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NEWS REVIEW

NERUDA RETURNS HOME

The bodies of Chile's greatest poet, Pablo Neruda, and his wife, Matilde Urrutia, were finally laid to rest at the poet's former seaside home in Isla Negra on Saturday.

More than 3,000 people attended the ceremony, which was addressed by President Aylwin, and which finally fulfilled Neruda's wish, expressed in one of his finest works, "Canto General", that he be buried at Isla Negra, "In front of the sea that I know, pitted all over with rocks and waves, which my lost eyes will never see again".

Neruda, who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971, died shortly after the 1973 military coup that overthrew Marxist President, Salvador Allende.

He and Matilde were at

first buried in simple graves in Santiago's General Cemetery on the orders of the military government and the house at Isla Negra was only opened to the public after the Aylwin government took office.

Neruda was a member of the Communist Party and loyal supporter of the Allende regime, and he also served as ambassador to France for a time.

His real name was Neftali Ricardo Reyes Basualto, but when he published his first poem at the age of 15 he used the pseudonym

Pablo Neruda, which he maintained for the rest of his life.

The bodies of Neruda and Matilde were exhumed on Friday and carried to the former Congress building in central Santiago, which is now used by the Foreign Ministry.

There large numbers of the public were able to pay their respects to Neruda and Matilde, before the coffins were transported on Saturday to Isla Negra, on the coast between the towns of Valparaiso and San Antonio. *News Review*

Neruda Returns home [artículo].

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Avenida Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 651, Santiago, Región Metropolitana, Chile