

Thousands Visit Grave to Commemorate Kennedy



Senator and Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy kneel at the grave of President Kennedy at Arlington. Set around the eternal flame are military caps of the various armed services. United Press International Telephoto

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—A tiny bouquet of white lilies was placed on John Fitzgerald Kennedy's grave in the chill gray dawn today. By dusk, dozens of other floral offerings had joined Jacqueline Kennedy's lilies within the white picket fence that encloses the hillside grave in Arlington National Cemetery. Mrs. Kennedy did not join the thousands who climbed the steep path to the gravesite on this second anniversary of the President's assassination in Dallas. She remained in seclusion in her Fifth Avenue apartment in New York. Meanwhile, across the nation and throughout the world, services in memory of Mr. Kennedy and tributes to him were held. The lilies were placed on the grave here by Mrs. Kennedy's mother, Mrs.

Hugh D. Auchincloss of Washington, who arrived alone before the cemetery gates had opened. She also laid smaller bouquets of lilies on the adjoining graves of two Kennedy children, Patrick Bouvier and an unnamed infant girl.

The President's brother, Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and his wife visited the grave in early afternoon. He had flown in from Chicago a short time earlier.

Senator Kennedy clutched a small bouquet of white sweetpeas. His wife, her blond hair billowing in the wind, carried white chrysanthemums. Placing their flowers on the grave, they knelt briefly in prayer.

Earlier, others had come to kneel or stand quietly by the grave, among them, Mrs. Sargent Shriver, one of the President's sisters.

Others who visited the site were David Powers, a close political friend and aide to Mr. Kennedy, and Postmaster Gen-

eral Lawrence F. O'Brien, who had managed the Kennedy Presidential campaign and later served as legislative aide.

Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, personal secretary to Mr. Kennedy during both his Senate days and when he was President, stood briefly outside the fence, shook her head and hurried away.

Taps Is Played

The only official ceremony, a simple one without a spoken word, came with the placing of a wreath from President Johnson as an Army bugler, standing on a hill above the grave, played taps.

Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, representing Mr. Johnson at the ceremony, stood bareheaded in the rain while others in the official party huddled under umbrellas.

A wreath from Vice President Humphrey was placed by a military aide. A group from American University brought a wreath bedecked with a ribbon inscribed "and miles to go..." a quotation from the Robert Frost poem "Stopping by

Woods on a Snowy Evening" that was often used by Mr. Kennedy during his campaign in 1960.

Tributes Are Paid

Ten members of the Army Special Forces, created during the Kennedy Administration, drove here from Fort Bragg, N. C., to place a wreath at the gravesite.

There were also wreaths and sprays from the Democratic National Committee, the German Embassy and the Knights of Columbus.

Some of the offerings were simpler. Nestled side by side in one corner inside the fence were a gardenia corsage, a miniature bouquet of marigolds and another of violets.

The children of Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York, who is touring South America, placed pink and white carnations on the grave yesterday.

Despite the rain, some of the thousands who visited the grave today stood for hours, watching the eternal flame, first lit by Mrs. Kennedy nearly two years ago, sputtering in the chill wind.

One young woman, clad in blue jeans and heavy coat, slumped to the ground by the fence. She revived within minutes and was escorted to an ambulance by military aides.

Shortly before 12:30 P.M., the hour when the first shot fired by Lee Harvey Oswald rang out two years ago, the sun broke through after a morning of drizzle. But by 1 o'clock, the sun had disappeared again and the temperature dropped sharply.

Few Talk at Grave

Except for a few whispers, the silence was heavy. Workmen who have been preparing a new Kennedy gravesite 20 feet away ceased work in observance of the anniversary.

The new gravesite, an elaborate memorial of Vermont marble, will be completed by this time next year. The bodies of Mr. Kennedy and his two children will be reburied next July at a private 30-minute service after the cemetery has closed for the night.

Elsewhere in Washington today, memorial masses were conducted at St. Matthew's Cathedral, where the Kennedy funeral was held, and at Holy Trinity and St. Stephen's Churches.

Johnson Lauds Predecessor

Special to The New York Times

FREDERICKSBURG, Tex., Nov. 22—President Johnson said today that neither the brevity of John F. Kennedy's term in office nor the passing of time would dim the memory of Mr. Kennedy's life and achievements.

The President spoke briefly to about 400 persons who gathered at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church here to join him in mourning the death of his predecessor.

Mr. Johnson was accompanied to the memorial services by



Associated Press Wirephoto

'IN THIS VERY ROOM': On the door of the room in which President Kennedy died, a wreath was placed yesterday by Rev. Carl Nighswonger, a chaplain at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. He then led a prayer service.

Mrs. Johnson; Senator Gaylord Nelson, Democrat of Wisconsin, who is here on a speaking engagement, and several aides and secretaries. The President had driven the 15 miles that separates his ranch from this small and predominately German community of 5,000 residents.

Eulogies and prayers for President Kennedy were delivered by two priests, a Protestant minister, a rabbi and Mr. Johnson. All were brief but full of eloquence and feeling. The President declared:

"No one of us who lived on that terrible November day will ever be able to forget what happened then or what we lost there. The years will make more bearable the burden of grief that all of us felt, but not even the passing of time will dim the

memory of the life of John F. Kennedy.

