

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 45

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 26 December 1972¹

The death of the Honorable HARRY S TRUMAN, 33d President of the United States, which occurred on 26 December 1972, at Kansas City, Missouri, is announced with deep regret.

MR. TRUMAN was born on 8 May 1884 in Lamar, Missouri. He attended public schools in Independence, Missouri and the Kansas City School of Law. From 1905 until 1918, he was a member of the National Guard, serving on active duty from 1918 to 1919 and participating as a captain of artillery in the Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Campaigns. He concluded his service as a member of the Officers' Reserve Corps with his retirement in 1953. He distinguished himself in public life by serving in the judiciary as a Presiding Judge from 1926 until 1934. Elected to the United States Senate in 1934, he served until he was elected Vice President of the United States on 7 November 1944. Having taken office as Vice President on 20 January 1945, he assumed the Presidency upon the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt on 12 April 1945. He was subsequently elected to serve another term as President of the United States, remaining in office until 20 January 1953.

MR. TRUMAN introduced the "Truman Doctrine," which was approved by the Congress on 15 May 1947, to aid Greece and Turkey in combating communism. The inception of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a stabilizing force in world affairs occurred during his second term. He skillfully guided the affairs of our country during the Korean Conflict, and his quick decision to redeem a solemn national pledge to quell armed aggression was lauded throughout the free world. After serving his country faithfully for many years, he devoted his remaining years to writing.

On the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Korean Conflict, Mr. TRUMAN was awarded the highest medal of the Republic of Korea, "The Order of Merit for National Foundation, Kong-guk Kongnu Hunjang" in recognition of and appreciation for his contribution to the cause of freedom and democracy. In October 1966, he was awarded the George Catlett Marshall Medal, the highest award of the Association of the United States Army, for his "selfless and outstanding service to the United States of America."

MR. TRUMAN's life was characterized by integrity, courage, and patriotism. These qualities earned him the admiration and respect of the people of America.

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His death deprives the Nation of a most distinguished citizen and will cause widespread and genuine sorrow.

As a mark of respect to the memory of MR. TRUMAN, the National Flag will be displayed at half-staff on all installations under the control of the Department of the Army for 30 days from the date of death.

MR. TRUMAN will lie in state in the lobby of the Truman Library from 27 December 1972 to 28 December 1972 and will be buried in the Courtyard of the Truman Library, Independence, Missouri on 28 December 1972.

The Commanding General, Fifth United States Army, will render appropriate honors.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, United States Army
The Adjutant General