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MEDFORD, MASS., NOV. 21 (AP)-A TRIBUTE WAS PAID TONIGHT TO THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY, WITH A MEMORIAL MASS IN WHICH THE RESPONSES WERE BY A GROUP OF FOLK SINGERS.

THE REV. GEORGE FITZGERALD, NEWMAN CENTER CHAPLAIN AT TUFTS WAS THE CELEBRANT OF THE MASS AND ARRANGED THE PROGRAM, WHICH HE SAID IN A BRIEF SERMON WAS "A TRIBUTE IN WORD AND SONG."

"WE WISH OUR COMMUNITY TO SING OUT ABOUT HIS LIFE AND NOT HIS DEATH," HE SAID. "AND THE MEMORY WHICH MOST MARKS OUR MINDS IS THAT HE LIVED HIS LIFE FULLY; HE DID NOT STAND OUTSIDE IT AND OBSERVE IT; HE BROUGHT TO HIS OWN DAYS AS A YOUNG LEADER, A ZEST AND A FRESHNESS THAT CAUGHT THE EYES OF PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER."

THE MEMORIAL WAS IN THE 83-YEAR-OLD GODDARD CHAPEL ON THE TUFTS CAMPUS, ATOP A HILL A FEW MILES NORTH OF KENNEDY'S HOME CITY OF BOSTON.

THE 350 SEATS IN THE CHAPEL WERE FILLED LONG BEFORE THE START OF THE PROGRAM, AND THE PASSAGEWAY ACROSS THE REAR WAS PACKED WITH STANDEES.

THE PROGRAM BEFORE THE START OF THE MASS INCLUDED A READING FROM ECCLESIASTES, AND THE SINGING OF "CAMELOT" BY THE REV. VINCENT MCDONALD, S.J., WHO IS ASSISTANT NEWMAN CHAPLAIN AT TUFTS.

"CAMELOT" WAS WRITTEN BY ALAN JAY LERNER, A CLASSMATE OF THE PRESIDENT AT HARVARD. IT WAS REPORTED TO BE KENNEDY'S FAVORITE MUSICAL.

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ALSO IN THE PROGRAM WERE THE READING OF A POEM; A FOLK SONG, "TURN, TURN, TURN," BY A TUFTS FRESHMAN, RICHARD MCNEIL, WITH A GUITAR ACCOMPANIMENT, AND A CLOSING SONG BY A TUFTS SINGING GROUP.

DURING THE MASS THE RESPONSES WERE SUNG BY A GROUP OF FOLK SINGERS FROM BOSTON COLLEGE, LED BY JAMES O'HARE, S.J., A GRADUATE STUDENT IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT TUFTS.

THERE WERE FOUR GUITARS TO ACCOMPANY THE SINGING GROUP OF 14, WITH THE CONGREGATION INVITED TO JOIN IN SOME OF THE SIMPLE REFRAINS.

THE MIMEOGRAPHED PROGRAMS INCLUDED A NOTE FROM MRS. ROSE KENNEDY, MOTHER OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.

SHE SENT REGRETS AT BEING UNABLE TO ATTEND, SAYING SHE FELT SHE SHOULD REMAIN CLOSE TO HER HUSBAND, JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, WHO IS ILL.

IN THE AUDIENCE, HOWEVER, WAS MRS. WILLIAM ELLIS, OF NEWTONVILLE, A COUSIN OF MRS. ROSE KENNEDY. HER DAUGHTER, MARY FRANCES ELLIS, 12, WAS WITH HER.

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