

Anniversary 1971

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By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tribute was paid to John F. Kennedy on Monday as the nation recalled his assassination eight years ago.

The late president's relatives, associates and admirers climbed a hill at Arlington National Cemetery and stood in cold, brisk air before the Eternal Flame that marks his grave.

It was a time for remembering the sunny afternoon in Dallas when an assassin's bullet cut down Kennedy as he rode in a motorcade through the city.

"I was in the fifth grade," said a University of Michigan coed who is among the 51 million people to visit the gravesite in eight years. "It was after school and I was taking a flute lesson."

"I was in the seventh," said another girl. "It was in English class. Now, a lot's happened since then."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy arrived alone at his brother's grave shortly after 7 a.m. and placed a single white rose before the Eternal Flame. After a few moments he made the Roman Catholic sign of the cross and walked a few steps to the grave of his other assassinated brother, Robert. He knelt for a moment, and rearranged some flowers that had been scattered by the wind. He left after about 20 minutes.

Mrs. Hugh Auchincloss, the late president's mother-in-law, and her son James, 24, placed a handful of yellow daisies on the grave later in the day and knelt in silent prayers. Evelyn Lincoln, Kennedy's personal secretary, arrived soon after that to honor her former boss.

In Dallas, three clergymen—a Roman Catholic bishop, a rabbi and a Baptist minister—joined Mayor Wes Wise in wreath laying and brief remarks at the Kennedy Plaza memorial. The ceremony was sponsored by the Greater Dallas Council of Churches.

The memorial stands about a block from where the Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald killed Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

As about 50 persons stood in 40-degree weather and drizzle for the ceremony, Wise described Kennedy as "a man of ideas, who inspired inspiration and trust."

In New York, a stage documentary about Kennedy, "JFK," opened off-Broadway Sunday night, the eve of the anniversary.

Associated Press Drama Critic William Glover reported that the play is presented with partisan sympathy that is understandable but which unfortunately drains off possible dramatic vitality."

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