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[photo caption]

Homer H. Gruenther, special assistant to President Eisenhower, places wreath at tomb of President James Buchanan during services of dedication for the restored plot in Woodward Hill Cemetery Sunday afternoon. Gruenther, who represented the President at the ceremonies, was the main speaker.

### **Buchanan Now Seen Victim Of History**

Historians are beginning to rectify “the many injustices” heaped upon the administration of President James Buchanan, a White House aide said in graveside ceremonies here Sunday.

Homer H. Gruenther, special assistant to President Eisenhower, made the statement during services of dedication for the restored plot where President Buchanan is buried.

He addressed a crowd of about 150 persons who stood beneath umbrellas and canopies, and some out in the open, on the rain-drenched slope in Woodward Hill Cemetery.

“There was great good in Buchanan the man as well as in Buchanan the President,” Gruenther said.

In 1860, the final year of his term, Buchanan found the nation facing the great tragedy that was the Civil War, said Gruenther. Buchanan, waiting for another man to succeed him, was unwilling to act to plunge the country into war, Gruenther said, and had serious reservations, as a lawyer, as to the constitutionality of any such action.

“Perhaps,” Gruenther said, “there was nothing any President could have done to avert that tragedy.”

He said the 46-year-public life of Pennsylvania’s only native-son President “has been unequalled in scope an length of years” by any President except John Quincy Adams.

Gruenther recounted Buchanan’s service, beginning in 1815, as a member of the Pennsylvania

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6—Daily Intelligencer Journal, Lancaster, Pa., [Monday, May 23, 1960.]

[photo caption]

Post 34, American Legion, color guard, raises flag over tomb of President James Buchanan in Woodward Hill Cemetery at start of ceremonies dedicating the restored plot Sunday afternoon.



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## **Buchanan**

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Legislature, of the U.S. House of Representatives, as minister to Russia, as a U.S. Senator, secretary of state, minister to Great Britain, and as the nation's 15th President.

He noted Buchanan's special contributions in the area of international relations. Gruenther read a message from President Eisenhower in which the President said Buchanan "held a conviction that we ought to cultivate peace" throughout the world, not only for the material benefit of the United States but for the general benefit of all the world.

Sunday was selected as the date for the service to mark the 100th anniversary of one of Buchanan's most important contributions to international affairs.

Just 100 years ago last Tuesday President Buchanan welcomed the first diplomatic emissaries from Japan, and on May 22, 1860, he completed the ratification of the peace treaty with Japan.

Lt. General Daniel B. Strickler, accepting the restored grave on behalf of the cemetery trustees, read a message from the present Japanese ambassador to the United States.

The restored plot was presented by Mrs. Georgena V. Havlena, Washington, D.C., president of Pilot International. It was the Lancaster Pilot Club that conducted the drive for the restoration of the grave. The money came from Pennsylvania schoolchildren's penny contributions and from individual and group gifts.

## **OTHER SPEAKERS**

Other speakers were president Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, adjutant general of Pennsylvania, representing Gov. David L. Lawrence, and Mayor Thomas J. Monaghan, Samuel C. Slaymaker, president of the Lancaster County Historical Society, presided at the ceremony.

They spoke from a covered platform that was erected alongside the plot that contains the Buchanan tomb.

The plot, enlarged from its original size through a gift from the Woodward Hill Cemetery trustees, is dominated by a large Vermont granite tombstone. The new stone is a replica of the original marble stone placed on the grave after Buchanan's death in 1868.

About 15 feet from the stone is a new flagpole, which was presented by the Democratic Committee of Lancaster County. A 50-star flag, also a gift from the committee, was run up the pole during the ceremonies by American Legion Post 34 color guard.

The plot, once overgrown with weeds, has been handsomely landscaped.

All during Sunday's hour-long service, a heavy mist fell on the assemblage and cast a grey curtain across the nearby hills. None of the 150 spectators, some of them completely out in the open, made any move to leave.

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## **HONORED BY JAPANESE**

A room in the ceremonial tea house recently dedicated at the Japanese Embassy in Washington has been named for President James Buchanan.

The room honors Buchanan as the man who welcomed Japan's first diplomatic mission to the United States in May 1860. Japanese Ambassador Koichiro Asakai mentioned the

room in a message read here Sunday at the dedication of Buchanan's restored grave by Lt. Gen. Daniel B. Strickler.



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