

## **A Prime Dictate in Mourning and Remembrance of Bob Hope**

posted by Gödafrieu Válcadác'h on July 28, 2003 - 13:15

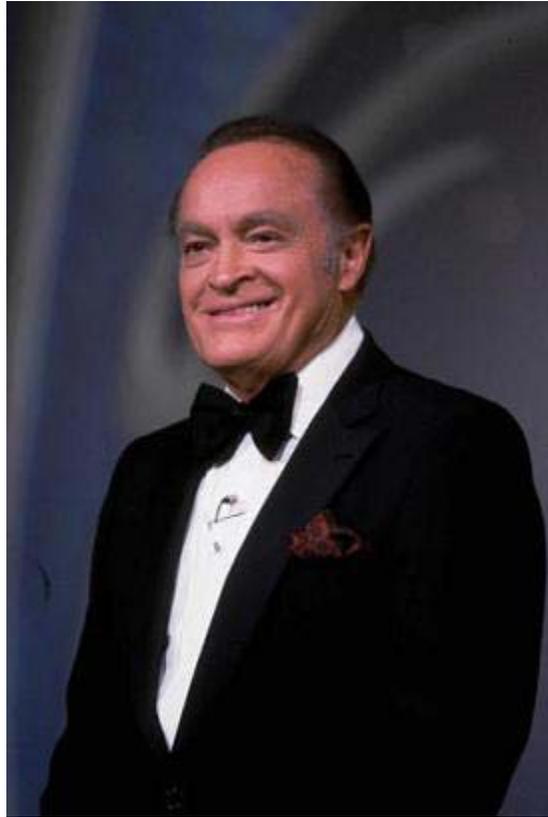
User info

Gödafrieu Válcadác'h

Perhaps the greatest personage which has graced the annals and which will ever grace the annals of the history of all of show business has passed away.

THEREFORE, I, Gödafrieu Válcadác'h, Seneschál del Regipäts Talossán, with all duly vested executive authority and stuff, do hereby PROMULGATE this PRIME DICTATE.





Comedian Bob Hope smiles in a 1982 file photo.

WHEREAS the legendary Bob Hope was born Leslie Townes Hope in 44 Craigton Road, a terraced house in Eltham, then a growing town on the fringes of London on 29 May, 1903, the fifth of seven sons of a British stonemason and a Welsh singer of light opera. The Hopes emigrated to the United States when he was 4 and settled in Cleveland. They found themselves in the backwash of the 1907 depression, not to be confused with the Great Depression which began in 1929. The boy helped out by selling newspapers and working in a shoe store, a drug store and a meat market. He also worked as a caddy and developed a lifelong fondness for golf. A highly competitive golfer, he later shot in the 70s and sponsored the Bob Hope Golf Classic, one of the nation's biggest tournaments.



This is a photo of comedian Bob Hope, born Leslie Townes Hope, as a boy in his native Eltham, England, taken in around 1909.

WHEREAS Hope's first professional stage appearance was in the Fatty Arbuckle show with George Byrne during the 1920s. The two were a great success, Hope's vaudeville career blossomed and in 1932 he made his first appearance on Broadway. Five years later he performed on a radio show and by 1938 had his own show. He began his film career with a series of comic shorts in the mid 1930s but it was *The Big Broadcast* of 1938 which helped to catapult him to fame along with his Academy Award-winning theme song *Thanks for the Memory*.

WHEREAS Bob Hope's first screen test in 1930 was not a success. He complained afterwards: "My nose came on the screen 20 minutes before I did, and I couldn't wait to get out of there." Nevertheless, this self-effacing Pinocchio would go on to enjoy a film career spanning more than half a century, the star of more than 70 films. Already an acclaimed star of vaudeville and radio, Hope broke into cinema when he was asked to replace Jack Benny in "*The Big Broadcast of 1938!*" But the film attracted only small praise - apart from its music. Hope co-starred with Shirley Ross, and the couple sang *Thanks for the Memory*. This poignant and nostalgic song swept America and would accompany Hope down many a sweeping staircase for the rest of his life.

