

Paying Respects to Justice Ginsburg

Yesterday I saw a video of "mourners" lined up to parade by Justice Ginsburg's casket. They were dressed like tourists and I presume they were. Perhaps they were trying to fill the gap between lunch and their visit to the Lincoln Memorial.

What is proper etiquette for such an event? Is it appropriate to wear one's Magic Kingdom wardrobe? I would not have thought so, but I am old-fashioned enough to think that churchgoers should wear their Sunday best rather than whatever they were wearing when they rolled out of bed.

My impression while watching the video was that the tourists did not wake up intending to visit RGB. They learned while sightseeing that there was a famous corpse in town and decided to join the fun. How exciting! A casket draped with an American flag! My kingdom for a selfie with the box in the background!

Where I live we see news coverage of people affecting sorrow and "paying their respects" to four-year-olds they never knew in life, kids who died when errant gang fire pierced the walls of their bedrooms.

This morning the President and First Lady of the United States came to pay their respects to a deceased Justice of the Supreme Court. The names don't matter. It was an appropriate, perhaps mandatory, ceremonial gesture.

But they were greeted by protesters too obtuse to realize that. Their hooting, their breach of decorum, showed disrespect for Justice Ginsburg as well as for the President.

What would the cretins have said about President Trump if he had not made the visit?

Political differences ought not to survive death, but they do. This is our country these days.