

Former Russian leader Boris Yeltsin buried

by UPI

MOSCOW - Throngs packed a Moscow cathedral Wednesday for the funeral of Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first democratically elected president.

The 76-year-old died Monday of heart failure and his memorial service was at the Russian Orthodox Christ the Savior Cathedral, where his body laid in state since Tuesday, the Novosti news agency reported.

Among the foreign dignitaries attending the service were former U.S. presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, along with German President Horst Koehler, Britain's Prince Andrew, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and former Polish President Lech Walesa. The leaders of former Soviet republics Armenia, Belarus, Estonia, Kazakhstan and Lithuania also attended, the report said.

The golden-domed cathedral was chosen by Yeltsin's family as it was blown up during the regime of Josef Stalin but rebuilt during Yeltsin's eight years in power, Voice of America reported.

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared Wednesday a national day of mourning.

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