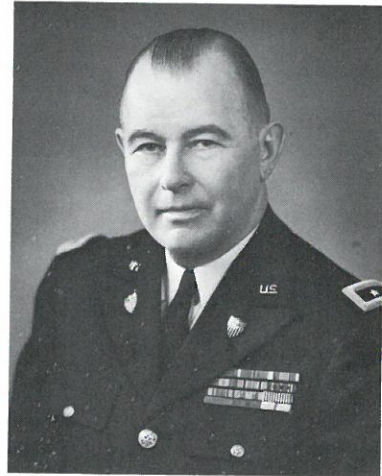


## The Passing of a Leader



1897-1970

William H. Harrison, Jr.  
Major General, MassARNG (Ret.)

*Immediate Past President,  
National Guard Association  
of the United States*

**M**AJOR General William H. Harrison, Jr., two-term President of the National Guard Association of the United States, died suddenly, 20 June, age 73.

General Harrison was chosen for leadership of the Association in 1957, when the Soviets' "Sputnik" opened the Space Age, and extended to 1963 when U.S. commitment in Viet Nam was beginning to grow. It embraced the transition from "tube artillery" to NIKE-AJAX and NIKE-HERCULES in the Army Guard's contribution to around-the-clock air defense; successive major reorganizations of the Army Guard; the Air Guard's assumption of global airlift missions; partial mobilization, Army and Air, in the "Berlin Crisis," and constant progression to higher readiness levels. One of the principal participants in the campaign to create a suitable headquarters of its own for the Association, he saw it come to fruition in dedication of the National Guard Memorial in 1959.

Years of dedicated service in various fields of Association activity preceded his election to the Presidency. General Harrison had served on the Committees on Legislation, Membership, Publication, Finance, Policy, and Construction; on the 1954 Normandy Commission, and on the Executive Council from 1950 to 1957. He had chaired the National Guard Memorial Commission since 1964. The Association presented him with its Distinguished Service Medal in 1956.

Adjutant General of Massachusetts from 1946 to 1961, he was President of the Adjutants General Association for four terms, 1949 to 1952. General Harrison also served on the Secretary of Defense's Reserve Forces Policy Board.

His last official action had been attendance at a meeting of the NGAUS' Executive Council in the Memorial last 13 June.

He went to work as a Messenger in the Bay State's Adjutant General's Office in 1915, joined the Navy in 1918, and returned to his civilian job in 1919. He enlisted in Headquarters Detachment, 26th Infantry Division, in 1923, and was commissioned in the Quartermaster Corps in 1926. He was appointed State Quartermaster in 1937, returning to that post after World War II service until his appointment as Adjutant General, and Brigadier General. He was promoted to Major General in 1948.

In July, 1942, General Harrison, then a Major, was ordered into Federal service and upon arrival in Glasgow two months later was appointed Port Quartermaster. In August, 1944, upon his arrival in France, he was appointed Director of Operations for the 5th Major Port. Then a Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded an advance detachment sent to prepare the Port of Antwerp for operation by the U.S. forces and, in spite of constant enemy attack by V-weapons, he developed a superior operating organization from personnel of widely diversified units and established a record for the discharge, dispatch, warehousing and documentation of all cargo received at the Port. In August, 1945, he was appointed Deputy Port Commander for the Port of Antwerp, and for his outstanding services was decorated with the Order of Leopold, awarded by the then Prince Regent of Belgium, and the Legion of Merit. ♦



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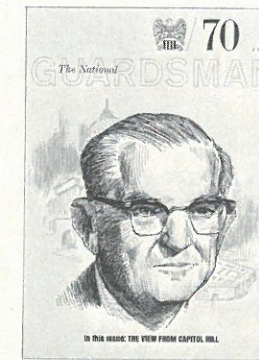
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*One of the principal links between the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. Government in defense matters is Sen. John Stennis, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee, subject of this month's cover article.*

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