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RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON

The death of former Commander-in-Chief, the Honorable Richard Milhous Nixon, 37th President of the United States, which occurred on 22 April 1994 at 2109 is reported with deep regret.

Mr. Nixon was born on 9 January 1913, in Yorba Linda, California. He attended public schools in Yorba Linda, Fullerton, and Whittier, California, and graduated from Whittier College in 1934, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He won a scholarship to Duke University, North Carolina, and graduated from Law School in 1937, with a Bachelor of Law Degree. He practiced law in Whittier, California, as a member of Wingert and Bewley, until 1941 and then served a short time as a member of the Legal Staff, in the Office of Price Administration, Washington, DC. On 15 June 1942, he was commissioned a Lieutenant (LTJG) in the United States Naval Reserve and on 17 August reported for duty at the Naval Training School, Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Two months later he was assigned as Aide to the Executive Officer, Naval Air Station, Ottumwa, Iowa, serving until May 1943. On 31 March 1943, he voluntarily requested sea duty and subsequently served as Officer in Charge of the South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command at Guadalcanal and then Green Island from May 1943 until July 1944. From August to December 1944, he was assigned to Headquarters Fleet Air Wing 8 at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California. For the next month, he was a student at the Army Industrial College and for the next year was assigned to the Bureau of Aeronautics Representatives' Office in New York and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On 31 December 1945, Mr. Nixon was released from active duty, and on 1 June 1966, was transferred to the Retired Reserves of the United States Naval Reserves with the grade of Commander. He was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation; the American Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two stars; the World War II Victory Medal and several letters of commendation.

Mr. Nixon was elected to the House of Representatives in 1946 and endorsed by both political parties for reelection in 1946. In 1950, he was elected to the United States Senate and sworn in a month early (4 December 1950) to replace California's retiring Senator Sheridan Downey.

Mr. Nixon was nominated by the Republican Party to run on its successful 1952 national ticket and was sworn in as the 36th Vice President of the United States on 20 January 1953.

Mr. Nixon lost the 1960 presidential election in a campaign which featured the first televised presidential debates. He returned to the practice of law, joining the firm of Adams, Duque, and Hazeltine in Los Angeles (1961–1963) and, following his move to New York in 1963, the firm of Mudge, Stern, Baldwin and Todd which became Nixon, Mudge, Rose, Guthrie, and Alexander. He continued to be active in politics; and although he lost the 1962 California gubernatorial race, he emerged as the chief spokesman for the Republican Party in 1966 and traveled extensively, making annual fact-finding trips to Asia between 1964–1967, each time visiting American troops in Vietnam and meeting their commanders.

Mr. Nixon was elected President of the United States on 5 November 1968 and was inaugurated on 20 January 1969. He was re-elected on 7 November 1972 and served until 9 August 1974.

Under his leadership in foreign affairs, the United States opened its closed diplomatic doors to Communist China with the President's visit to the People's Republic in February 1972. In addition, Mr. Nixon structured a period of detente with the Soviet Union, signing the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I) with Leonid Breshnev 26 May 1972, which provided for the first superpower reduction in strategic weapons; he ended United States involvement in the Vietnam conflict, the longest war in American history, with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords 27 January 1973; and he stood behind Israel during the October 1973 Yom Yippur War, ordering a massive air lift of materiel, which helped save the country.

Under his leadership in domestic affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency was created, the space shuttle program begun, the Minority Business Enterprise Program was established, and suffrage was extended to eighteen-year old citizens.

America's Armed Forces became an all-volunteer force during the Nixon Administration with the ending of the draft but not the nation's commitment to a strong national defense. Mr. Nixon considered this essential for peace. "No state will go to war unless its leaders believe they can achieve their goals at an acceptable cost," he wrote in his book *1999*. "Our goal must be to take the profit out of war."

Following his resignation from office, Mr. Nixon continued to wield influence, sharing his observations with the public in nine published books and with the leadership of the country in private fact-finding tours of China, Russia, and other foreign countries.

Mr. Nixon is survived by two daughers, Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, and four grandchildren, Christopher Nixon Cox and Jennie Elizabeth, Alex Richard, and Melanie Catherine Eisenhower.

Togo D. West, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

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