

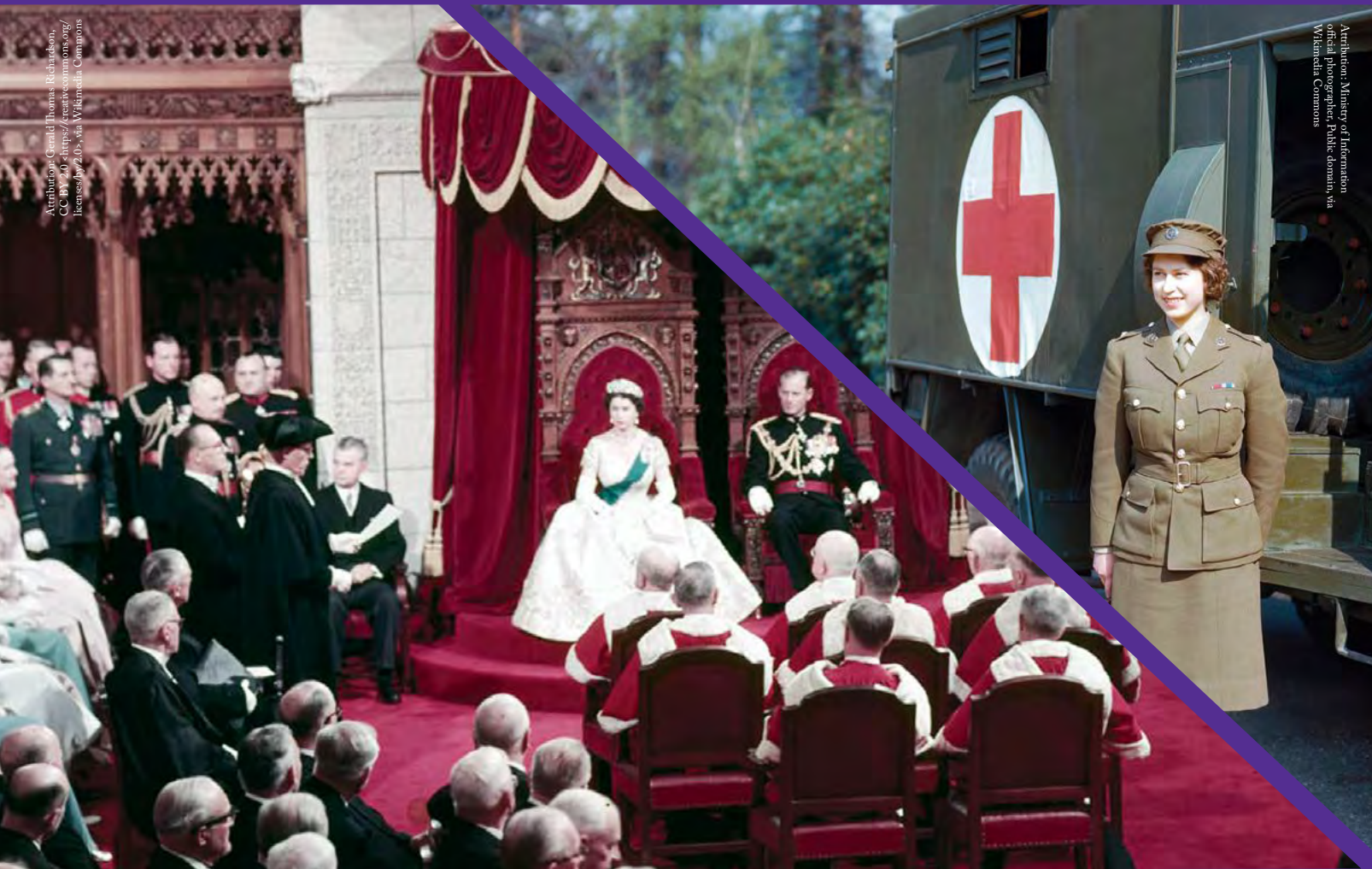


Seventy years is a long time. That's how long Elizabeth was Queen of the United Kingdom. Plus Australia, Canada, New Zealand, India, and a dozen other former British colonies. Millions of Americans loved her.

I first saw the Queen when I was a boy of 15 growing up in Brisbane, Australia. She was 28, and in my boyish eyes, as beautiful as a summer's day or Cinderella at the ball. I joined a huge crowd who lined the streets and waited to see her. A funny man on a bicycle who defied policemen and gravity preceded her entourage by a few minutes. He gave us all a good laugh. It was like a big family get-together. I don't think they ever caught the bicycle man. He was too fast. But that was the day young Queen Elizabeth II captured our hearts.

Later I stood outside Government House with a crowd that chanted, "We want the Queen." She came out on the balcony and we fell in love. Like so many others, including George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Winston Churchill, Tom Cruise, Robert Menzies, and Michelle Obama. She was a different kind of queen. Donald Trump said the two times he visited her will never be forgotten.

WHY THE WORLD *Loved Queen Elizabeth II*



What was so good about Queen Elizabeth? She was not afraid to get her hands dirty. She was not afraid of the Nazi bombs. During the Second World War when Hitler blitzed London, she drove an ambulance. She also worked as an army mechanic. With her family she refused to be evacuated to safe Canada. She was one tough princess. She was not a flake. She had guts. More guts than her critics.

She knew how to work. One silly commentator on TV remarked recently that she never did a day's work. How silly can you get? This gutsy Queen visited Australia 16 times, and on one trip visited 50 towns. Try that sometime if you doubt her work ethic. Her Aussie guests took her to the Outback where it was 115° in the shade. Try that if you think being the Queen was a walk in the park. She was continually visiting, traveling, and shining her light around the world: Africa, America, Asia, India, the Caribbean, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

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She was not a quitter. Seventy years ago, she made a vow to her God. She told Him she would serve His people whether her life was long or short. During her last hours she farewelled the outgoing Prime Minister and welcomed his successor. She understood the meaning of a word that many today find bizarre: DUTY. That means quite simply doing the right thing when you feel like quitting, when you are too tired to take any more, when your friends are fickle, and when all you want to do is fly away to the *"beautiful island of somewhere."*



The Queen greets Winston Churchill.



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Queen Elizabeth was a Christian. Jesus was her Savior, Example, and Friend. He was her source of strength. She went to church every week. Every Christmas for seventy years, she spoke to her nation on radio and TV about the great gift of God in Christ. She was non-partisan. She rode in her chariot above politics. She despised racism, whether it was white, black, or brown. She ignored the detractors. She kept on keeping on. She was not a whiner. She was a winner.

She kept her promise to God. She stayed the course. She was faithful to the end. Seventy years of service. A vow made, a vow kept. Amazing.

“Good night, Elizabeth, we’ll see you in the morning.”

— Written by John Carter