WHEREAS at the age of 12, the aspiring comic Bob Hope won a Charlie Chaplin lookalike contest in Cleveland, Ohio. Years later on the set of "*The Cat and the Canary*", he was approached by his old idol who had seen Hope's out-takes. Chaplin heralded Bob Hope as "one of the best timers of comedy I have ever seen". It is a view few would dispute.



Bob Hope is shown in character in the films 'Nothing But the Truth,' left 'The Paleface,' and 'The Road to Hong Kong,' right, in these undated file photos.

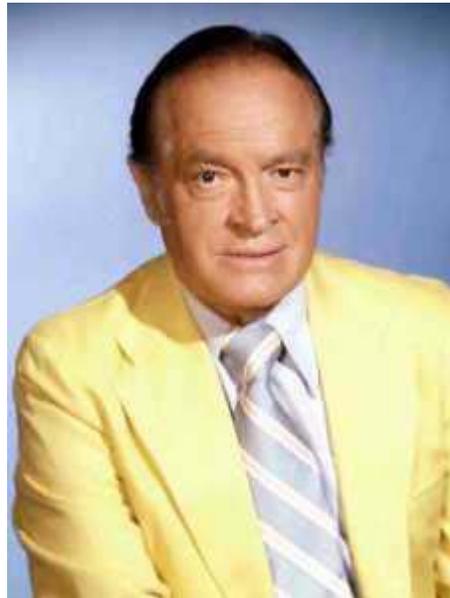


Bob Hope, left, Bing Crosby, right, and Dorothy Lamour are shown in a scene from the first of seven of Paramount's 'Road' films, 'The Road To Singapore,' in this 1940 file photo.

Hope starred in more than 50 films, but is for the "Road to" movies in which he starred with Bing Crosby for which he will be best remembered. The series of comedies began in 1940 with Road to Singapore and ended 22 years later with Road to Hong Kong. The partnership was unique, a double-act in which each had their own individual careers. The on-screen rapport between the two stars continued off-stage. They often stole one another's lines during filming, to brilliant comic effect.



Bob Hope and his wife Dolores are shown attending the premier of Hope's movie 'The Seven Little Foy's' at a Paramount Theater in Hollywood in 1955.



WHEREAS Bob Hope met his wife Dolores when she was a singer in a nightclub in 1934 - the two were married just a few months later. Dolores joined her husband in his vaudeville act but then she retired from the stage temporarily to bring up their four children Linda, Anthony, Kelly and Nora. In the late 1940s she returned to the limelight when she began helping her husband entertain U.S. troops around the world.

WHEREAS on 9 December 1941, when President Roosevelt needed peak radio airtime to tell the American people that they were at war, he used Bob Hope's slot. This would herald the entertainer's 50-year relationship with America's fighting forces, providing him with "the most emotional and gratifying moments of my life". During the first few months of World War II, Hope helped "bring a little laughter into American homes each Tuesday night". He climbed on the Victory Caravan, a train carrying celebrities across the country to be met by Eleanor Roosevelt at the White House, and helped raise more than US \$1 billion for War Relief.

WHEREAS Hope was soon spreading his morale-boosting mission overseas. In 1945 alone, he travelled 30,000 miles to entertain more than a million servicemen. As recently as 1990, he was still performing on makeshift sand-box stages during the Gulf War. Hope brought along the same ingredients which had made his radio show at home a success. And if the gags and buffoonery failed, the sight of a scantily-clad beauty singing a mournful ballad would often succeed. Doris Day, Anita Ekberg and Racquel Welch were among Hope's popular companions.

WHEREAS he sometimes risked his own safety. During the Korean War in 1950, he and his troupe arrived in Communist-occupied Wonsan two days before the Marines liberated the area. Later in Saigon, Hope's hotel was bombed 10 minutes before he arrived. He had been apparently targeted for "keeping up GI morale".

