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TRIBUTE



PHOTO BY GEORGE CURRY

With a rich mixture of ceremonial military pomp and ancient tribal customs, Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected president, was buried Sunday in Qunu, the village of his youth. Mandela is considered the father of the country, known as "Tata," which means father. He is also referred to as Madiba, his clan name.

Farewell Nelson Mandela

Mandela, known as Tata or father is buried with honors

By George E. Curry
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

QUNU, South Africa (NNPA) – With a rich mixture of ceremonial military pomp and ancient tribal customs, Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected president, was buried here Sunday in the village of his youth, culminating 10 days of national mourning.

The former Nobel Prize-winner, in accordance with his wishes, was buried in a family graveyard high in rolling green hills where other close relatives are buried, including his father, Makgatho Mandela, who died in 2005; his eldest son, Madiba Thembekile, who died in an automobile accident in 1969; and Makaziwe Mandela, his first daughter who died as an infant in 1948.

In his autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom, Mandela described Qunu as a place where "I spent the happiest years of my boyhood and whence I trace my earliest memories."

To pay tribute to Mandela, leaders and celebrities from around the world made their way to this bucolic community in the eastern section of the country to share their memories of the global icon. Among those attending were Britain's Prince Charles; media mogul Oprah Winfrey, who was escorted by longtime beau Stedman Graham; civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Virgin Airlines founder Richard Branson and British actor Idris Elba, who plays Mandela in the movie, "Long Walk to Freedom."

Guests attending the funeral were transported from a park-and-ride facility at Walter Sisulu University to a makeshift white dome-like auditorium covered in white sheathing. Because seating was restricted to 4,500 accredited guests, many local residents complained that they were relegated to the background, forced to watch the funeral of their most celebrated son on tele-

State Leaders Press for Union Vote

Proposed contract would secure work on Boeing's new 777X plane

Mike Baker
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Political pressure is building in support of letting Puget Sound machinists vote on a Boeing contract proposal in high-stakes negotiations to keep thousands of jobs in Washington State.

Leaders in the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers publicly differed Friday on whether to bring Boeing's latest contract offer to a vote, exposing ten-

sions within the union over how to proceed.

National, state and local political leaders called for a vote, even though local union leaders have already rejected the company's latest offer.

The contract would secure work on Boeing's new 777X airplane at a time when 22 states are competing for those jobs. Gov. Jay Inslee said in a statement that union membership gives each worker a say in his or her future and workers should have the opportunity to exercise

that right.

"That should happen soon, as I have become increasingly concerned that we are at a perilous point in our effort to bring the 777X to Washington state," said Inslee, who was endorsed by the local Machinists union in his campaign for governor last year.

U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen echoed those comments, expressing concern about the region's aerospace future if no labor agreement is in place and saying "the time to vote is now." Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson and

Snohomish County Executive John Lovick also urged the Machinists in their area to hold a vote and also urged them to approve the contract.

State Senate Majority Leader Rodney Tom, a Democrat, and Senate Republican Leader Mark Schoesler sent a joint letter Friday to a local union leader, urging a vote.

"We trust that your members will make the best decision," the two senators wrote. "We respectfully ask, however, that

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Should Barges Transport Fracking Wastewater?

Coast guard says yes; environmentalists fear toxic chemicals

By Kevin Begos
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard wants to allow barges filled with fracking wastewater to ply the nation's rivers on their way toward disposal. Many environmentalists are horrified, but industry groups say barge transport has its advantages.

Now, the wastewater is usually disposed of by truck or rail, which poses more risk for accidents than shipping by barge, according to a government report. And one barge can carry about the same amount of waste as 100 exhaust-spewing trucks.

The disagreements go to the core of the fight over shale gas drilling. Environmentalists say the chemicals in fracking waste are a tragedy in the making, but the industry

says far greater amounts of toxic chemicals are already being moved by barge, including waste from oil drilling.

In 2010, U.S. barges carried 2,000 tons of radioactive waste, almost 1.6 million tons of sulfuric acid and 315 million tons of petroleum products, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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