The News
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by Emma Phillips

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the founder of the party previously known as the Front National and whom many consider to be the founder of the French far-right, has died. The news came from the Le Pen family early this afternoon. Jean-Marie Le Pen had spent several weeks in hospital and was 96 years old. His career in politics spanned almost 70 years. He set up the Front National party in 1972 and ran as presidential candidate five times, reaching the second round in 2002.

The party head's daughter, Marine Le Pen, took over the Front National in 2011, later rebranding it to the Rassemblement National. She then expelled her father from the party in 2015 after he made a series of controversial statements, a move Jean-Marie Le Pen described as a "gesture to the establishment". Marine Le Pen learned of her father's death today while she was on her way back from a visit to Mayotte. His other daughter, Marie-Caroline Le Pen, paid tribute to him by posting a photo on X, describing her grief as "inconsolable".

Prime minister François Bayrou said that beyond all of the controversy, Jean Marie Le Pen was a "key figure in French political life". A statement from the Elysée read that his role in politics was now "for history to judge".

Today's date is January 7th, 2025 and it marks ten years since the terrorist attack against *Charlie Hebdo*. Several ceremonies took place in Paris today, including outside the former offices of the satirical newspaper. Tomorrow afternoon, ten years after police officer Clarissa Jean-Philippe was killed by the terrorist Amedy Coulibaly, Emmanuel Macron will preside over a ceremony in her memory and a police station will be opened in her name.

And finally, tomorrow will see four départements in the north of the country placed on amber weather alert for snow and freezing rain, Seine-Maritime, Somme, Pas de Calais and Nord. Up to 10 centimetres of snow are forecast.