WHEREAS in the makeshift wards of army hospitals, Hope's deadpan humour did much to soothe often horribly maimed GIs. Walking into a room with every patient in traction, he would quip, "Please, don't get up." A Marine once asked him if he had donated blood to the Red Cross. When Hope said he had, the Marine retorted, quick as a flash: "Well, looks like I got yours, then." Sick soldiers were the only ones he allowed to steal the punchline. If he brought a taste of home to the boys abroad, his radio shows, books and later television specials helped ensure that American citizens saw the unglamorous conditions endured by their servicemen. "It's the least we can do," he said, before jetting off to spend another season with the troops. He made his first Christmas trip to Greenland in 1954, and for the next 15 years spent every festive period on the military road.

WHEREAS throughout World War II and the Korean War, Hope travelled more than a million miles entertaining US troops. At Christmas 1948 he began a tradition of Christmas shows for GI's when he and his troupe of performers entertained soldiers involved in the Berlin airlift. In later years he made it to Vietnam, Beirut and in 1990, at the age of 87 he entertained US troops stationed in Saudi Arabia who were serving in the Gulf War.

WHEREAS Hope at first was hawkish on Vietnam. Later, he said he was "just praying they get an honorable peace so our guys don't have to fight. I've seen too many wars." His views opened a gap between the comedian and young Americans opposed to the war. He was sometimes heckled by young people in his audience.

WHEREAS in 1990, he traveled to the Persian Gulf to entertain troops preparing for war with Iraq (news - web sites). Because Saudi Arabia bars female entertainers, he had to leave Marie Osmond and the Pointer Sisters behind in Bahrain. "They have their religion and their beliefs and you have to kind of abide by it," he said. "What bothers me is they don't want any entertainment and they still invited me."

WHEREAS in the mid-'90s, Hope played charity dates around the nation, but he seemed to slow his schedule. What was billed as his last NBC special, "Laughing with the Presidents," focusing on his long friendships with many occupants of the White House, appeared in late 1996.



Bob Hope (at left) and Sammy Davis, Jr. are shown in an undated file photograph.



Bob Hope, left, smokes a water pipe with Bing Crosby in this scene from the 1962 film 'The Road to Hong Kong.'

WHEREAS Hope never had a regular straight man, but he worked often with crooner Bing Crosby, first in radio, where they developed a routine of insulting each other merrily. Crosby helped make Hope's nose famous as a "droop snoot" and a "ski run." For his part, Hope replied: "Only in Hollywood could a meatball make so much gravy."

WHEREAS outside of entertainment Bob Hope's chief pleasure and main interest was golf. The Bob Hope Classic golf tournament became an institution raising large sums of money for charity. Hope continued to play a few holes each day well into his 90s. And to the end he remained a joker. Late on in life he quipped: "Age doesn't mean anything - it's what's inside that counts. Fortunately I have a much younger man in there holding me up." He was a great an ambassador for the sport of Golf as there ever has been.

WHEREAS in recent years, his hearing eroded, although he refused to wear a hearing aid. He suffered recurring eye problems, once remarking: "I've got a hemorrhage in the right eye now, and I used to have one in the left eye. I'm a walking hemorrhage." Until increasing frailty slowed him down, Hope repeatedly pledged never to quit entertaining.

WHEREAS "I'm not retiring until they carry me away," he said. "And I'll have a few routines on the way to the big divot."



Entertainer Bob Hope (at left) and comedian George Burns are shown in this undated file photograph.

WHEREAS on his 100th birthday, he was too frail to take part in public celebrations, but was said to be alert and happy and overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection. The fabled intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street was renamed Bob Hope Square, and President Bush established the Bob Hope American Patriot Award. "He can't believe that this is happening and that he's made it to his Big 100," son Kelly Hope said at the time.

WHEREAS he was the author or co-author of 10 books, including his 1990 autobiography, "Don't Shoot, It's Only Me."

