All info on his life and funeral are in his box

PASSAGES

Public invited to honor Sundlun

Former governor's body will lie in state Saturday afternoon; funeral is Sunday

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PROVIDENCE — Former Gov. Bruce G. Sundlun, who died Thursday at his Jamestown home, will lie in state Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Rotunda of the State House.

"The public is invited to pay their respects to the governor at this time," the Sundlun family said in a statement issued on Friday afternoon.

"Governor Sundlun's body will be attended by the Rhode Island National Guard's Military Funeral Honors detachment and escorted by the State Police," according to the statement. "The body will be met at the State House by a Rhode Island State Police Color Guard. A combined Rhode Island National Guard Honor Guard will attend the governor while he lies in state."

Governor Chafee has ordered that all U.S. and Rhode Island state flags on public buildings be lowered to half-staff until Governor Sundlun is laid to rest.

The funeral of Sundlun, who served two terms as governor from 1991 to 1995, will be at 10 a.m. Sunday at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave. Seating will be limited. The late governor's family will host a public reception from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the temple. Burial will be private.


Sundlun

In tribute to Sundlun's World War II service as a bomber pilot who was eventually shot down, the Air Force has authorized a flyover by the 143rd Airlift Wing of the Rhode Island Air National Guard. A C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft will fly over the synagogue just before Sundlun's body is brought in, at 9:50 a.m.

The Sundlun family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Bruce Sundlun Scholarship Fund, c/o The Rhode Island Foundation, 1 Union Station, Providence, RI 02903 and the RI Free Clinic, 655 Broad St., Providence, RI 02907.

Sundlun, 91, died after a period of poor health and a hospitalization. Tributes almost immediately began to pour in, and continued through Friday.

"His was truly a life well-lived," said U.S. Rep. James R. Langevin. "As we mourn his loss today, we also know that the indelible positive mark Bruce left by serving so many people, places and institutions in Rhode Island and beyond can never be erased. I was so lucky to have been able to call him a friend."

Langevin recalled inviting Sundlun to join him at the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington "and how proud Bruce was of his country and his fellow veterans who gave their lives for values that he so cherished."

General Treasurer Gina M. Raimondo said in a statement: "As one of Rhode Island's newest elected officials, I am often reminded of Governor Sundlun's courage and leadership during one of the more trying times in recent Rhode Island history. His legacy will serve as a reminder to generations to come about the importance of public service and giving back to the state he loved so much."

Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin said: "Governor Bruce Sundlun was a great man who led Rhode Island out of the dark days of the banking crisis and ushered the state into a period of great economic prosperity. It was with sheer will, true grit and determination that he pushed forward critical economic development projects, including the terminal at T.F. Green [Airport], Providence Place mall and the Rhode Island Convention Center, that changed the Rhode Island landscape. He was a giant of a man: colorful, quick-witted and always ready to share his opinion."

Said Lt. Gov. Elizabeth H. Roberts: "I am deeply saddened by the death of Governor Bruce Sundlun, a man who led a remarkable life and chose to share his spirit and leadership with all of us as governor. He served our country with great distinction in World War II and went on after a successful career in business to serve our state when others might have chosen a quiet retirement. It was my honor to have worked for him."

Speaker of the House Gordon D. Fox, D-Providence, called Sundlun "a political hero and a man whom I truly adored. I was a volunteer on his first campaigns for governor and I have fond memories of stuffing envelopes at his headquarters on Chalkstone Avenue in Providence. I was so proud when he won the election in 1990 and he immediately showed what a man of great courage and conviction that he was by leading our state through some very troubled times.

"He would always say to me, 'let's keep pushing forward,' which I believe was his true legacy. He really moved Rhode Island forward."

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