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STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON

A 20th Century giant is gone. Few men of any times ever shaped the world as did the man from Independence.

President ^{* Harry S.} Truman presided over the destiny of this country during one of its most turbulent eras. Never flinching in the face of crucial national choices, his decisions changed the course of human events throughout the world.

When I last visited President Truman in Independence, I reminded him that it was his vision which led to much of the progress America has made in the health care, aid to education, human rights and so many other programs he urged when they were not nearly so popular.

I told him that many of these became our laws, but they were his dreams.

Because he championed the cause of the people, he had his critics and detractors, but history is just, and Harry Truman will live on in the memory of free people as one of the greatest men to lead freedom's cause.

Harry Truman was my friend before he was President. He continued as friend and counsellor, guide and inspiration after he left the Presidency. When the burdens of that office fell upon me, he was one of the first to call and come to my side, offering his support and strength. I shall miss him in a most personal and private way, and I shall be grateful all my days for the privilege of having known so great a man.

Dec 27, 1972