

The Death of Elizabeth II

By Juliana Camp '24



On September 8, 2022 Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom, died at the age of 96 at the Balmoral Castle in Scotland. Her death was very unexpected and shocked the whole world.

"I was at school when I found out about Queen Elizabeth's death and I was shocked, it was all over the news and social media, it was something that nobody was expecting," said junior Genny Matello.

Prince Philip was Elizabeth's husband for nearly 74 years before his death in April 2021. The couple, who are second cousins removed, fell in love as teenagers. Their first encounter was in 1934, at the nuptials of Philip's cousin Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark and Prince George, Duke of Kent.

After their first encounter, Philip and Elizabeth both knew that they were the loves of each other's lives. The engagement of the two was announced on July 9, 1947 and the wedding took place just four months later on November 20, 1947. Their marriage then lasted for 74 decades.

"I got married to my husband Joe when I was 18 and he was 20, I knew I was going to marry him the first time I saw him when I was 16 and here we are, married for 46 years, So I know how Elizabeth felt about Philip because I feel the same way about Joe", said Plains resident Sharon Bunk.

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip welcomed four children over the course of their 74-year marriage: the newly-crowned King Charles II, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew, and Prince Edward. Each child loved and cared for their parents unconditionally.

By the time Elizabeth was 96, she had eight grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. The British royal family now has 22 members.

"I have five grandchildren and I love each and every one of them so much, I can only imagine how much love Queen Elizabeth felt with eight grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren", said Plains resident Joe Bunk.

Not only was Queen Elizabeth the queen of the United Kingdom, she also accomplished major achievements in her life. When Elizabeth became Queen in 1952, she became the head of Commonwealth realms – a group of sovereign territories and protectorates that consider the Queen as the head of state. Now in 2022, there are 14 states that fall under the Commonwealth realm, including Jamaica, Grenada, Australia, the Bahamas, Canada, etc. These countries are also members of the Commonwealth of Nations of which the Queen serves as the head.

She also served as an important symbol for national identity and pride. Elizabeth kept up with social media and trends regarding her age, in 1997 she launched a website that details the charitable activities and works of the royal family. In order to show her support of digital communication platforms, she made her first tweet in 2014. Five years later, in March 2019, the Queen made her first Instagram post during her visit to the British Science Museum in London.

On September 19, 2022, the Queens Funeral was held at Westminster Abbey. The funeral contained over 2,000 guests, the smaller service containing 800. The coffin will be carried by a horse-drawn gun carriage of Britain's Royal Navy, alongside dozens of uniformed sailors. Members of Elizabeth's family, including Charles and his eldest son, the new Prince of Wales, William, will likely follow the coffin in a procession.

The queen was a major figurehead within the realms of Britain and will be greatly missed by many, condolences go out to her loved ones.

A Look Behind the Step Down

By Lily Mahoney '24

With the end of Wyoming Valley West's 2022-2023 football season comes an unexpected yet sorrowful resignation. This year's football season resulted in an overall 0-10 score and a goodbye to more than just our senior class. Head Coach, Mr. Baranski officially announced his resignation after the last game of the season. There has been speculation on the motive behind the abdication and its timing.

Throughout the entire fall season, Mr. Baranski's removal from this program had been unknown to all, except him. The reason behind this decision is more simple than one might think. Baranski's son is a student athlete at Bloomsburg University, in his second half of his studies and athletic career. When directly asked the reason behind the step down, Baranski responded by saying he "doesn't want to miss the finality of being a sport parent."

Many of those associated with the football team and the Wyoming Valley West School District were confused about the timing regarding this change. Coach Baranski officially announced his resignation to the team after their last game against Wilkes-Barre Area. The timing of this resignation directly coincided with his team's Senior Night, a game that heavily recognises and appreciates the team's leaving Seniors. "Senior day is about Seniors and Seniors families, not Coach Baranski." While the timing may have been perceived as sneaky or kept quiet, Baranski only had his team's best interest in mind, a last selfless act as the head coach.

After 27 years of coaching, Baranski has many fond memories. Instead of talking of his accomplishments, the relationships and connections made during his years is what he is most proud of. When asked for his words for the man or woman who is to fill his shoes next season, he states "the next head coach at Valley West is going to be a very lucky individual... you're going to be working with such outstanding young men." Mr. Baranski wishes nothing but the best to those who are to come.

In final, Mr. Baranski plans to be "fully committed to Bloomsburg baseball this spring" and having some much needed vacations. Before this break for our former coach, the transition is first. Baranski plans to lend a huge helping hand in making the transition smooth and easy for all the players and staff involved.

As for our last words for Coach Baranski, an immense and sincere thank you is in order. The years dedicated to the Wyoming Valley West Football team will not be unrecognized or discredited.

