

a Memory



by Fabian Bachrach, UPI and AP
WILLIAM R. GREER

... is retiring. He was driving the car when President Kennedy was slain. Page A5.

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Kennedy Death Car Driver Is Retiring With His Memories

By Alfred E. Lewis
Washington Post Staff Writer

The driver of the car in which President John F. Kennedy rode to his death in Dallas 3½ years ago is retiring after 21 years with the Secret Service.

He is William R. Greer, 56, of 9513 Sheridan st., Seabrook, Md. Greer's attorney, Bernard Margolis, told a special retirement board yesterday that a stomach ulcer his client had developed had grown progressively worse since the assassination. Greer underwent surgery for it last January.

Greer's eyes still get misty with the recollection of that fateful afternoon in Dallas. The late President was like a brother to him, he said. He was with him at the Kennedy summer home in Hyannisport the night he was elected and he did not leave the President until his body lay in state in the White House, Greer recalled.

When the shots were fired in Dallas, Greer said, he glanced backward over his shoulder and saw that Gov. Connally, of Texas, had been hit. He saw blood staining Connally's white shirt.

After that, Greer recalled, "I just looked straight ahead at the car in which the police chief was leading our way to the hospital."

He helped carry the dying President into the emergency room on a stretcher. He accompanied his body back to Washington and was one of two Secret Service and two FBI agents in the autopsy room at Bethesda Naval Hospital when the post mortem was performed.

Greer drove the body back to the White House about 3 a.m. that morning and left his charge for the first time. Two hours later, after a shower and a change of clothes, he was back at the White House.

The President called him Bill ("He called all the agents by their first names" and he still wears in his lapel a PT-109 pin the President gave him.

A native of Tyrone, Ireland, Greer served in the Navy before transferring to the Secret Service. In the Navy, he was assigned abroad the S.S. Pottomac, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's yacht. He had chauffeured all the Presidents since Roosevelt and until he was operated on last January he was President Johnson's senior driver.

The Board voted his retirement for physical disability, and awarded him a pension equivalent to two-thirds his \$13,000 annual salary.