WHEREAS his awards included scores of honorary degrees; special Oscars for humanitarianism and service to the film industry; the George Peabody Award; the National Conference of Christians and Jews Award; and the Medal of Freedom from President Johnson. In 1997, there were new honors: The Navy christened a 950-foot-long, 33,000-ton support ship the USNS Bob Hope, and the Air Force dedicated a C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane as "The Spirit of Bob Hope."

WHEREAS he perfected the one-liner, peppering audiences with a fusillade of brief, topical gags: "I bumped into Gerald Ford the other day. I said, 'Pardon me.' He said, 'I don't do that anymore.'"

WHEREAS he poked fun gently, without malice, and made himself the butt of many jokes. His golf scores and physical attributes, including his celebrated ski-jump nose, were frequent subjects: "I want to tell you, I was built like an athlete once big chest, hard stomach. Of course, that's all behind me now."

WHEREAS when Hope went into one of his monologues, it was almost as though the world was conditioned to respond. No matter that the joke was old or flat; he was Bob Hope and he got laughs.



Jane Russell and Bob Hope in an undated publicity photo

WHEREAS he was admired by his peers, and generations of younger comedians. Woody Allen called Hope "the most influential comedian for me."



Bob Hope cracks jokes to an audience of thousands of GI's massed in an open-air theater in Cu Chi, 20 miles northeast of Saigon during a 1969 Christmas tour of Vietnam. (AP Photo)

WHEREAS though he said he was afraid of flying, Hope traveled countless miles to entertain servicemen in field hospitals, jungles and aircraft carriers from France to Berlin to Vietnam to the Persian Gulf. His Christmas tours became tradition.

WHEREAS he headlined in so many war zones that he had a standard joke for the times he was interrupted by gunfire: "I wonder which one of my pictures they saw?"

WHEREAS so often was Hope away entertaining, and so little did he see his wife, Dolores, and their four adopted children, that he once remarked, "When I get home these days, my kids think I've been booked on a personal appearance tour."



Bob Hope is shown in Beijing with his golf club in this undated file photograph.



Bob Hope is shown holding an Oscar in this March 1978 photo. He made more than 20 appearances on Academy Awards shows from 1939 to 1978 as host, co-host or presenter. Hope loved to tease the stars or joke about his own failure to win a regular Oscar. Not that he didn't receive honorary Academy Awards over the years. He received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in 1960.



Bob Hope is shown at NBC Burbank during the taping of Hope's Special 25 Years of Comedy in this Oct. 15, 1975 file photo.

WHEREAS hope had a reputation as an ad-libber, but he kept a stable of writers and had filing cabinets full of jokes. He never let a good joke die: if it got a laugh in Vietnam, it would get a laugh in Saudi Arabia. He said he traveled with more than a ton of cue cards, the letters growing larger as he aged.

WHEREAS Bob Hope died this past Sunday evening, 27 July, 2003, at his home in Toluca Lake, California with his family at his side. He had turned 100 just two months ago.

WHEREAS "Audiences are my best friends," he liked to say. "You never tire of talking with your best friends."



Bob Hope is shown with various photographs from his career promoting an NBC television special for his 90th birthday in this undated file photograph.

WHEREAS he is the United States' most-honored comedian, a millionaire many times over, was a star in every category open to him: vaudeville, radio, television and film, most notably a string of "Road" movies with longtime friend Bing Crosby. For decades, he took his show on the road to bases around the world, boosting the morale of servicemen from World War II to the First Persian Gulf War.



Bob Hope is seen entertaining troops with the USO on the island of New Georgia in the Solomons, in this 1944 file photo.



Comedian Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell entertain U.S. Marines in this Oct. 26, 1950 file photo, during their United Service Organizations (USO) show tour in Korea.



Bob Hope visits U.S. troops in South Vietnam in this Dec. 25, 1964 file photo in Saigon for his annual Christmas show.



