

Dear All

Prince Philip, aka Duke of Edinburgh passed away last week. He was an amazing personality and lived in the shadow of the Queen supporting her through all her royal engagements without seeking center stage role for himself. Here are some things I learnt as I followed the coverage:

1. Prince Philip was Prince of Greece and Denmark, being born to the Greek and Danish royal family. He was delivered on a dining table by his mother. He left Greece in an orange box as the family was in danger and forced into exile.
2. He was related to the queen, both being great grandchildren of Queen Victoria. They were cousins to start with. He got to know her as teenagers when he was in the Royal Navy. The Queen used to keep a photograph of the Prince when he was away at sea.
3. Prince Philip was one of the youngest lieutenants in the Royal navy, he was in Tokyo Bay with the Royal Navy when the Japanese surrendered in 1945. He surrendered his Greek citizenship and became a nationalized British citizen
4. His mother, a princess later became a nun and gave away all her belongings to the underprivileged. She wore a self -designed nun's habit and led the parade when Prince Philip married the queen in 1947 and the Queen became queen in 1952. He knew he would never be king since the rules didn't allow that. The role of the Queen is to reign but not to rule. Prince Philip did more than 20,000 engagements in his career.
5. In 1961, he was the first member of royalty to appear on Television, he always believed that the public must have a view of their royalty.
6. He started discussing issues of climate in the late 1950s, fifty years before it became popular to discuss it.
7. He looked for ways to contribute to society. He was the International president of the WWF and started the project to save tigers. He designed his own electric car well before 1970 and would drive around in it. The Land Rover he designed will carry his body at the funeral.
8. He was a cricket fan and was the President of the MCC, he was a very good polo player. He started the Duke of Edinburgh awards in 1956 and many millions benefitted from this scholarship including many Olympians. He was also involved with English Football , Tennis and Equestrian bodies.
9. Prince Philip had varied habits, like oil painting, bird watching and was the author of 14 books.
10. He asked Prince Harry (Meghan markel's husband) to walk behind the coffin of Lady Diana. Prince Harry was reluctant and Prince Philip told him he would regret it if he didn't do it for his late mother. He offered to walk behind the coffin if prince Harry joined him and that's how he was seen on television that day with the Earl Of Spencer and Prince Harry.

A really remarkable man who found his own role in the royal family and society while steadfastly supporting his wife to succeed.

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