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Three Years After Dallas

This is the day we all go back to Dallas.

We will all remember again where we were on Nov. 22, 1963.

We will remember the strange, lost feeling that night. We will all remember the numbed, abstracted conversations and the long silences between.



JOHN F. KENNEDY

We will remember the young President and his family. We will mourn for and with them again.

We do not remember the young President merely because he died so tragically, but because he lived so vibrantly in so brief a span.

He was as stout a champion and as agreeable a companion as any who ever led us on our long journey as a people. He never failed to remind us of our great strengths or to fortify our weaknesses. He dreamed dreams and made us believe them. He understood the awesome peril of our time. He did not lose heart and we plucked up our courage and followed him, sharing again in a venturesome spirit of confidence and youth. That spirit was his legacy and his immortality, really.

For what he was—buoyant, creative, restless, curiously humble about his own errors and so capable of continuing growth—we value his memory; for what he might have been if he had been given more time, we can only speculate with sadness, and lament the cruelty of fate.