Bob Hope, shown entertaining troops in Danang, South Vietnam, in this Dec. 24, 1970 file photo



Comics Milton Berle, left, and Bob Hope share a moment during Berle's 90th birthday party in this July 12, 1998 file photo, in Beverly Hills, California.



Comedian Milton Berle (news) (L) makes fellow comedian Bob Hope laugh after Hope helped Berle celebrate his 90th birthday by cutting a giant birthday cake at a gala birthday party for Berle in this July 12, 1998 file photo taken at the Beverly Hills Hotel.



Entertainer Bob Hope is asked by his wife Dolores to make a statement after he received an honorary knighthood, Knight Commander Of The Most Excellent Order Of The British Empire, from British Ambassador Sir Christopher Meyer during a ceremony May 17, 1998, at the British Embassy in Washington.

WHEREAS Bob Hope was and is the ultimate comedian, a master of timing who turned the one-liner into an art form and became a national and international institution. More than 89,000 pages of his jokes -- most of them written by an army of other people -- have been preserved in the new Bob Hope Gallery at the U.S. Library of Congress. From classic double entendre to politics, wars, sexual liberation, golf and movie stars, they capture a changing America.

A few of these:

"Wine, women and song have been replaced by prune juice, a heating pad and the Gong Show."  
(1980)

"I consider myself very fortunate. I owe everything to my family and my make-up man. My wonderful family keeps me going and my wonderful make-up man keeps me from looking like I already went."

"I'm tired. I've been digging a bomb shelter under my cellar but I can't quit now. The tunnel almost reaches Hedy Lamarr (news)'s house," during World War II.

"Where else but in America could the Women's Liberation Movement take off their bras, then go on TV to complain about their lack of support?" (1970)

"I have it on good authority that (Senator Joseph) McCarthy is going to disclose the names of 2 million communists. He has just got his hands on the Moscow telephone directory." (1954)

"Students are revolting all over the world. I don't know what they're revolting about, I just know that they're revolting." (1969)

"I feel very humble. But I think I have the strength of character to fight it," (1963, on being awarded a Congressional Gold Medal by President Kennedy)

"It's kinda confusing for Santa Claus over here. He climbs down the chimney and there's no house,"  
(to a gathering of GI's in Vietnam)

"Did you see our show. Or were you sick before?" (to GI's in hospital tents in Burma, Vietnam and Korea)

"As soon as I arrived in camp they gave me a 10-gun salute --- or so they told me on the operating table."

"I guess I have my critics everywhere." (in Saigon where a bomb blast went off at his hotel just before checking in)

"My parents were English. We were too poor to be British." (on his family's British origins)

"A lot of people ask me how I stay in shape. I've got a new video coming out called the Bob Hope workout tape. If you do the exercises carefully you'll be laughed at wherever you go."

"When they asked Jack Benny to do something for the Actor's Orphanage -- he shot both his parents and moved in."

"There's so many talk shows, they're running out of applause machines ... I may have to lend them the one I have over my bed." (to Johnny Carson on the "Tonight Show")

"I went to play golf and tried to shoot my age, But I shot my weight instead." (1984)

"I used to keep my birthday a secret but I decided to stop. I wasn't getting any presents."

"If this hardens, I won't be able to blow it for months." (1943, on immortalizing his hand and nose prints in concrete outside Mann's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.)

In a 1947 radio sketch with Dorothy Lamour:

Lamour: "I'll meet you in front of the pawn shop."

Hope: "Okay Dottie, and then you can kiss me under the balls."

"I don't believe in all that sexual permissiveness you hear about today. Maybe it's because I'm at the age when my bag is my lunch" (1969)

"I'm never going to retire. I intend to be cracking jokes on my way to the grave." (mid 1970s)

"Welcome to the Academy Awards. Or as it's known in my house -- Passover." (1968, opening the Oscar ceremony. Hope won five "special" Oscars, but none of them for acting.)

