

Mar. Mar. 31 - '69,

From near and far - from the humblest of slums, from magnificent castles - they came by the thousands today. Kings and commoners - generals and ex-G I's - blacks, ^{crowns, yellow} and whites - young and old - paying their final respects to General Eisenhower; as he lay in state - at the Capitol Rotunda.

By early afternoon - the line of mourners stretched the equivalent of half a dozen city blocks - four abreast. It was bone chilling cold - yet none complained. And the visits of the mighty - were interspersed easily in the midst of the steady procession.

President de Gaulle of France was one of the first - arriving last night to salute his old comrade-in-arms. Since then - a host of world leaders; a gathering of ~~states~~ ^{leaders} unmatched in Washington - since the 1963 funeral of John F. Kennedy. The list including - besides de Gaulle: Kings Baudouin of Belgium - the SA...

~~The Shah~~ of Iran - Prime Minister Gorton of Australia -
Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada - Lord Louis
Mountbatten, representing Queen Elizabeth - Chancellor
Kiesinger of West Germany, ~~and a host of others,~~

Former Pres. and Mrs. Johnson had
flown in from Texas; former V. P.
and Mrs. Humphrey from Minnesota;
members of the Sup. Court, the
Senate and the House; many governors,
also personal friends of the
general and Mrs. Eisenhower -

FAMILY FOLLOW ROTUNDA

Finally, the Rotunda was closed off - at two thirty-five this afternoon; an hour later than originally scheduled - to accommodate the many who were still waiting outside. And then - a last private visit from family and friends.

As ever - Mrs. Eisenhower retaining her ~~composure~~ ~~strength~~ - fighting back the tears. Thirteen year old Mary Jean Eisenhower saying of her grandmother: "~~She's doing very well~~" she's a strong lady - I'm proud of her."

CATHEDRAL FOLLOW FAMILY

Later, at Washington National Cathedral -
a simple Protestant service; ^{a minimum of} without eulogies ^{and} military
pageantry - as specified by the General himself prior to
his death.

Nevertheless - a compelling, moving ceremony.
Including a prayer by the Reverend Elson of the National
Presbyterian Church - which read in part: "Oh eternal
Father - suffer us not to miss the glory of this hour;
give us eyes to see and hearts to feel - the undaunted
courage, invincible faith, the unconquerable love of thy
servant, Dwight David; that we may be as true as he was
true - loyal as he was loyal; that we may henceforth -
be good enough and great enough for our times."

And at the end - Episcopal Bishop William
Creighton sounding the traditional Benediction - saying:
"Unto God's gracious mercy and protection - we commit
Dwight David. The Lord bless him and keep him. The

*Lord make his face to shine upon him - and be gracious
unto him. The Lord lift up his countenance upon him -
and give him peace, both now and ever more. Amen."*

EN ROUTE TO ABILENE

To the strains of "Onward Christian

Soldiers" - the General's final journey ~~was~~ then begun.

His body placed aboard a train - bound tonight for Abilene;

Abilene - the train making only neces-stops, to ~~then~~ to ~~serve as~~ the final resting place - for that "good and

gentle and kind man" called Ike.

LEGACY

And so - Dwight David Eisenhower passes into history. But the legacy he leaves behind - will long enrich the lives of every American.

He was, of course, first and foremost a great General - Supreme Commander of the greatest fighting force ever assembled by man. And for that - the free world will remain forever in his debt.

His record as President - while less dramatic perhaps / equally impressive. ~~Indeed, he was~~ ^{When} once asked to list his proudest achievements as President - ~~and~~ he quickly "dashed off" - as he put it - twenty-three momentous accomplishments.

Among them: Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii - the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway - the end of the Korean War - the largest tax reduction ever - the first Civil Rights law in eighty years - the start of the U S space program - a vast network of federal highways - the

start of federal medical care for the aged - the desegregation of Washington, D. C., as well the armed forces - the enforcement of Federal Court orders at Little Rock with no loss of life - establishment of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare - the Alliance for Progress - the Atoms for Peace Plan - and so on and so on - the list is almost endless.

One thing more though: he was also the first President in history to insist - in his own words - on the "preservation of an adequate military establishment after cessation of war." And that - coupled with his wisdom and determination in foreign affairs - was surely the difference between peace and war, time and time again.

Dwight David Eisenhower truly "a man for all seasons."

CLOSE

As we pay our final respects to General Eisenhower - it is perhaps well that we ask ourselves - each of us: "What can I do - to further the ideals for which he stood? How can I advance the cause - for which, in a very real sense, he gave the last full measure of devotion."

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The answer to that - each of us must fathom from the depths of his own mind, his heart, his soul. It might be a start though to try to live our personal lives - as Ike lived his - as he recalled in his last words. General Eisenhower telling his beloved Mamie: "I have always loved my wife - I have always loved my children - I have always loved my grandchildren - I have always loved my country."

As President Nixon said: "That was Dwight Eisenhower."

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And now - Warren Moran - as I simply say - s-l-u - tomorrow,