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# Thousands endure hours to pay respects to Ronald Reagan

By Jeremiah Marquez  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — Waiting good-naturedly for as much as half a day in traffic jams and a parking lot, tens of thousands of people filed past Ronald Reagan's flag-draped casket in an outpouring that forced organizers to extend the viewing period Tuesday by four hours.

An estimated 79,000 mourners had passed by the coffin in 28 hours after viewing began at noon Monday, library officials said. The nation's 40th president died Saturday at age 93.

Nancy Reagan, resting and preparing for funeral events in Washington, D.C., watched the scene on television at her Bel Air home in Los Angeles, said Joanne Drake, chief of staff of Reagan's office.

"It is unbelievable what I am seeing on TV," Drake quoted the former first lady as saying. "The outpouring of love for my husband is incredible."

The flow of mourners was interrupted briefly when Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry arrived. Standing before the casket, he made the sign of the cross, placed his hand over his heart, then left.

Traffic jams and the wait for shuttle buses encouraged camaraderie among the throngs, who passed the time sharing memories of Reagan and making new friends.

"It was really something. There was a kindred spirit out there as we waited," said Linda Peterson, 49, of Temecula, who left home with her son, Lee, 23, on Monday night.

Their 110-mile trip went swiftly until the last four miles to a local college parking lot, which took four hours to cover, and then there was a 4 1/2-hour wait to board a shuttle bus to the hilltop library.

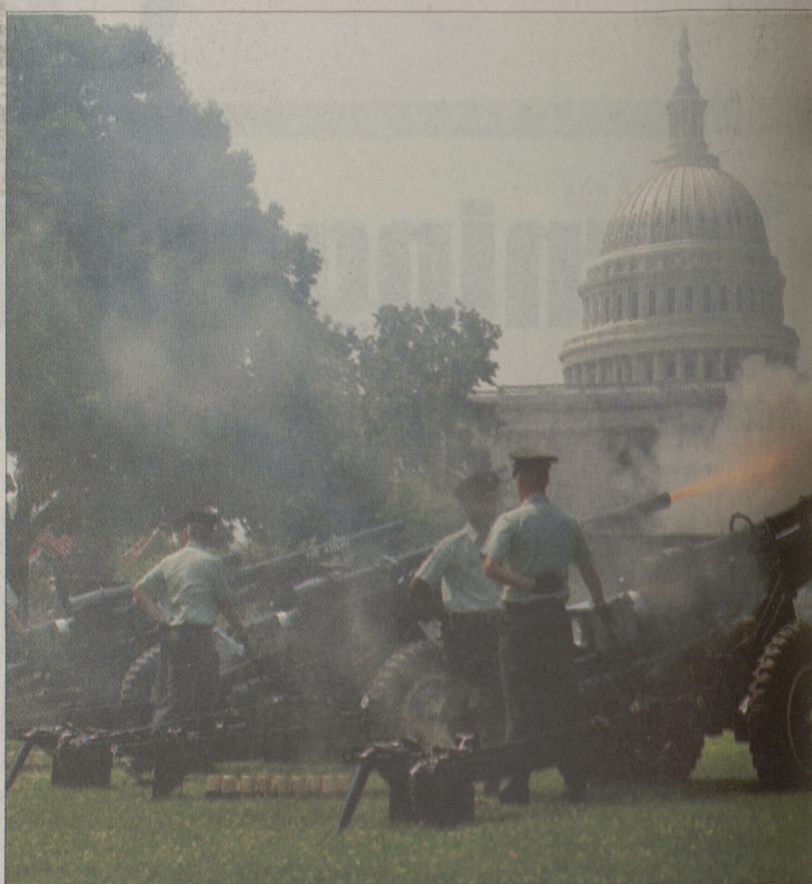
"I wanted my son to know exactly what an honorable life is all about — a life of service with such passion," Mrs. Peterson said.

The viewing at the library in the Ventura County hills west of Los Angeles was the first event in a week of national mourning. The body was to be flown to Washington, D.C., on Wednesday to lie in state at the Capitol, followed by a national funeral on Friday.

Former President Ford told CNN's "Larry King Live" Tuesday that Reagan was "a great statesman whom we miss very badly. ... He was a firm believer in the strength of the United States and as a nation that was going to be the leader of the free world."

Duke Blackwood, the library's executive director, said that at the conclusion of the national funeral, the bells of the National Cathedral will ring 40 times and churches nationwide will join in.