WHEREAS U. S. President George W. Bush said the US was mourning the loss of "a good man". He said thousands of American troops from different generations had been entertained by Hope. "Bob Hope made us laugh and he lifted our spirits," Mr Bush said. "He served our nation when he went to battlefields and entertained thousands of troops from different generations. We extend our prayers to his family and we'll mourn the loss of a good man. May God bless his soul."

WHEREAS the legendary golfer Arnold Palmer, a friend of the entertainer, said no modern comic could compare with Hope. "Bob Hope dedicated himself so much to entertaining and to being part of the world of entertainment that it would be difficult for anyone to come close to him," he said. "His life was dedicated to making people laugh and he thoroughly enjoyed it."

WHEREAS film critic Derek Malcolm said Hope was a talented comic actor."Many comics are

depressed in real life, but he wasn't - unless he'd had a bad round of golf," he said.

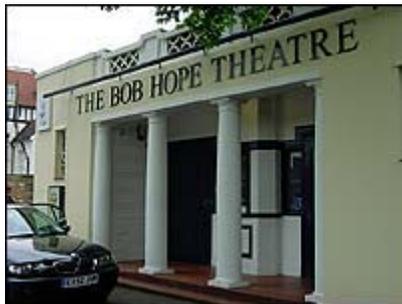
WHEREAS John Marriott, of the Critics' Circle, said Hope was one of the last great entertainers from a golden age. "He was meant to be a very, very nice guy," he said.



Bob Hope's birthplace

WHEREAS over the past century, Eltham has been completely absorbed into the capital. But Hope kept up his ties with his birthplace, and his legacy lives on in a small theatre just off the high street. The Eltham Little Theatre faced closure in 1980 when Hope visited the area. It was operating under a monthly lease while its landlord hoped to sell the building.

Theatre secretary Jim Shepherd recalls: "He was in the UK to promote the Bob Hope Classic Golf Tournament when he heard about the theatre. "Its plight had been publicised locally, and the news got to him through community groups and the local council." Hope resolved to do what he could to help, and raised £58,000 through the golf tournaments which bear his name.



The Bob Hope Theatre in Eltham

By 1982 the venue re-opened as the Bob Hope Theatre, the freehold purchased and its future secure.

The veteran performer became a regular visitor to the venue, which is run by volunteers. When he became too frail, his family kept up contact. "He last visited in 1991 - it was a very informal visit, as it usually has been," Mr Shepherd says.

The theatre's association with one of Hollywood's most well-known families means the 53-year-old local government worker has become firm friends with the Hopes, and was invited to Washington in 1998 when the performer was given an honorary knighthood.

"He'd been given a CBE in the 1970s and the news of the knighthood came as a genuine surprise to him. He was very moved by it," he says.

Mr Shepherd says he found Hope "a very warm and down-to-earth person with no pretensions of stardom".

He adds the entertainer refused to have a fan club - inviting fans to contact his personal office for an autograph instead.

Hope is now honorary co-president of the theatre along with former US President Gerald Ford, an old golfing friend.

Bob Hope's association with Eltham keeps a measure of pride in the area, which gained an unwanted reputation after the 1993 murder of black student Stephen Lawrence, which took place a short walk from Craigton Road.

Mr Shepherd says the theatre is something the community can be proud of.

"The theatre gives an opportunity to everybody in the area - you can just walk in and get involved, and we're the only place in the area where you can do that," he says.

"We have a thriving youth group which has been going for 27 years, and we've seen a lot of emerging talent. Our membership knows no boundaries and the theatre's a real community asset."

Twenty years after Bob Hope stepped in, the theatre's future is secure. It is self-financing, and all its staff are volunteers.

There are plans to refurbish the venue, and a Bob Hope museum is being considered.

Aside from the theatre, a small plaque on the house where he was born is the only other acknowledgement in the area of Eltham's most famous son.

But Mr Shepherd and his colleagues will always be grateful for the day he stepped in to save the theatre, which itself celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

"If it hadn't been for Bob Hope, we wouldn't be here," he says.

