

'Her Promise Kept: Her Duty Done'



The long reign of Queen Elizabeth II was marked by her extraordinary sense of duty and her determination to dedicate her life to her peoples.

For many, the late Queen Elizabeth was the one constant in a rapidly changing, turbulent world and a society which was changing beyond recognition and where the role of the monarchy itself sometimes came into question.

Through good times and bad the Queen managed to steer the institution of the monarchy so that it continued to command a place in the affection and respect of the British people. How millions of us fondly remember the 'feelgood factor' as we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and then,

too soon, how even more of us gathered to say 'goodbye' to our monarch whose 70-year reign came to an end on September 8th.

Queen Elizabeth's funeral was utterly awe-inspiring: it was so much more than a moment in history: it was truly the end of an era, and we all knew it and felt it.

Throughout the whole long ceremony and processions: no-one put a foot wrong. The pageantry was astounding - colourful, yet deeply sombre and respectful. All those who took part (from Heads of State, the Armed Forces and ordinary folk) endeavoured to give the Queen the best 'send-off' they could muster. The Queen's Christmas homilies and her deep Christian faith was acknowledged by everyone. Above all, this was a grief-stricken family saying goodbye to one of their own: and they did it with such unflinching dignity in the full gaze of the world.

After 11 days of public mourning the final goodbye was said at the committal service in St George's Chapel, Windsor, where she was laid to rest alongside Prince Philip – her 'strength and stay'. In the loss of our Queen, we too feel as though we have just lost someone very close to us.

She has left a great legacy for all of us to adopt - high standards, service to others, commitment, duty, and constancy.

Her eldest son King Charles III now pledges to maintain his mother's template.

Her Promise Kept: Her Duty Done She now lies at rest.

God Save the King.



REUTERS/TOM NICHOLSON