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ONE PRESIDENT HONORS ANOTHER

Ford funeral a reunion



AP / GERALD HERBERT

President and Mrs. Bush pause to pay their respects by the casket of former President Gerald R. Ford in the Capitol Rotunda on Capitol Hill in Washington yesterday.

In mourning their president today, the alumni of Gerald R. Ford's administration will also be celebrating his life and the intimate circle he created.

BY RACHEL L. SWARNS
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — On the morning of President Gerald R. Ford's funeral, his former Cabinet secretaries and administration staff members will come together here once more, taking their seats in the black cars accompanying the funeral motorcade and in the pews of Washington National Cathedral.

For more than two decades, they had gathered at Ford's annual White House reunions, most of which were held in the nation's capital, where they chuckled over half-forgotten policy disputes and shook their heads sadly as their numbers dwindled and their host grew increasingly frail.

Even as their career paths and personal lives diverged, they kept in touch with Ford and with one another, reminiscing at dinner parties and lunches, and in long-distance phone calls. In mourning their president today, the alumni of

his administration will also be celebrating his life and the intimate circle he created. "We've stayed together," said Brent Scowcroft, who served as national security adviser to Ford. "There is a sense of community."

In many ways, today's funeral will highlight those ties. Henry A. Kissinger, Ford's secretary of state, cut short his vacation to the Dominican Republic to attend the Washington solemnities, which began Saturday. Robert E. Barrett, Ford's military at-

tache, flew in from his home in Florida. Carla A. Hills, his housing secretary, and William T. Coleman Jr., his transportation secretary, who both still work in Washington, will join them as honorary pallbearers.

The funeral will also reunite several officials who gained prominence in Washington after Ford left office, including Vice President Dick Cheney, who served as Ford's chief of staff; Alan Greenspan, who was chairman of Ford's council of economic advisers years before he became chairman of the Federal Reserve; and Scowcroft, who also served as national security adviser to President George Bush. They, too, will be pallbearers.

Ron Nessen, who was Ford's press secretary and who will attend the ceremony at the cathedral, said Ford's White House team had bonded so deeply because members had served during "an extraordinary time in American history."

It was the mid-1970s, and Ford, unexpectedly thrust into the presidency, had scrambled to assemble a team that would guide a nation reeling from Watergate, from President Richard M. Nixon's resignation



NYT / STEPHEN CROWLEY

From left, former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft.

SEE REUNION, A7

2nd case of encephalitis confirmed in Warwick

The Health Department says that a student at Greenwood Elementary, initially thought to have meningitis, had a mild case of encephalitis, while a West Warwick middle schooler may have also had the illness.

BY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

WARWICK — An investigation into a string of bacterial illnesses that left one Warwick elementary student dead has broadened to include two other communities, West Warwick and Coventry, while health officials have confirmed a second and possibly a third case of encephalitis due to the same mycoplasma bacteria.

New test results show that a student at West Warwick's John F. Deering Middle School, who was hospitalized last month, probably suffered from encephalitis, a brain infection, brought about by the mycoplasma bacteria which caused illnesses in seven students

at Warwick's Greenwood Elementary School, including second grader Dylan Gleavey, who died of encephalitis on Dec. 21, state Health Director Dr. David R. Gifford said last night.

The Deering student has recovered from that illness, and health officials do not believe there is any additional evidence of an outbreak at that school. But they are now exploring the possibility that the illnesses are connected.

SEE SICKNESS, A5

R.I. Foundation's assets surpass half-billion mark

The 90-year-old charitable organization has 1,000 permanent endowments and each year adds 50 to 60 more.

BY TRACY BRETON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Foundation, the state's largest charitable foundation, has accumulated more than half a billion dollars in assets for the first time in its 90-year history.

