

JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS: 1929-1994

Onassis Laid to Rest at Arlington Cemetery

■ **Services:** President Clinton hails former First Lady at rites alongside grave of John F. Kennedy.

By JOHN M. BRODER
and ELIZABETH SHOGREN
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

WASHINGTON—As a sultry spring breeze rippled the eternal flame she had lit 31 years ago at another moment of national grief, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was laid to rest Monday alongside President John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery.

The former First Lady, who died of cancer last Thursday at 64, was hailed by President Clinton in a brief graveside service as a woman who handled great gifts and bore great burdens "with dignity and grace and uncommon common sense."

"We say goodby to Jackie," Clinton said. "May the flame she lit so long ago burn ever brighter here and always brighter in our hearts."

The burial was preceded by a funeral Mass at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York, where Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) paid tribute to his sis-

ter-in-law as both a friend and an icon of American history and culture.

"She graced our history," Kennedy said. "And for those of us who knew and loved her, she graced our lives."

Mrs. Onassis' body was flown from New York to Washington National Airport aboard a private aircraft. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attended the funeral Mass and flew to Washington with Kennedy family members, where she was met by the President.

Mrs. Onassis' children, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and John F. Kennedy Jr., bade her farewell at Arlington with readings from Scripture. They also laid flowers at the foot of her flower-bedecked mahogany coffin. The Most Rev. Philip Hannan, the retired archbishop of New Orleans who presided over President Kennedy's funeral, sprinkled holy water on the coffin and a Navy chorus sang "Eternal Father Strong to Save."

In a brief 15 minutes, the burial

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TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1994

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Reuters

Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg kneels to kiss her mother's coffin as her brother John F. Kennedy Jr.

and the Most Rev. Philip Hannan look on following graveside services for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

ONASSIS: Burial Rites at Arlington

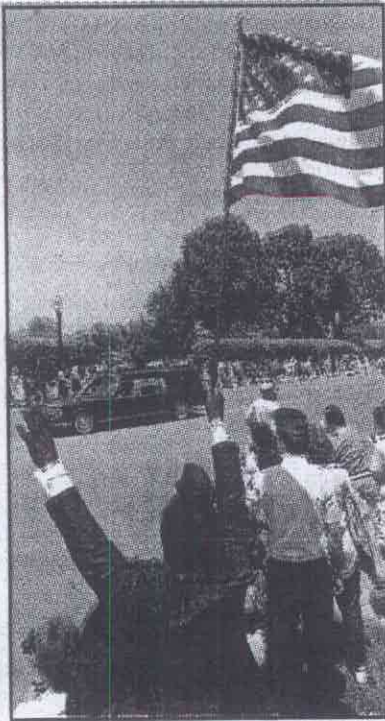
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service was over and the Kennedy family members drifted away, some stopping at the nearby grave of Robert F. Kennedy to pay their respects.

The nation watched on live television as America buried yet another Kennedy. In the hazy distance, the bell of Washington's National Cathedral slowly tolled 64 times.

And thus ended an era of glamour and hope and tragedy that began with the young President's inauguration in 1961 and came to a close on Monday on a verdant hillside in the nation's best-known graveyard of heroes.

The widow of the President who was slain on Nov. 22, 1963, became an image etched in the national



Reuters

Man waves goodbye as hearse of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis enters Arlington National Cemetery.

memory for all these years, forever young and elegant, mysterious and private and yet a public treasure for two generations of Americans.

Jerry Grasso, 45, a jeweler from Pinellas Park, Fla., brought his video camera to the avenue leading to Arlington cemetery to watch Mrs. Onassis' funeral procession. He said that he remembered the deaths of President Kennedy and his brother, Robert, as marking America's "loss of innocence."

Mrs. Onassis' death, he said, "marks the end of the Kennedy era. As long as she was still alive, the Kennedy era was still alive."

The burial ceremony was attended by about 100 members of the Kennedy, Auchincloss and Radziwill families, including Lee Radziwill Ross, Mrs. Onassis' sister.

Those attending the service were all family except for a few,

including Providencia Paredes, the former First Lady's personal maid in the White House; Paredes' son, Gustavo, who grew up with John Kennedy Jr. and is still a close friend, and Maurice Tempelman, Mrs. Kennedy's close companion for the last 12 years or so.

