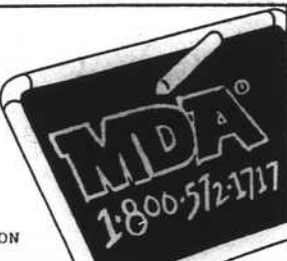


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Masses bid farewell to Diana

LONDON (AP) — Tears, flowers and inconsolable crowds followed Diana to her final resting place in England's green hills Saturday, in an extraordinary day of pageantry and proud tribute from a land the sad-and-smiling princess spoke longingly of fleeing.

Before her last journey north, to a private burial in the tranquillity of her ancestral home, Diana's brother lashed out at the media, and at a royal family in which she starred in "the most bizarre life imaginable."

And before she was lowered into that solitary grave, millions of British people poured out their hearts in a final farewell — in the cool morning outside Diana's Kensington Palace home, in the sparkling midday sun at Westminster Abbey, on London's boulevards and grand plazas.

They cried at the courage of Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry, 12, as they walked behind their mother's funeral cortege.

They sang along with hymns of old and Elton John's revised version of "Candle in the Wind," dedicated to "England's rose."

But mostly they watched and reflected on the tragedy that snatched this imperfect heroine, the Princess of Wales, from their lives in the senseless wreck of an automobile in Paris just six days earlier.

"It is such a shame that we could not have done this for her in life," said one man outside Kensington Palace, "so she could have known how we felt."

In the age-old tradition of a 1,000-year-old monarchy, the day was well scripted. But it was the one text that didn't appear in the pre-published program — the eulogy by the

Earl Spencer — that electrified the mourners within and without the ancient abbey.

As he stood near Diana's coffin in hallowed Westminster Abbey, he ripped into the newspapers and photographers who had made her "the most hunted person of the modern age."

"There is no doubt that she was looking for a new direction in her life at this time," Spencer said. "She talked endlessly of getting away from England, mainly because of the treatment she received at the hands of the newspapers."

"I don't think she ever understood why her genuinely good intentions were sneered at by the media. ... My own, and only, explanation is that genuine goodness is threatening to those at the opposite end of the moral spectrum."

Listening to loudspeakers or watching on giant TV screens in London's parks, the crowds of commoners applauded, some holding their clapping hands high in emphatic agreement. Inside the royal church, the congregation joined in.

While Queen Elizabeth II, Diana's former husband Prince Charles and all the senior members of the royal family listened, Earl Spencer said Diana's "blood family" would strive to protect the young princes, "so that their souls are not simply immersed by duty and tradition but can sing openly as you planned."

At least a million people had pressed into the center of London to pay their respects, and hundreds of thousands more lined roads along the way to the burial site at the family estate in Northamptonshire.

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3-Year	4/1423	4/566	4/1423	5/274	5/1423	5/1423
5-Year	4/924	4/364	4/924	5/158	N/A	N/A
10-Year	4/441	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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