According to foundation President Ronald V. Gallo, thanks to a rapid growth in the stock market in 2006 and hefty giving by Rhode Island philanthropists, as of Oct. 31, the foundation's assets amounted to \$509,852,928 — a 14.5-percent increase since the end of 2005. As last year drew to a

close and Rhode Islanders made year-end charitable donations in an attempt to shelter income from taxation, the foundation is expected to grow even larger.

"What does this mean for Rhode Islanders?" Gallo said. "Imagine an eternal charitable savings account that, if you treat it wisely, will provide millions of dollars every year to build communities, protect children, find housing and jobs, preserve the environment and assist the elderly."

"It also means that the dreams and legacies — and contributions — of thousands and thousands of generous Rhode Islanders over the years have been successful in creating something permanent and lasting."

The Rhode Island Foundation,

SEE FOUNDATION, A5

For thousands of Iraqi refugees, a closed door in U.S.

One former U.S. official says, "We're not even meeting our basic obligation to the Iraqis who've been imperiled because they worked for the U.S. government."

BY SABRINA TAVERNISE
AND ROBERT F. WORTH
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — With thousands of Iraqis desperately fleeing this country every day, advocates for refugees, and even some U.S. officials, say there is an urgent need to change American policies limiting the number of Iraqis who settle in the United States.

Until recently, the Bush administration had planned to resettle just 500 Iraqis this year, a mere fraction of the estimated 60,000 to 90,000 Iraqis now fleeing their country each month. State Department officials say they are

open to admitting larger numbers, but are limited by a cumbersome and poorly funded U.N. referral system.

"We're not even meeting our basic obligation to the Iraqis who've been imperiled because they worked for the U.S. government," said Kirk W. Johnson, who worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Fallujah in 2005. "We could not have functioned without their hard work, and it's shameful that we've nothing to offer them in their bleakest hour."

SEE REFUGEES, A6



AP / MATT ROURKE

Celeste Zappala hangs a photograph of her son, Army Sgt. Sherwood Baker who was killed in Iraq, in her office window in Philadelphia beside a tally of U.S. war dead. Story, A7.

R.I. exodus: Losing the young, ambitious

Lack of jobs and high cost of living for young college graduates are the main reasons for people leaving the Ocean State.

BY MARK ARSENAULT
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The decline in Rhode Island's population for the third straight year, as estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau, is being driven by the migration of young, college-educated people looking for better job opportunities in other states, according to experts.

Losing these skilled people is an alarming trend, says Universi-

ty of Rhode Island economist Leonard Lardaro. He warns that a lack of educated people of working age makes it more difficult to attract high-tech companies, and their jobs, to Rhode Island.

In a year in which the U.S. population topped 300 million for the first time, Rhode Island was one of just four states to see its population decrease in the Census Bureau's annual estimates. From a recent high estimate of 1,078,930 in 2004, the state's population had fallen to 1,067,610 last year, according to estimates. From the 2005 estimate of 1,073,579, the state lost nearly 6,000 residents.

SEE POPULATION, A5



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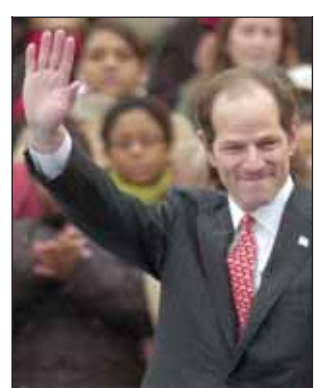
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'Twas the Season

The New England Patriots had the day off yesterday, having racked up the second-best season record in the team's history. A look at the highs and lows of the last 17 weeks. C1

ECONOMY ON THE BRAKES

The slowdown that hit the U.S. economy last year will persist as a chilling correction grips the once red-hot housing market, analysts say. For 2007, many are forecasting the slowest economic pace in five years. E1



SPITZER SWEEPS INTO OFFICE

Democrat Eliot Spitzer, who built an international reputation fighting corruption on Wall Street, launches into a first term as New York's governor by calling for an end to "the politics of cynicism and division" and signing a series of ethics measures. A2

C M Y K