Buried alongside Kennedy and Mrs. Onassis are the couple's first child, an unnamed daughter still-born in 1956, and an infant son, Patrick, who died three days after his birth in August, 1963.

The honorary pallbearers were Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Timothy Shriver, Christopher Lawford, William K. Smith, Edward M. Kennedy Jr., Anthony Radziwill, Lewis Rutherford Jr. and Jack Walsh. All but Walsh are cousins. Walsh was a Secret Service agent who watched over the Kennedy children when they were in the White

House.

Rose Kennedy, the 103-year-old ailing matriarch of the clan, remained in Florida but planned to watch the burial on television, a family spokesman said.

The Kennedy grave site was closed all day Monday but hundreds of onlookers lined the route into the cemetery and gathered outside its gates. A cemetery spokesman said that 23 other funerals scheduled during the day at the 612-acre cemetery were going on as planned.

"Whether she was soothing a nation grieving for a former President or raising the children with the care and the privacy they deserved or simply being a good friend, she seemed always to do the right thing in the right way," Clinton said.

"May the flame she lit so long ago burn ever brighter here and always brighter in our hearts," the President said. "God bless you, friend, and farewell."

There were more middle-aged women than any other group along the route to the cemetery, but the crowd was mixed. Some tears were shed, but most people were thoughtful, not outwardly emotional. The crowd was hushed as the relatively modest motorcade of black limousines and mini-buses passed.

Small crowds gathered around mourners who carried radios so they could listen to the burial service taking place inside the cemetery gate.

Many of those who came to pay their respects praised Mrs. Onassis' fashion sense and elan, but more than anything else they remembered her for the support she provided the whole country during those tragic November days three decades ago, when she proved to the nation, through her composure and calm, that life would go on.

Person after person remarked on how the image in 1963 of the young widow's face, dry-eyed and draped with a black veil, had remained



John F. Kennedy Jr. touches gravestone of father at Arlington, where mother is laid to rest. Behind him, sister Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg.

Reuters

with them through their lives, a symbol of strength and courage.

Sally Grieb, 50, of Rochester, N.Y., made a point of coming to Washington with her husband, John, during their vacation to pay their respects. "I always looked up to Jacqueline; I think all women my age did," she said.

Laura Frost, 34, of Livermore, Calif., said that Mrs. Onassis preserved her dignity by not appearing on talk shows or writing books. "She was such a graceful, wonderful woman. The world will not be the same without her. An era has passed."

Mimi Ford, 72, of Alexandria, Va. stood in the shadow cast by a tall hedge lining the road leading to the cemetery gate.

"I think Jackie was outstanding. She bore whatever come her way with dignity and with more understanding than we gave her credit for. She never let her emotions get the better of her," Ford said, choking back tears.

Times staff writer Jeff Leeds contributed to this story.



Associated Press

The casket of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis is followed at church by, from left, John F. Kennedy Jr.,

Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, son-in-law Edwin Schlossberg and companion Maurice Tempelsman.

Onassis Remembered as a 'Blessing'

By JOHN J. GOLDMAN
and ROBERT L. JACKSON
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

NEW YORK—In the great marble church of her childhood where she was both baptized and confirmed, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was remembered Monday as a "blessing" who "made a rare and noble contribution to the American spirit."

"She was a blessing to us and to the nation . . ." Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, her brother-in-law, told 1,000 mourners during a moving eulogy, while outside on Park Avenue, solemn crowds stood six deep. "No one ever gave more meaning to the title of First Lady.

"Jackie was too young to be a widow in 1963 and too young to die now . . ." the senior senator from Massachusetts said, his voice ringing through the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, a landmark Italian Renaissance house of worship.

"During those four endless days in 1963, she held us together as a family and a country. In large part because of her, we could grieve and then go on. She lifted us up and in the doubt and darkness she gave her fellow citizens back their pride as Americans. She was then 34 years old."

With prayer and song and tears and laughter—and more than a modicum of privacy—final good-bys were said to the woman many viewed as an American icon.

Outside, a man held up a small sign, hand lettered with a black pen.

"Camelot will be reunited in heaven," it said.

The mourners included lined faces from the New Frontier such as former Kennedy speech writer Theodore Sorenson, White House aide and historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., one time Ambassador to India John Kenneth Galbraith, former White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger, former National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy and former Treasury Secretary C. Douglas Dillon.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attended. So did Lady Bird

Johnson, widow of President Lyndon B. Johnson. She used a cane and held the arm of a Kennedy aide as she moved slowly up the church steps.

