

Statement to Special Court of Common Council
by Lord Mayor Vincent Keaveny
Guildhall
Monday 12th September 2022

I know that all members will join me in paying their respects to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who died peacefully at Balmoral – surrounded by her family – only four days ago.

The City of London shares in the Nation's grief in our mourning of Her Majesty.

We have all been so fortunate to have known a Monarch as selfless, as dedicated, and as caring as Her Majesty...

...indeed, the City of London has been fortunate to have had such a close relationship with The Queen and the Royal Family...

...a relationship where we publicly celebrated so many moments in Her historic reign, a relationship which we each privately recall today.

She led a life of devotion, to the Kingdom, to the Commonwealth, to us all...

...and we, in turn, were devoted to her.

In Queen Elizabeth II, we saw not only the Sovereign and Defender of the Faith, but everything she was...

...because, more than any other Monarch in history, she shared her life of duty and her private life with all of us...

...even inviting over fifty-thousand people every year to Buckingham Palace to thank them for their service to the country.

She shared with us times of great celebration, like the 2012 Olympic Games...

...and she comforted us in our darkest hours, as she too isolated during the Covid pandemic...

...and as everyone – from ordinary people to presidents – pay their respects across the globe, the world's hearts, minds and prayers are with her and her family.

As our longest reigning Monarch, she oversaw an astounding second Elizabethan Age...

...where British leaders from politics, industry, religion, sport, and the arts went on to redefine the United Kingdom...

...and if Britain is Great, it is because of her inspiring example.

She led a life of constitutional rigor where, even as she approached the end, her sense of duty never left her...

...as she asked our new Prime Minister to form a new Government, as she had done fourteen times before during her seventy-year reign.

As we welcome King Charles III to the throne, proclaimed in time-honoured fashion on the steps of the Royal Exchange on Saturday, I know that all of us will stand alongside his family and mourn the loss of his mother...

...as we usher in a new era for the United Kingdom and say, for the first time in this Court for seventy years.

God save The King.