Editor’s pick

Queen Beatrix of the Dutch Monarchy abdicated

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On 30 April 2013, Amsterdam witnessed a rare event of the present era. The Queen Beatrix of Dutch Monarchy, stepped down for her eldest son Willem-Alexander. She was in the throne for the past ‘33 touching and inspiring years’ as noted by her son and the new King. Following her abdication, she became the Princess Beatrix. The seventy-five year old, Queen Beatrix announced her abdication in January 2013, saying ‘it is time for a new generation to lead.’ The Queen Beatrix was the sixth monarch, which has ruled the Netherlands since the early 19th Century. Even though the Queen or King is a ceremonial position with few powers, the Dutch royal family, usually referred as the ‘House of Orange’ is “a symbol of national unity” for the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Sources:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarchy_of_the_Netherlands
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beatrix_of_the_Netherlands
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22348160
http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/apr/30/dutch-prince-king-beatrix-abdicates

[This author has been conferred with the ‘Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau’, the highest honour of the Netherlands, by the Queen Beatrix in 2012. It was in appreciation of the efforts taken by this author in studying and translating the monumental 12 volume Latin book on medicinal plants of India, the *Hortus Malabaricus*, prepared by Hendrik van Rheede and published from the Netherlands during 1678-1693.]