

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Louis Armstrong passed away of a heart attack in his sleep on July 6, 1971, a month before his 70th birthday and 11 months after playing a famous show at the Waldorf-Astoria's Empire Room. He was interred in Flushing Cemetery, Flushing, in Queens, New York City.

His honorary pallbearers included Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Pearl Bailey, Count Basie, Harry James, Frank Sinatra, Ed Sullivan, Earl Wilson, Alan King, Johnny Carson and David Frost. Peggy Lee sang The Lord's Prayer at the services while Al Hibbler sang "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen."

In 1972, he was posthumously awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in by the Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in recognition of his lifetime of creative contributions of outstanding artistic significance to the field of recording.

So now, as we conclude our Mardi Gras celebration and our celebration of the life of Louis Armstrong, we'll close our with a song that he recorded and now is often played when the funeral procession winds it's way through the streets of New Orleans to the place of final burial. On the way to the cemetery, this song is played very slowly, almost like a dirge. But, on the way back, it becomes a lively song of hope and celebration.

Had Louie been buried in New Orleans, we believe this would have been the song that would have accompanied him to his final resting place. Here is our version of that great gospel classic - "When The Saints Go Marching In."