There were Kennedy relatives and cousins and nephews and a Hollywood contingent that included actress Daryl Hannah, a friend of John F. Kennedy Jr., and actor Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife, Maria Shriver. From the Senate came Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island and John Kerry of Massachusetts.

From the world of New York politics came Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and his predecessor David N. Dinkins—and there were people Mrs. Onassis' life had touched—her decorator, her colleagues from publishing, her boarding school roommate.

While the body of Mrs. Onassis lay in a closed mahogany casket, decorated with ferns topped by a cross of white and purple lilies-of-the-valley, the people closest to the former First Lady—her two children, John F. Kennedy Jr. and Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, and her longtime companion Maurice Tempelsman—celebrated her life.

Caroline Schlossberg told mourners that her mother, who died of cancer at the age of 64 on Thursday, kept a book on a special bookshelf in her room. The volume, containing a poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay, was presented as a first prize in literature to Mrs. Onassis while she was a student.

As she read the Millay poem, "Memories of Cape Cod," Caroline Schlossberg's voice cracked with emotion.

"Choosing the readings for these services, we struggled to find ones that captured my mother's essence. Three things came to mind over and over again and ultimately dictated our selections," John Kennedy Jr. told the mourners. "They were her love of words, the bonds of home and family and her spirit of adventure."

Tempelsman read one of Mrs.

Onassis' favorite poems, "Ithaca" by the Greek poet Constantine Cavafy.

"But now the journey is over. Too short, alas too short," he concluded. "It was filled with adventure and wisdom, laughter and love, gallantry and grace. So farewell, farewell."

In a highly emotional moment, Metropolitan Opera star Jessye Norman sang "Ave Maria."

For all the tributes, it was the senior senator from Massachusetts, no stranger to sad eulogies, who perhaps captured Mrs. Onassis best—her political savvy, sense of humor, love for her children and grandchildren, her desire for privacy.

"President Kennedy took such delight in her brilliance and her spirit," he told the mourners. "At a White House dinner, he once leaned over and told the wife of the French ambassador: 'Jackie speaks fluent French. But I only understand one of every five words she says—and that word is De Gaulle.'"

In accordance with Mrs. Onassis' wish for privacy, no television cameras were allowed in the church. Outside on Park Avenue, a crowd of about 4,000 stood behind police barricades.

Police completely closed several blocks of the normally busy four-lane thoroughfare for the funeral.

While the funeral service was under way, photographers converged on an elderly woman and her companion. The woman sat on a chair in the middle of the sidewalk in front of an apartment building across the street from the church.

Her head was lowered in prayer.

"I have been praying for her every day," said Elizabeth Montgomery, who gave her age as 94, and who said she had worked as a maid for the Kennedys many years ago.

"Nobody could be nicer than Jackie," she said. "She was marvelous to everybody. She was beautiful in every way. She was a lady to her fingertips."

Farewell From the Family

The following are from some of the readings at Monday's funeral Mass:

■ "Choosing the readings for these services, we struggled to find ones that captured my mother's essence. Three things came to mind over and over again and ultimately dictated our selections. They were her love of words, the bonds of home and family and her spirit of adventure."

—John F. Kennedy Jr.

■ "She was a blessing to us and to the nation—and a lesson to the world on how to do things right, how to be a mother, how to appreciate history, how to be courageous."

—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

■ "The wind in the ash tree sounds like surf on the shore at Truro. . . . The winds died down. They said leave your pebbles on the sand and your shells too and come along. We'll find you another beach like the beach at Truro. Let me listen to the wind in the ash, it sounds like surf on the shore."

—Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg,
reading from a poem by Edna St. Vincent
Millay, "Memory of Cape Cod."

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Edward Kennedy Jr. (son of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy)
Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (son of the late Robert F. Kennedy)
Christopher Lawford (son of Peter and Pat Lawford)
Anthony Radziwill (nephew)
Lewis Rutherford Jr. (nephew)
Timothy Shriver (son of Sargent and Eunice Shriver)
Dr. William Kennedy Smith (son of Jean Kennedy Smith)
Jack Walsh (Secret Service agent who watched Kennedy children)