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Fletcher Cox, 19, Ex Grainville Student

Guardsman Fletcher Cox, from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, was one of eight chosen to carry the coffin of the longest-reigning monarch in British history - and also the youngest.

The 19-year-old from Jersey attended Grainville School on the Channel Island leaving in 2019. He joined the Army Cadet Forces [ACF] detachment at the school before leaving aged 16 for military school.

Cox, a former Army cadet, fulfilled his childhood ambition by joining the Grenadier Guards. But he could scarcely have imagined he would be trusted to carry the Queen's coffin.

'We're immensely proud of Fletcher and what he's gone on to do. He was a great student at Grainville and showed great leadership qualities. It was a very proud moment for us as a school.

'We inspire, motivate and challenge students to do their best and obviously Fletcher is doing the very best in his chosen career, which is to serve Queen and country.'

Fletcher Cox was at the back of the coffin both during the funeral and the procession of the Queen's casket from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall. He was awarded the Lieutenant-Governor's medal in 2018 - the highest honour a Jersey cadet can be given, leaving the Channel island at 16 to attend a military training college in the UK.



The island's Bailiff and Chief Minister have praised a 19-year-old from Jersey who carried Her Majesty's coffin during yesterday's State Funeral.



Pictured: Fletcher Cox at Government House, where he received an accolade from the Lieutenant-Governor alongside Peter Langlois and Aldo Sappe. (Simon Langlois)

Not only was the islander responsible for conveying the Queen's coffin to the Westminster Hall catafalque last week, but also for carefully carrying it into Westminster Abbey for the State Funeral service and for transferring it onto the gun carriage to start the long procession to Wellington Arch.

Later, the group took Her Majesty into St. George's Chapel in Windsor.

Watching on was Bailiff Sir Timothy Le Cocq, who was at the service yesterday in his capacity as the island's Acting Lieutenant-Governor, the key representative of the Crown in Jersey.



Pictured: Fletcher being congratulated by former Lieutenant-Governor, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton. (Simon Langlois)

Reflecting on the "solemnity and beauty" of the service, he told **The Times** that one of the most emotional tributes came towards the end – the traditional lament of 'Sleep, dearie, sleep' played by a lone piper, signalling the end of the service.

The moment "caused a number of people to dab their eyes", the Bailiff recalled.



Pictured: Bailiff and Acting Lieutenant-Governor Sir Timothy Le Cocq watches the pallbearers carry Her Majesty's coffin out of Westminster Abbey at the end of the service.

Turning to the role of Jersey-born pallbearer Fletcher Cox, Sir Timothy added: "It was pleasing to me, it seemed appropriate somehow that a person from Jersey had a key role in bearing the coffin of the Her Majesty the Queen, because of the deep relationship we have with the crown, it just seemed to resonate properly.

"It must be terribly nerve-racking for them to get the step exactly right, and to do things by the inch. But obviously as these things are done they're done brilliantly."



Pictured: Fletcher taking a leading role in ceremonial duties in Jersey while part of the island's cadet force. (Simon Langlois)

"The role our Uniformed and Armed Services have played in the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been amazing," Deputy Kristina Moore said.

The Chief Minister was also full of praise for the young pallbearer.

"Such dedication, precision and poise. Particularly proud of Jersey man and Grenadier Guard Fletcher Cox who carried the royal coffin."