

FATHER OF A NATION - A



Long Live the King

ROYAL AMONG ROYALS

You have never sought to distance yourself from the lives of your people. You have never asked them to be followers or mere subjects. You have shared their joys, fears and disappointments. You have made them deeply proud of their heritage and their identity. You have made your people feel that the Kingdom of Thailand is indeed their own kingdom. Above all, I feel, you have given them confidence.

This was part of a speech delivered by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, praising His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on his 60th year on the throne in June 2006. Yes, His Majesty is a Royal among Royals.

His Majesty the King of Thailand, whose 82nd birthday on December 5 is celebrated by Thai people and wellwishers all around the world, is the heart and soul of this nation. His Majesty is held in high esteem not only by his own subjects, but also commands enormous respect from people in all parts of the world.



His Majesty the King was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, on Monday, the 5th of December, 1927, being the third and youngest child of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Mahidol of Songkhla. Prince Mahidol came back to reign Thailand and passed away when His Majesty was not yet two years old. His Majesty attended primary school in Thailand for a brief period of time before leaving with his family for Switzerland. There he continued his secondary education at the Ecole Nouvelle de la Suisse Romande, Chailly sur Lausanne and received the Bachelieres Lettres

diploma from the Gymnase Classique Cantonal of Lausanne.

When he decided to further his studies in science, His Majesty was called back to Thailand as a result of the sudden death of his elder brother, King Ananda Mahidol, in June, 1946, which, of course, changed the course of his life completely.



Throughout his reign, His Majesty has lived up to the oath he took when he officially became the King of this nation, "I shall reign with righteousness for the happiness and benefit of the Siamese people." Indeed, His Majesty the King has done just that. He has devoted his life to helping the Thai people by implementing hundreds of sustainable projects throughout the kingdom. A survey shows that from 1982 through 2007, nearly 4,176 projects were originated by His Majesty the King and implemented and sustained by the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board. These projects include development in agriculture, water resources, environment, public health, social welfare and communications. As one of Thailand's famous journalist wrote, "Throughout the country's difficult transitions - from dictatorship to democracy, from an agrarian economy

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His Majesty the King doesn't just tell us how to live; he lives. *Long Live the King.*

to one based on industry and services - it has been the monarchy that has remained constant, a guiding light to steer our path through the storms."



As a loving father, His Majesty has urged his people to live and work together in unity for the greater good of the country. In one of his statements, he said, "Each one has a duty to perform, but it does not mean that each one minds only their own duty. All activities are interrelated. Therefore everyone must be conscious of the duties of others and assist one another." Just as members of a family all have duties and responsibilities towards one another and to the family as a whole, and these duties and responsibilities vary from member to member because of their natural relationships, so too do we have duties and responsibilities as members of this great country.

On Father's Day, we honor all the Nation's fathers for the unconditional love they give to their children and for their selfless dedication to the well-being of their families. Fathers strive to inspire their children to lead lives of integrity, honor, and purpose, and they pray for wisdom and the strength to give their children the love and support they need to achieve their dreams. Our Majesty the King's heritage to his people wasn't words or possessions, but an unspoken treasure, the treasure of his example as a caring monarch and a father.