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 Based on an idea by **JEROME ROBBINS**  
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WHEREAS UK chat show host Michael Parkinson described him as "the ultimate all-round entertainer". "He wasn't just a comedian, he was an institution and deservedly so," he told the BBC. "He was one of the most significant entertainment figures of the 20th century.

WHEREAS Hope's fellow wartime entertainer Dame Vera Lynn said he had worked tirelessly throughout his life to entertain people. "His contact with people was something he enjoyed and while he was able, he was determined to carry on," she said. "We shall miss him."



Then-U.S. President Bill Clinton and Bob Hope ride away in their golf-cart in this May 21, 1995 file photo at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington as they play a round of golf.



Left: Bob Hope with U. S. President Harry S. Truman  
Middle: Hope with former U. S. President Gerald Ford  
Right: Hope with U. S. President Lyndon B. Johnson  
Far Right: Hope with U. S. President Richard Nixon



Bob Hope with Dwight D. Eisenhower in this undated file photo



Bob Hope and U. S. President Richard Nixon trade quips during the comedian's visit to the White House in this Sept. 20, 1969 file photo.



Then-President Ronald Reagan, left, joins Bob Hope onstage in 'Bob Hope's Salute to the U.S. Air Force' on the service's 40th anniversary at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., on May 10, 1987.



Bob Hope and Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain in this undated photo

I, DO THEREFORE DECLARE 1 August, 2003 to 14 August, 2003 to be a fortnight of Mourning and Remembrance of Bob Hope, an entertainer's entertainer, a comedian's comedian, an American and international icon, an American and international treasure, and a man's man.

Thanks for the memories, Bob...



Comedian Bob Hope entertains troops at Cu Chu, 20 miles northwest of Saigon, Vietnam, in a Dec. 1970 file photo.



Done under my hand on this 28th day of July of the Year of Our Lord Two-Thousand-and-Three, and of the Independence of El Regipäts Talossán the Twenty-fourth

God Save The King,

Gödafríeu Válcadác'h  
Seneschál del Regipäts Talossán

*I must say that, in addition to my profound sadness upon hearing the news of his death, I was mystified at first as to how I could do this document without reiterating information from his birthday PD of two months ago.*

*However, I quickly found that to not be a problem. Almost everything in this Prime Dictate is not a repeat of information from his birthday PD save movie titles, his date of birth, and the like.*

*-GV 28 July, 2003*

## **RE: A Prime Dictate in Mourning and Remembrance of Bob Hope**

posted by IM on July 28, 2003 - 13:49

User Info Text

IM

Very nicely done, Jeff! If I'm ever Pm again I'll ask you to ghostwrite all my PDs!;-)  
A fine tribute to a great man. I fondly remember his shows and appearances on t.v. and watched several of his famous "road" films. Plus he dedicated himself so strongly to the armed forces.

RIP, Mr. Hope. :-(

IM

*I must make a confession here: 99% of the text of this PD as well as almost every other PD of mourning I have issued has been "copied and pasted" directly from the text of various websites. I wish I could write half as well as the guys making the big bucks with Reuters and the BBC.*

*-GV 28 July, 2003*

## **RE: A Prime Dictate in Mourning and Remembrance of Bob Hope**

posted by Mic'háglh Pop on July 28, 2003 - 13:28

User Info Text

Mic'háglh Pop

HUZZAH!!! Outstanding PD, Mr. PM - a great retrospective of one of America's most memorable entertainers.

One quibble - the caption of the photo of Bob Hope and Bill Clinton says they are at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington. The Army-Navy Country Club is actually in Fairfax, not Arlington. I know, because it is across the street from my parent's house!

Mic'háglh Pop

*Once issued, the only legal way in which the text of a PD may be corrected is by way of a Law of the Ziu or another PD. However, this information has been noted for now.*

*-GV 28 July, 2003*