The body will then be flown back to California for burial at the library Friday



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Members of the 3rd Infantry Old Guard practice a 21 Gun Salute in preparation of the arrival of the body of former President Ronald Reagan, who died on Saturday, June 5, will be memorialized at the first presidential state funeral in more than three decades. His body will be laid in state for public viewing in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

evening. Blackwood said the inscription on the headstone will read "Ronald W. Reagan," with his date of birth and death.

Nancy Reagan, who accompanied the body to the library, received a message Tuesday from Pope John Paul II expressing "deep gratitude" for her husband's commitment to the cause of freedom.

Visitors to the library Tuesday included Govs. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, and celebrities Morgan Fairchild and Ben Boxleitner, who arrived as representatives of the Screen Actors Guild, which Reagan once led.

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# Sept. 11 commission draft harshly critical of FBI, CIA

By Hope Yen  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Draft portions of the Sept. 11 commission's final report offer a stinging rebuke of the FBI and intelligence agencies but refrain from assigning blame to individuals in government to avoid the appearance of partisanship, several commissioners say.

The 10-member panel still is wrestling over recommendations to shore up the intelligence gaps and communications breakdowns that allowed the hijackers to succeed, four commissioners told The Associated Press in separate interviews.

"There's broad consensus that major changes are needed. This is not just a question of running faster, jumping higher," said Republican commissioner John Lehman, a former secretary of the Navy. "We need to ensure the fusion and sharing of all intelligence that could have helped us to avoid 9/11."

Among the ideas under consideration is a domestic intelligence agency modeled after Britain's MI5.

Democratic commissioner Timothy Roemer said FBI Director Robert Mueller's recent proposal to improve domestic surveillance by creating an intelligence service within the bureau is another option under review by the panel but might not be enough.

"Certainly there's consensus the FBI has not done a good job prior to 9/11, and they have a long way to go," said Roemer, a former Indiana congressman.

The commission was established by Congress in 2002 to investigate government mistakes before the attacks and recommend ways to improve the nation's protection against terrorists. It has interviewed more than 1,000 witnesses, including President Bush, and reviewed more than 2 million documents.

The bipartisan panel's final report is due July 26. However, portions of it, dealing with factual findings leading up to and including the attacks, already have been drafted and sent to the White House for vetting and declassification, commissioners said.

CIA Director George Tenet, former FBI Director Louis Freeh and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice have been harshly criticized by some lawmakers and relatives of Sept. 11 victims for not doing more to combat the threat of terrorism.

The commissioners who spoke to the AP said

the panel wants to avoid blaming individuals to avert charges of partisanship that could undermine their work.

"We're going to say everything we need to say, but there's not going to be a political gotcha," said Republican commissioner Stephen Gorton, a former senator from Washington. "It's very important that it be factual and the major conclusions to the people of the United States. There are huge numbers of facts that are not in dispute."

One example of the FBI's troubles was seen in the case of Sept. 11 hijackers Khalid al-Mihdhar and Nawaf al-Hazmi, who were linked by the CIA to Osama bin Laden and were found to have entered the United States in summer 2001.

Agents involved in the criminal probe couldn't track the men down because intelligence officials were not allowed to share information on the case.

The two would later be on American Airlines Flight 77, which slammed into the Pentagon.

"The restrictions on FBI after Watergate prohibiting them from modernizing and computerizing their systems (and) from keeping track of watchlists and investigations" were among the biggest obstacles to terror prevention, Lehman said. "It made it impossible for the FBI to share information even within the bureau."

Officials with the FBI and CIA declined comment until agency officials had an opportunity to review the report. CIA spokesman Michael Mansfield said cooperation between the CIA and FBI on counterterrorism has never been better.

Other sections of the final report will detail CIA's missteps, including a failure to recognize the threat posed by al-Qaida and an overreliance on suspect sources for information. The commission has attributed the problems in part to the loose-knit nature of the intelligence community which didn't always cooperate because CIA Director George Tenet lacked adequate authority.

Some commissioners said they didn't expect Tenet's impending departure to affect their recommendations, which will focus on structural changes. Roemer said one proposal he supports creating a national director of intelligence would oversee foreign and domestic intelligence gathering — might be more palatable to Congress once Tenet is gone.

**"The failure to thwart the 9/11 catastrophe was in part the result of the failure to communicate both internally and externally about information collected by our intelligence agencies."**

— Richard Ben-Veniste  
democratic commissioner

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by Will Lloyd

