone for a time to repose with his ancestors in the tomb. In amiableness of disposition -- in suavity of manners -- in acts of benevolence and charity -- in steadiness of friendship, and in love and devotion to the republican institutions of his country, he was surpassed by no man.

Mr. Newton then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously agreed to:

Resolved, that the member of this House will testify their respect for the memory of Peterson Goodwyn, deceased, late a member of this body from the state of Virginia, by wearing crape on the left arm for one month.

Mr. Newton, then submitted the following resolution, which was also unanimously agreed to:

Resolved, that a message be sent to the Senate, informing them that this House, in testimony of their respect for the late Col. Peterson Goodwyn, one of their body from the State of Virginia, have unanimously resolved to wear crape on the left arm for one month.

And then, on motion of Mr. Forsyth, the House adjourned.

The foregoing proceedings being communicated to the Senate, they adjourned also.