

# LYNDON JOHNSON PASSES ON

## Nation's 36th President Dies at San Antonio



FORMER PRESIDENT LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Lyndon Baines Johnson, the nation's 36th president, was pronounced dead at 5:43 p.m. EST (12:43 p.m. local) at San Antonio International Airport. He had been rushed from his ranch in Johnson City, Texas after two secret-service agents found him lying on his back on the floor of his bedroom.

The president had called the ranch switchboard at 4:50 EST and asked that an agent be sent to his bedroom. Agents Ed Noland and Harry Harris arrived with a portable resuscitator two minutes later. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and then external heart massage were administered to the ex-president.

Johnson was then placed on a plane and flown to San Antonio. The 64-year-old president was pronounced dead on arrival by Dr. David J. Abbott.

The sudden death ended a distinguished public career which saw Johnson raised from simple Texas roots to both Houses of Congress. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1937 and then to the Senate in 1948. He became majority leader in 1954 when a Democratic Congress was swept into office.

Johnson, the first Southerner to hold the presidency since 1865, was thrust into the White House after the assassination of John F. Kennedy on November

22, 1963 and was elected to a full term by a landslide in 1964.

LBJ was one of the nation's strongest advocates of civil rights during his more than two decades in Congress and while he was in the White House. He was responsible for more legislation to help Negroes than any president since Abraham Lincoln and sponsored massive aid to education.

He initiated the war on poverty and the Great Society, a collection of domestic social programs for which many liberal Democrats had fought unsuccessfully since Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In his inaugural address of 1965 he vowed to overcome poverty, sickness and ignorance. And he told the world, "We aspire to nothing that belongs to others. We seek no dominion over our fellow man, but man's dominion over tyranny and misery."

When Johnson inherited the presidency, he inherited the war

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in Indochina. He greatly expanded the U.S. involvement in Indochina and this caused opposition to the war to mount at home. The war was a major factor in his dramatic announcement in March of 1968 that he would not seek re-election.

After his term in office was over he retired to his ranch in Texas. There he spent his life quietly, spending time with his wife, Lady Bird, his children Lynda and Luci, and his grandchildren.

After he lies in state at the LBJ Library in Austin, Texas, Johnson will be flown to Washington. His coffin will be carried on a horse drawn caisson in a procession to Capital Hill Wednesday afternoon.

Funeral services will be held Thursday in Washington, D.C.'s City Christian Church, after which the body will be returned to Texas for burial in the family cemetery on the LBJ

Ranch.

Attorney General John E. Havelock, who served as a White House fellow in 1967, remembers Johnson as a "man sorely burdened by the tragic ironies of history."

"He was a magnificent human being and history will so honor him in a later spring time," Havelock said.

Governor William Egan stated "We've lost a wonderful American and a fine man who was an outstanding president."

"He was like a lot of Texans," said longtime Alaskan Muktuk Marston. "A big man with big ideas. He thought he could do anything. I thought he was terrific."

Lyndon Baines Johnson, who has suffered from heart trouble dating back to 1955, died within a month of Harry Truman and leaves the nation with no living ex-presidents.