



Spiro Agnew

November 9, 1918 - September 17, 1996

Berlin, Delaware

Spiro Theodore Agnew, thirty-ninth vice president of the United States and the second vice president to resign the office, died in Berlin, Germany, on September 17, 1996, while on a trip abroad. He was seventy-seven. Born November 9, 1918, in Baltimore to a Greek immigrant father and American mother, he rose through Baltimore County politics to the Maryland governorship and then, as Richard Nixon's running mate in 1968, to the vice presidency - a suburban Republican surprise who became the administration's sharpest rhetorical spear against the press and the counterculture.

"Nattering nabobs of negativism" and other alliterative attacks made him a conservative folk hero and a liberal foil. The career ended in disgrace: federal investigation into kickbacks from his Maryland years led to a 1973 no-contest plea to tax evasion and resignation on October 10, 1973 - ten months before Nixon's own exit. Gerald Ford succeeded him under the Twenty-fifth Amendment. Later years were quieter business and memoir; history kept the resignation as the headline.

Supporters once cast him as a tribune of the silent majority; critics cast him as proof that demagogic style and local corruption can share a ticket. Both readings still haunt discussions of vice-presidential power and accountability.

He died in Berlin on September 17, 1996. The office survived the scandal; the phrasebook of American political insult still borrows his cadence.

Agnew's legacy is a warning about power, rhetoric, and accountability - a vice president who left under

indictment pressure and forced the republic to use its succession tools. Notice Nearby records the death date so September 17 still carries that contested American chapter.

Services

Died in Berlin, Germany, September 17, 1996. 39th U.S. Vice President (1969-1973); resigned October 10, 1973; previously Governor of Maryland.

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