

# Louisianans File Past Long's Casket

BATON ROUGE, La. (UPI) — Women wept and fathers held up their little children Tuesday to see the body of Earl Kemp Long, returned in death to the skyscraper capitol that once rang with his gravelly voice.

Long, three times governor of Louisiana and a congressman-elect when he died a victim of his greatest political triumph, lay in state before the red, white and blue bunting he used for his inaugurations.

Women, including red-haired stripper Blaze Starr, sobbed and fathers hoisted up their children to see Long in his bronze casket with a trooper at either end.

Miss Starr, whose name was often linked with Long's during the last 18 months of his life, said she came from Baltimore for the funeral and her shoulders shook and tears streamed down her face when she saw Long's body. She was dressed in black.

Leading the funeral procession through town was State Police Sgt. William Abadie, whom Long fired for not keeping him out of mental hospitals last summer. Abadie was reinstated after a civil service hearing.

An aged Negro woman who said she has prayed for Long "most all my life" came to Baton Rouge from Beaumont to see the remains of one of the most colorful politicians the nation has ever known.

Lula Stull, who followed Long's family past his casket, said that when she heard of Long's death in an Alexandria hospital Monday, "I said, the Lord help me to get back home in time."

While the steady stream of on-lookers marched past the coffin, which bore Long's name in gold, politicians worked behind the scenes to fill the spot of congressional nominee from the eighth district which Long's death vacated.

Long was elected by a stunning 6,000 votes by the voters of his home district last Aug. 27, the day after he suffered a heart attack. Another heart attack Monday killed him. He had been hospitalized since the night of the election.

The Democratic executive committee from the eighth district planned to meet later this week to select a successor to be put on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. Whoever is chosen is assured of election, since Republican opposition is negligible.