

Ford

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Ford also oversaw America's participation in the Helsinki Accords, Bush said. That agreement was signed in Helsinki, Finland on August 1975 by 35 nations, including the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union and many European countries. Language contained in the accords guaranteed the Eastern European territorial gains the Soviets had made at the end of World War II. But, the document also reduced Cold War tensions, and its inclusion of basic human rights for citizens covered in the agreement proved to be a harbinger for the fall of the Soviet Bloc.

Ford was initially lambasted for endorsing the Helsinki Accords, Bush said. "Yet, history has shown that document helped bring down the Soviet Union, as courageous men and women behind the Iron Curtain used it to demand their God-given liberties," he said.

Ford was the target of two assassination attempts during his presidency, but refused to cut back on his public schedule, Bush said.

And, when the country was suffering the political fallout of the Watergate scandal, Ford likely sacrificed his chances to be elected president in 1976 by pardoning Nixon, Bush said.

Nixon had nominated Ford to replace the scandal-tainted Spiro Agnew as vice president Oct. 12, 1973. At that time, Ford was a Republican member of Congress who had represented Michigan for 24 years in the House of Representatives. He grew up in Grand Rapids, Mi., and was buried on the grounds of his presidential museum and library there today.

Bush declared Wednesday a national day of mourning for Ford, who died Dec. 26 at age 93 at his residence in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

"Gerald Ford assumed the presidency when the nation needed a leader of character and humility, and we found it in the man from Grand Rapids," Bush said during his eulogy. "President Ford's time in office was brief, but history will long remember the courage and common sense that helped restore trust in the workings of our democracy."

Bush's eulogy was preceded by comments from his father, former President George H.W. Bush, who remembered Ford as a selfless man who lived a life of noble purpose.

"As Americans, we generally eschew notions of the 'indispensable man,' and yet, during those traumatic times, few if any of our public leaders could have stepped into the breach and rekindled our national faith as did President Gerald R. Ford," the elder Bush said.

Ford served the country in momentous and trying times, the elder Bush said, just as Abraham Lincoln did during the Civil War and Franklin Delano Roosevelt did during the Depression and World War II.

Ford's honesty and straightforward manner restored the public's faith in the Oval Office and led the country forward in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, the former President Bush said.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who served as the country's senior statesman in the Ford administration, and former NBC newsman Tom Brokaw, also provided eulogies at the funeral service.

Ford was an unassuming chief executive whose unpredictable ascent to the presidency could be construed as to have come from providence, Kissinger said. Ford, he said, "undertook to restore the confidence of Americans in their political institutions and purposes."

Former first lady Betty Ford, members of the Ford family and many senior government officials attended the state funeral. Vice President Richard B. Cheney, who served as chief of staff during the Ford administration, and former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who served his first stint as defense secretary under Ford, were among the officials in attendance.

The state funeral concluded Washington's portion of the national farewell to Ford that began in Palm Desert, Calif. The funeral activities conclude today with a private service and interment at Ford's presidential museum and library in Grand Rapids, Mi.

2-43 AMD Welcomes new Command Sgt. Major

SPC. JASON STADEL

108th ADA Brigade Public Affairs

In a ceremony held Dec. 19 at Milam Gym, Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Callaghan assumed the responsibility of 2nd Battalion 43rd Air and Missile Defense's highest enlisted Soldier.

Sgt. Maj. Jesus Degracia held the position for the last two months. Degracia will now become the 2-43 AMD operations sergeant major.

High winds and cold weather forced the ceremony indoors; each battery was formed inside while the Sword of the Noncommissioned Officer was passed to Callaghan. The passing of the sword symbolizes the passing and acceptance of responsibility.

Lt. Col. Ron Williams, 2-43 AMD commander, welcomed Callaghan and his wife into the "Strength in Honor" family. Degracia thanked Soldiers and their families for their support while he was in the command sergeant major position.

Callaghan stepped to the podium and gave a brief speech directed toward the "Warriors" of 2-43 AMD.

"Everyday that I come to work you will inspire me; and everyday I will take care of you," Callaghan said.

The 108th ADA Brigade command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Clem, said 2-43 AMD is gaining a trusted and respected noncommissioned officer.

"The 'Warrior Battalion' is blessed to gain such a great leader as Command Sgt. Maj. Callaghan; he is the right leader at the right time to transition the bat-

talion as the senior enlisted member," said Clem. "The role of the CSM is critical to any organization as the CSM needs to take the philosophy of the commander and build and plan to move forward and Command Sgt. Maj. Callaghan is doing just that."

Prior to joining 2-43 AMD, Callaghan served as the operations sergeant major in 3-43 ADA. He is a U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Class 55 graduate. Callaghan has served in many leadership positions to include Stinger team chief, air battle management operations center non-commissioned officer in command, platoon sergeant and first sergeant.

He also served as a ROTC instructor at Southwest Missouri State University.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, three oak leaf cluster and seven Good Conduct Medals among many others.

Callaghan holds a Bachelor of Science degree and associate degree in business management and administration from Excelsior University.

He and his wife Shelly have four children.



CSM 6: Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Callaghan, 2-34 AMD.



SGT. JONATHAN MONTGOMERY

Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th ADA Brigade stationed at Fort Bliss return home a week before Christmas following a deployment to Qatar.

3-43 ADA returns home in time for the holidays

SGT. JONATHAN MONTGOMERY

11th ADA Bde. Public Affairs

Last year could not have ended better for the Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th ADA Brigade.

The battalion deployed October 2005 and returned a week before Christmas.

The Patriot Soldiers' mission sent the popularly mobilized ADA unit to Qatar to provide aerial coverage by means of air and missile defense protection for the 15th annual Asian Games – Doha 2006.

"As soon as everybody arrived in theater, they just started clicking," said Warrant Officer Eddie Bautista, 11th ADA Brigade C2 systems integrator. "Our task was to defend against any kind of tactical ballistic missile threat to the Asian Games in Doha."

"Everything went smoothly," he added. "We were up and running since day one."

The Qatari government extended their praise and appreciation for what U.S. forces were doing to ensure

the Asian Games went off without serious incident or interruption.

"We got 10 out of 10," said Staff Sgt. Broderick Gardner, Patriot launching station operator maintainer, C Battery, 3-43 ADA, about how well he thought his unit performed their mission-essential tasks.

Lt. Col. Brian Dunn, commander of 3-43 ADA, agreed.

"I am very proud of the performance of these Soldiers who continue to serve in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," he said.

"All of what was done was done on the backs of the Soldiers in this battalion," he added.

The immediate mission once the Soldiers landed was setting up a battalion "footprint" in an area that hadn't seen a Patriot presence since 2003, said Dunn.

This deployment would also mark the first time PAC-3 missiles were employed in Qatar, said Dunn.

"We have an enduring mission over there, and our Soldiers did an outstanding job of defending U.S. Central Command assets in Qatar," said Dunn.