

Crowds honor Louis Goldstein

By JEFF NELSON
Staff Writer

Marylanders dazed by the loss of a public icon solemnly joined the cream of the state's political establishment yesterday to honor the late Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein in an unprecedented ceremony under the State House rotunda.

Shock was the word of the day. "He's been a part of our lives for a long time and we just expected him to be here forever," said Sandra Milligan, who came from her Annapolis office in the state revenue collection department.

Politicians and people in shorts alike pocketed gold colored coins — Mr. Goldstein's trademark handout for the hustings — and whispered that they had just seen the ever-smiling living landmark only days before.

"It's a shock because you just never expected him to die. He was just always there," said Annapolis Alderman Ellen Moyer, D-Ward 8.

It was a historic spectacle as the casket was brought into the State House. Twenty-two state troopers, each wearing white gloves and dress uniforms, lined the marble steps to the building, while eight more carefully carried Mr. Goldstein's polished coffin to a wooden bier inside.

Several thousand friends, relatives and people who had seen Mr. Goldstein at countless events and rallies during his 60 years in elected office queued quietly for the slow walk past Gov. Parris Glendening, Lt. Gov. Kathleen

Kennedy Townsend, and the flag-draped coffin flanked by Maryland National Guardsmen.

The procession led then to black crepe-dressed folding tables where a basket of the coins bearing his favorite slogan "God bless you all real good," awaited before a dressed bulletin board of photos, memorabilia, and newspaper clippings about Mr. Goldstein.

In addition to the eight-hour public viewing in the State House, all 20 comptroller's offices in the state were closed today so that employees could attend the public, non-sectarian funeral at 11 a.m. at

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AP photo by John Gillis

Mourners file past the flag-draped coffin of Maryland Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein as he lies in state at the State House yesterday. Mr. Goldstein, who held his post for 40 years, died Friday at the age of 85.



AP photo by John Gillis

Above, Maryland Congressman Steny Hoyer, left foreground, and Maryland Speaker of the House Casper R. Taylor, right, pay their respects, while Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Gov. Parris N. Glendening wait in the background. At right, the casket containing Louis L. Goldstein is carried from the State House by an honor guard of eight State Troopers last night. The body lay in state in Annapolis for eight hours and a public funeral was held this morning in Prince Frederick.



By J. Henson — The Capital

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

MOURNERS

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Trinity United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick

A private, Jewish funeral service was held yesterday before the viewing at Kneseth Israel Congregation on Spa Road in Annapolis

Family members released a statement thanking the state for the unprecedented honors

All of us are comforted by the many kind words people have spoken and written and by being able to join together with all Marylanders to celebrate our father's life," the statement read

Never before has anyone lain in state in the more than two-century-old building

But his many admirers pointed out that never before has Maryland seen the likes of Mr. Goldstein

Mr. Goldstein was best known for

incessantly traveling the state seemingly showing up wherever more than a handful of people were guaranteed to be

He used to outlast the drivers he had. He'd go through two or three in a day. This kind of guy comes along once in a lifetime," said Del. Michael E. Busch, D-Annapolis.

"He was part of our fabric, our very fabric of life here. I think he's unique in American times," said U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.

In his eight years as mayor of Annapolis, Alfred A. Hopkins said Mr. Goldstein never turned down an invitation.

Mr. Hopkins fondly remembers the reopening of Main Street. It was a nighttime ceremony, and the two veterans strolled together from the bottom of the street to the top.

"He was there, always," Mr. Hopkins said. "You could always count on Louie, whether it was war or politics."

Mr. Goldstein was preparing for

his 11th run for the office he has held since 1958. So eager and ready for the campaign was he that the state's official background handout to the media yesterday was an in-depth campaign flier that refers to him in the present tense.

"Gosh darn it, I thought he was going to do it again, I really did," Mr. Glendening said.

The governor was struggling with the concept of having to find a replacement for the man who handled the state's finances since Dwight D. Eisenhower was president.

By all accounts, he did an even better job of handling those finances than he did of making friends on his celebrated hand-shaking and baby-kissing tours.

The state has the highest bond rating in the country, and computerization and reorganization made waiting for tax refunds a measurement of days instead of weeks or months.