

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, dead at 99

April 9, 2021



London (CNN) Prince Philip, the lifelong companion of Queen Elizabeth II and the longest-serving consort in British history, died at the age of 99 on Friday.

In a statement, Buckingham Palace said: "It is with deep sorrow that Her Majesty the Queen announces the death of her beloved husband, His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. His Royal Highness passed away peacefully this morning at Windsor Castle. Further announcements will be made in due course. The Royal Family join with people around the world in mourning his loss."

The death of the duke comes after a period of poor health. Philip spent a month in two London hospitals, where he was treated for an infection and underwent heart surgery, before being discharged in mid-March.

Philip's funeral will be held at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, "in line with custom and with His Royal Highness's wishes," the College of Arms, which oversees many ceremonial aspects of the royal family's work, said in a statement Friday.

"The funeral arrangements have been revised in view of the prevailing circumstances arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and it is regretfully requested that members of the public do not attempt to attend or participate in any of the events that make up the funeral," the statement added.

The bells of London's Westminster Abbey, where Prince Philip married Queen Elizabeth more than 70-years-ago, rang on Friday evening in honour of him.

Gun salutes will be fired across the UK at noon on Saturday, the UK Ministry of Defense wrote in a statement. "Across the United Kingdom, in Gibraltar and on HM Ships at sea, saluting batteries will fire 41 rounds at one round every minute for 40 minutes," it wrote.

"The public are encouraged to observe the gun salutes from home, they will take place behind closed doors but broadcast online and on television," the statement added.

More details on funeral arrangements are expected to be confirmed by Buckingham Palace on Saturday, according to a royal source.

The royal family joined the British government in asking the public to not gather at the royal residences, in light of coronavirus restrictions, and "make a donation to a charity instead of leaving floral tributes in memory of The Duke of Edinburgh."

An online condolences book has been launched on the family's official website for those who wish to leave messages, Buckingham Palace said.

The College of Arms also gave details for the period of mourning, stating that all "official flags, including the Union Flag, will be flown at half-mast from now until 08:00 on the day following the funeral."

Charles, the Prince of Wales, visited his mother the Queen on Friday afternoon, traveling from his Gloucestershire home to Windsor Castle, a royal source told CNN.

The source also said the Prince of Wales had been in constant contact with his father since his hospitalization in February.

Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, said Britain's Prince Philip would be "greatly missed," in a statement following the news of the death of Harry's grandfather.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson paid tribute to the duke, saying that "he had earned the affection of generations here in the United Kingdom, across the Commonwealth, and around the world."

A lifetime of service

Philip, also known by his official title of the Duke of Edinburgh, was the longest-serving British consort. He married the then Princess Elizabeth in 1947 after a courtship that charmed a country still reeling from the ravages of World War II.

In his seven decades of service, Philip often accompanied the Queen on royal engagements, and conducted thousands of his own solo appearances. He once referred to himself as "the world's most experienced plaque uncovered," while the Queen lauded him as her "constant strength and guide."

After retiring, Philip spent much of his time at the Queen's rural Sandringham estate. He was occasionally seen in later years at private family events such as the weddings of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, and of Princess Eugenie to Jack Brooksbank, both at Windsor Castle.

Philip's advanced age meant that his health had been the subject of much media focus in recent years. In December 2019, he was taken to hospital as a "precautionary measure" for what Buckingham Palace described as a "pre-existing" condition. He had previously been admitted to hospital on multiple occasions for a variety of reasons, including for a hip replacement and for treatment for bladder infections.

The duke was born the Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark on the Greek island of Corfu in 1921. He left Greece aged 18 months with his family when King Constantine was forced to abdicate after a revolt by Greece's war-stretched military forces. The family moved first to Paris and later, in 1928, to England.

Philip had an itinerant childhood, educated variously in the UK, France, and Germany.

He became a decorated naval officer for his service during World War II, and when peace returned, rekindled an earlier friendship with Elizabeth that quickly blossomed into a public romance.



A viral photo shows Prince Philip dressed as the Grenadier Guard. He was seen sporting the red uniform and a military hat similar to a royal guard as the Queen giggles.

READ THE TEXT CAREFULLY AND ANSWER:

1. Where did Prince Philip die?
2. Where will the funeral take place?
3. What did the royal family ask the public not to do?
4. Who's the British Prime Minister? What did he say?
5. Where was Prince Philip Born?