"It is not for us to know how many great things he might have accomplished had he been spared the assassin's hand, but of this we can be certain—he lived long enough, and well enough, to rekindle our spirit, to renew our faith, and to reaffirm our commitment as a people to all great purposes for which this nation was created."

Dallas Marks Day

DALLAS, Nov. 22 (UPI)—A wet mist burned off today, just as it did two years ago, and a fitful sun shone on a city filled with prayer and sorrowing memories.

People brought wreaths and bouquets to the little plaza on

the greensward cut by the roadway leading to the triple underpass where the President's car was passing when the assassination occurred.

"It is our hope that this great man did not die in vain," said H. Rhett James of the Dallas Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A white man and a Negro appeared silently bearing a 30-by-20-inch marker of polished Texas granite and bronze. They placed it there in the plaza where the city next year will place four bronze panels. It read:

"John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963. Died in Dallas, Texas."

Brother Prays in Brazil

Special to The New York Times

NATAL, Brazil, Nov. 22—Senator Robert F. Kennedy and his wife flew to this small agricultural center in Brazil's northeast after attending mass in memory of President Kennedy at a 200-year-old church in Salvador today.

It was a particularly difficult and emotional day for the Kennedy's.

The Senator wept in Salvador when youngsters at a center for unwed mothers sang "God Bless, America." He had tears in his eyes here when he placed a wreath at a memorial bust to his brother in Natal's Praca da Imprensa.

The day started quietly for the Kennedys with a mass in Salvador in the Sao Francisco Roman Catholic Church. Fifty or 60 people, mostly from the city's poorer sections, were

praying in the church at the time.

After the mass, the Kennedys stayed behind in the church to pray alone for several minutes.

The last stop in Salvador was in a slum district where a community center had been re-named for President Kennedy. The Senator was visibly moved. He gathered shoeless children about him and said quietly:

"President Kennedy was most fond of children. Can I ask you do a favor for him? Stay in school, study hard, study as

long as you can, and then work for your city and Brazil."

London Students Pay Homage

LONDON, Nov. 22 (UPI)—There was no ceremony today at Runnymede, site of Britain's national memorial to President Kennedy, but a wreath was laid at the bust of Mr. Kennedy at the International Students' House here.

The bust was paid for by donations from students. It was unveiled by Senator Robert Kennedy when he came to England for the inauguration of the Runnymede memorial by Queen Elizabeth II six months ago.

Mass Is Held in Rome

ROME, Nov. 22 (AP)—Several hundred American residents of Rome, joined by scores of Italians, attended a memorial mass tonight and heard a new choral work, "Requiem for John Kennedy" composed by Alfonso D'Artega.

Secretary of Agriculture Orville F. Freeman attended the Roman Catholic service at the Basilica of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a parish church. Mr. Freeman is here for the biennial conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

American and non-American bishops attended the mass, among them Auxiliary Bishop John Morkovsky of Galveston-Houston; Irish-born Bishop Thomas J. Brosnahan of Free-town, Sierra Leone, and Canadian-born Bishop Cuthbert Martin O'Gare of Yuanling, China, who is now living at the Passionist Monastery in Union City, N. J.

Paris Newspaper Comments

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Nov. 22 — Alone among major Paris newspapers, the independent Combat today published a lengthy commentary on the second anniversary of President Kennedy's death. It read in part:

"His dreams of a great Atlantic community, of an alliance for progress, also of other projects, either got nowhere or only got a start. But under his direction, America became aware that the world had changed in the past 20 years, that a new mental effort was required to adapt this nation to new external conditions. . . America, since he became President, never again be, even without him, what she was before."

Kennedy's Widow Stays At Home on Anniversary

Mrs. John F. Kennedy spent yesterday, the second anniversary of her husband's assassination, in the quiet seclusion of her Fifth Avenue apartment.

Her two children, Caroline and John, Jr., went to school as usual. John Jr. attends kindergarten classes at St. David's School. Caroline goes to the Convent of the Sacred Heart, where she is in the third grade.

The family had spent the weekend at a 10-room farmstead in fox-hunting country near Bernardsville, N. J.

They expect to go to Hammersmith Farm, the Newport, R. I., estate of Mrs. Kennedy's mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Auchincloss, for the Thanksgiving holiday and to celebrate the children's birthdays.

John Jr. will be 5 years old on Thursday, Caroline will be 8 on Saturday.

Special to The New York Times

BERLIN, Nov. 22—More than 400 Berliners braved snow-blanketed streets today to attend a wreath-laying ceremony

at which Mayor Willy Brandt and United States Ambassador George C. McGhee officiated.

The ceremony took place in front of a plaque at the City Hall commemorating President Kennedy's famed "Ich Bin ein Berliner" speech there in June, 1963.

Moscow Still Skeptical

MOSCOW, Nov. 22 (UPI) — Two years after President Kennedy's death, the identity of the killer and the exact circumstances of the assassination have not been cleared up, the Government paper Izvestia said today. "To this day it is not clear whether the murderer acted alone, as the Warren Report said, or with several accomplices," Izvestia's political commentator, Valentin Zorin, wrote.

Brief Service at U. N.

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 22 — A brief memorial service for President Kennedy was held today at the United States Mission to the United Nations. About 80 members of the mission attended the service in the auditorium at 799 United Nations Plaza.

The service concluded with the observance of a minute of silence.