

BIN LADEN DEAD

President Obama: 'Justice has been done'

Al-Qaida leader reportedly killed in helicopter raid near Pakistan capital

BY JULIE PACE AND MATT APUZZO
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Osama bin Laden, the glowering mastermind behind the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks that murdered thousands of Americans, was killed in an operation led by the United States, President Barack Obama said Sunday.

"Justice has been done," said the president in a dramatic late-night announcement at the White House.

A small team of Americans killed bin Laden in a firefight Sunday at a compound in Pakistan, the president said, and took custody of his remains. American officials said they were being

handled in accordance with Islamic tradition.

A jubilant crowd gathered outside the White House as word spread of bin Laden's death after a global manhunt that lasted nearly a decade.

Obama said he ordered the operation after receiving undisclosed intelligence information. Senior administration officials said the terrorist mastermind was found inside a custom-built compound with two security gates. They said it appeared to have been constructed to harbor one high-value target and that for undisclosed reasons, officials became clear the hideout was bin Laden's.

Officials also said they believe the death puts al-Qaida on a path of decline that will be difficult to reverse, but there was no word on the whereabouts of bin Laden's second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

The stunning end to the world's most widely-watched manhunt came just months before the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Centers and Pentagon, orchestrated by bin Laden's al-Qaida organization, that killed more than 3,000 people.

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This April 1998 file photo shows al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. President Barack Obama announced Sunday night that bin Laden was killed in an operation led by the United States.

Bush: Bin Laden death 'a victory for America'

DALLAS (AP) — Former President George W. Bush says he has congratulated President Barack Obama after hearing about the death of Osama bin Laden.

In a statement Sunday night, Bush said Obama called to say U.S. forces had killed bin Laden. Bush said he also congratulated the men and women of the military and intelligence communities who devoted their lives to the mission.

Bush said, "This momentous achievement marks a victory for America, for people who seek peace around the world, and for all those who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001."

He also said the U.S. "has sent an unmistakable message: No matter how long it takes, justice will be done."



GEORGE BUSH

Bloomberg: U.S. kept promise to kill bin Laden

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg says Americans have kept their promise after Sept. 11, 2001, to capture or kill Osama bin Laden.

President Barack Obama announced Sunday that bin Laden was killed in an operation led by the United States.

Bloomberg says the killing of the terrorist leader doesn't lessen the suffering Americans experienced at his hands the day the World Trade Center was destroyed but is a "critically important victory" for the nation. He says it's a tribute to the men and women in the armed forces who've fought so hard.

The 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks is just months away.

Bloomberg says in a statement he hopes news of bin Laden's demise will "bring some closure and comfort to all those who lost loved ones" that day.

INSIDE: ▶ Helicopter raid on mansion delivered fatal blow to bin Laden. **Page A6** ▶ U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock touts 'remarkable victory' for America. **Page A3**
▶ U.S. warns of al-Qaida reprisals over bin Laden's killing. **Page A6** ▶ See more reactions to Osama bin Laden's death. **Page A7**

John Paul II beatified before 1.5 million

Rome hosts one of the largest Vatican Masses in history as former pontiff moves closer to sainthood

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
AND VANESSA GERA
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — Some 1.5 million pilgrims flooded Rome on Sunday to watch Pope John Paul II move a step

closer to sainthood in one of the largest Vatican Masses in history, an outpouring of adoration for a beloved and historic figure after years marred by church scandal.

The turnout for the beatification far exceeded even the most optimistic expectation of 1 million people, the number Rome city officials predicted. For Catholics filling St. Peter's Square and its surrounding streets, and for

those watching around the world, the beatification was a welcome hearkening back to the days when the pope was almost universally beloved.

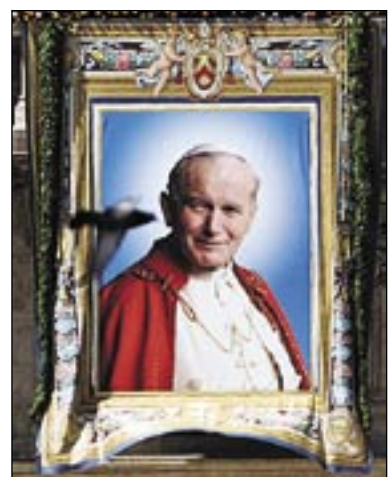
"He was like a king to us, like a father," Marynka Ulaszewska, a 28-year-old from Ciechocinek, Poland, said, weeping. "I hope these emotions will remain with us for a long time," she said.

Pope Benedict XVI praised John Paul for turning back

the seemingly "irreversible" tide of communism with faith, courage and "the strength of a titan, a strength which came to him from God."

John Paul is universally credited with helping bring down communism in his native Poland with support for the Solidarity labor movement, accelerating the fall of the Iron Curtain.

"He rightly reclaimed for



A pigeon flies past the tapestry of John Paul II displayed on the facade of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Sunday.

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LIBYANS ATTACK EMBASSIES

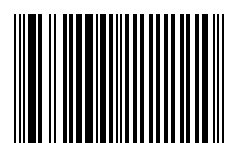


Gadhafi supporters respond to NATO bombing that killed Libyan leader's son (left).
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TRIBUTE TO MOMS

Area kids wish their moms a happy Mother's Day with words and art.
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