

## Family, friends, public bid farewell to Lee

Written by Taipei Times

Saturday, 15 August 2020 04:40 -

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People hold figurines of former president Lee Teng-hui outside Che-lam Presbyterian Church in Taipei yesterday.

**Photo: CNA**

Family members and close friends bade farewell to former president Lee Teng-hui (李登輝) at a private funeral service at Taipei's Che-Lam Presbyterian Church yesterday morning, after which a funeral procession made a symbolic lap around the Presidential Office Building before winding its way to the Taipei City Second Funeral Parlor.

Lee, dubbed "Mr. Democracy" after he ended Taiwan's autocratic rule in favor of free elections, died on July 30 at the age of 97.

Lee's body was transported in a hearse, departing from Taipei Veterans General Hospital at 6:38am, where about 300 doctors and nurses lined the road to pay their respects.

"The medical staff came out of their own volition to send off the former president," said Hwang Shinn-jiang (黃新江), the hospital's deputy director and spokesman. "They wanted to express their gratitude and regret on the departure of a good friend, especially the medical team who cared for him over the past decade."

"We believe the former president has become '1,000 winds' that are free across the vast sky to always watch over us and protect Taiwan," Hwang said, alluding to lyrics from *A Thousand Winds* (千風吹), one of Lee's favorite songs.

At the funeral service, a church bell rang 21 times at 10am.

Pastors Yeh Chi-hsiang (葉奇翔) and Huang Chun-sheng (黃春生) presided over the service.

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A funeral procession made a symbolic lap around the Presidential Office Building, where Lee held office from 1988 to 2000, during which he became Taiwan's first president by direct popular vote.

Presidential Office Secretary-General David Lee (李進勇) and National Security Council Secretary-General Wellington Koo (顧立雄) headed groups of presidential staff and military officers in front of the building in a guard of honor until the motorcade departed.

The procession wound through Taipei's streets without a portrait of Lee or music.

People lining the route watched in a somber, reflective mood. Some waved and shouted: "Thank you, A-hui Peh" or "We love you, A-hui Peh" (阿輝, or "Uncle A-hui").

From the Presidential Office Building, the motorcade traveled along Roosevelt, Sinsheng S and Sinhai roads to the funeral parlor for the cremation of the body.

At shortly before 2pm, Lee Kun-yi (李坤儀), the former president's granddaughter, departed with an urn containing his ashes to return to the Lee family residence.

A burial is planned for Oct. 7 at the Wuchihshan Military Cemetery in New Taipei City.

Lee Tung-hui's wife, Tseng Wen-hui (曾文惠), was at the home to receive the urn. She did not attend the rest of the day's events over concern for her health, sources said.

Meanwhile, veteran entertainer Lisa Cheng (鄭麗芳) was arrested at the Taipei Guest House after allegedly throwing a balloon containing red paint on a portrait of Lee Teng-hui.

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A memorial to the former president is open to the public at the site, with people leaving messages in his memory.

However, Cheng, who has opposed efforts to remove memorials to Chiang Kai-shek (蔣介石), was arrested immediately after the incident at about 1pm and taken to the Taipei Prosecutors' Office for questioning.

Prosecutors said that they intend to charge her and have ordered her to remain at home pending the judicial process.

Presidential Office spokesman Xavier Chang (張善政) said: "We condemn such irrational, violent acts... Our office urges all people who visit the memorial to respect the wishes of President Lee and his family in a solemn and dignified manner."

Additional reporting by Huang Hsin-po, Liu Ching-ho, Jason Pan and Reuters

Source: [Taipei Times - 2020/0815](#)