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Elizabeth Taylor in the film 'Butterfield 8' in 1961. Film Legend Elizabeth Taylor Remembered Laid to rest near Michael Jackson

(AP) -- Family and friends gathered Thursday for the funeral of Hollywood legend Elizabeth Taylor, in the same celebrity cemetery as her long-time friend pop icon Michael Jackson.

Taylor, the violet-eyed film god-

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dess whose sultry screen persona, stormy personal life and enduring fame and glamour made her one of the last of the classic movie stars and a template for the modern celebrity, died March 23 at age 79.

A day after the actress' death, six weeks after being admitted to Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai hospital with congestive heart failure, guests arrived for the funeral in a fleet of black stretch limos at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale outside Los Angeles.

The ceremony was strictly private. Photographers and media were kept at a distance outside the front gates of the cemetery.

Jackson was buried at Forest Lawn following his death in June 2009 aged 50, from an overdose of the powerful sedative propofol.

Taylor attended that private ceremony in September 2009, although she did not go to a larger, public memorial service, saying she wanted to keep her grief private.

Taylor and Jackson shared a key formative experience in common: they were both child stars who arguably missed out on a proper childhood.