Eduard Shevardnadze

■ **1928:** Born in Lanchkhuti, Georgia

■ **1946:** Joins Communist Party, rising through ranks to become Georgia's Party leader in 1972

■ **1985-90, 1991:** Foreign minister under last Soviet leader, *Mikhail Gorbachev*, overseeing thaw in relations with West before fall of Berlin Wall and collapse of USSR

■ **1992:** Returns to Georgia, leading newly independent republic out of instability and civil war

■ **1995:** Elected Georgia's president after surviving assassination attempt

■ **2003:** Resigns from office amid public protests and claims of corruption during Rose Revolution

■ **Jul 7, 2014:** Shevardnadze, 86, dies after long illness