

Alaska Historical Society  
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# FORMER PRESIDENT EISENHOWER PASSES

Dwight David Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States, was buried Wednesday in Abilene, Kansas. The former president died March 28 at Walt-

er Reed Army Hospital in Washington.

His death terminated a lifelong career of service to his country, both as a military and

political leader.

General Eisenhower entered World War II as a general in the European theater. As Supreme Commander of the Allied Ex-

peditionary Forces, he organized the 1944 invasion of Normandy.

Following the war, Eisenhower became U.S. Army Chief of Staff. In 1948, he retired from

the military to become the president of Columbia University.

In 1950, at the request of President Truman, Eisenhower

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returned to the military service to become Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance.

In 1952, the General was encouraged to seek the office of President of the United States. After winning the Republican nomination, he easily captured the popular vote. He served two full terms, retiring from public life in 1960.

The former president received overwhelming national and worldwide popularity during his lifetime. His funeral on Monday was attended by many heads of state, who had come to pay their respects to a man they had admired as a leader as well as a defender.

During the period of national mourning, Alaskan leaders eulogized the man who had been instrumental in achieving statehood for Alaska.

Governor Keith H. Miller issued this statement: "With the death of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower a little bit of every American dies. A great man, a great leader, a great human being has left our midst, and the sadness we all feel is especially acute among Alaskans, for President Eisenhower was a principal architect of Statehood for Alaska, and it was his hand which finally signed the long-sought Statehood Act."

Senator Mike Gravel also recalled Eisenhower's aid in achieving Statehood. He stated that

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his effort "will always be page one in our State history. He had a similarly constructive role to play for the people of all the States, and the Nation."