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Dr. M. T. Jenkins, Declared JFK Dead

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Dallas — Dr. Marion Thomas (Pepper) Jenkins, who declared President John F. Kennedy dead in the Parkland Memorial Hospital emergency room in 1963, has died at 77.

Dr. Jenkins, who also treated Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, died of stomach cancer Monday, one day short of the 31st anniversary of the assassination. In his classrooms at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, he was a popular lecturer because of his tales of attempting to resuscitate Kennedy and Oswald and of treating Ruby, Oswald's assassin, for cancer.

In a 1992 article in The Journal of the American Medical Association, Dr. Jenkins recalled the moment Kennedy received last rites:

"Mrs. Kennedy returned to the president's side

and I retreated to a corner of the room.

"She kissed the president on the foot, on the leg, on the thigh, on the abdomen, on the chest, and then, on the face. She still looked drawn, pale, shocked and remote. I doubt if she remembers any part of this. Then the priest began the last rites in deliberate, resonant and slow tones, and then it was over."

In the practice of anesthesiology, Dr. Jenkins and a colleague found that by giving an intravenous saline solution to surgical patients with strong blood pressure and pulse, there would be less need for a blood transfusion.

Dr. Jenkins got his medical degree from the University of Texas. He served in the Navy during World War II and joined Parkland in 1948.