

## OBITUARIES

# Chester Clifton Jr., 78, Aide to John Kennedy

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Chester V. "Ted" Clifton Jr., 78, a retired Army major general who was senior military aide to President Kennedy, died of lung ailments Dec. 23 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Gen. Clifton joined Kennedy's staff in 1961. His duties required that he be in almost constant touch with the president. He was present at official and social occasions, and he made the trips around the country and the journeys abroad.

He was in the motorcade in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, when Kennedy was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald. He was at Parkland Hospital, where efforts were made to save the chief executive, and he was aboard Air Force One when Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as Kennedy's successor. He helped to make the arrangements for Kennedy's funeral.

Gen. Clifton then served President Johnson as a military aide. In 1965, he retired from the Army and became head of the Washington office of the Thomas J. Deegan Co., a public relations firm. In 1971, he started his own business, Clifton Counsellors, a management and consulting firm that had clients principally in the publishing and printing fields.

With Hugh Sidey and Cecil Stoughton, Gen. Clifton published a book about the assassination called "The Memories—1961 JFK—1963."

Gen. Clifton's White House years capped a military career in which he served as an artillery officer in Europe in World War II and as deputy chief of public information for the Army in the 1950s.

A native of Edmonton, Alberta,

he grew up in Tacoma, Wash. He attended the University of Washington and then went to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., graduating in 1936. He received a master's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin.

During World War II, he served in Italy in the Cassino and Anzio campaigns and in the invasion of southern France in August 1944. He was in France when the war ended and in Germany for a period after that.

In the late 1940s, he served in Washington on the staff of General of the Army Omar N. Bradley when Bradley was Army chief of staff and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1954, after a year as a student at the National War College, Gen. Clifton went to a troop command in West Germany. The following year he was ordered to the staff of the Army's European headquarters in Paris.

In 1956, he was promoted to brigadier general and sent to the Pentagon as deputy chief of information for the Army. He was in that job when he first met Kennedy, who was then the president-elect.

The two were brought together by Charles Bartlett, a mutual friend, and Kennedy asked Gen. Clifton to join his staff after he was inaugurated.

Gen. Clifton was promoted to major general during his White House years, and he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by President Johnson when he retired. His other military decorations included the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the French Croix de Guerre and the Italian Cross of Military Valor.

He lived in Washington and was a member of the Federal City Club, the National Press Club, the National Aviation Club and the Burning Tree Club. He attended services at the Washington Cathedral.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Anne Bodine Clifton of Washington; and a brother, John R. Clifton of Napa, Calif.