Queen Elizabeth, Albright among influential people lost

By Bernard McNamee
The Associated Press

She would go on to finish high school, become a mother, and start a new life that would be the envy of many. In her 70s she was a pivotal force in the world, one of the most important political figures of the modern era. She fought for equal rights, royal marriages and birth, and the rights of women and minorities. In Britain, she was the only monarch they had ever known.

Her death in September was arguably the most high-profile event of the year. She was the last remaining member of the royal family and the final link to an era of grandeur and tradition. The world held its breath as she lay in state, and the outpouring of grief was unprecedented. Her funeral was watched by billions around the world, and the words "Rest in Peace" were spoken across the globe.

The cat-eyed, bee-hived queen of England was known the world over for her grace, elegance, and regal bearing. Her four-decade career was marked by a blend of duty and desire, as she balanced her role as queen with her love for the arts and her passion for justice.

A Tuskegee Airman who later helped to bring down the Iron Curtain with his jet fighter, flew 409 fighter combat missions in the 1940s. He was the first African American pilot to fly in combat during World War II.

The charismatic defensive tackle was known the world over for his magnificent athletic prowess and his penchant for violence. He was a true athlete, playing for the Baltimore Ravens, the New England Patriots, and the Buffalo Bills. He was also known for his colorful personality, often getting into trouble with the law.

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The death of a British rock star has left the music world in shock. Meat Loaf, the singer behind "Bat Out of Hell" and "You Are Here," died on May 15. He was 74. Meat Loaf's career spanned over 50 years, and he was known for his powerful voice and his dramatic stage presence.

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She was the so-called "Sister of the Year" and a member of the list of most influential people in the world. Her efforts to revitalize the economy of Alaska and push for independence were lauded across the globe.

He was the only monarch they had ever known. His reign was marked by a period of unprecedented turbulence, including the end of the Cold War.

She was a leading voice in the fight for women's rights, and her legacy is still felt today. She was a role model for generations of women, and her speeches and writings continue to inspire readers around the world.

She was the last leader of the Soviet Union, and his death in March 2022 marked the end of an era. He was the subject of much speculation and debate, with some seeing him as a symbol of the old order and others as a harbinger of change.

She was a vocal advocate for the rights of women and minorities, and her work in the fight for justice will continue to be remembered for years to come. Her contributions to the arts and the community will be celebrated for generations to come.