



Associated Press

Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy and her children during a mass for her husband at Arlington National Cemetery yesterday. She carries crutches for leg broken in skiing accident.

## Rites Held at Robert Kennedy's Grave

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 6 — Family members and about a hundred invited guests attended memorial services for Senator Robert F. Kennedy under gray skies at Arlington National Cemetery early today on the fourth anniversary of his death. Leaning against the crutches she carries as a result of a skiing accident in March, the slain Senator's widow, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, stood with his brother, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, at the front of a semicircle of relatives throughout the 45-minute service. Friends and Kennedy staff members, past and present, ranged around the family and up the slope on which is set the white cross marking Robert Kennedy's grave.

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the widow of President John F. Kennedy, and her daughter, Caroline, Mrs. and Mrs. R. Sargent Shriver Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smith

and Robert Kennedy's 11 children were among the family members present.

An aura of family intimacy surrounded the unpublicized services, compared with past years when thousands of people massed at the gravesite.

Five of Robert and Ethel Kennedy's children gave short readings at a mass celebrated by the Rev. Albert F. Pereira of St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church in the family's home parish in McLean, Va. As she descended from the altar following a reading of "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace," the youngest of these, 11-year-old Kerry broke into a smile that was returned by her relatives.

Guests joined in the singing of folk tunes to guitar accompaniment, led by a group of 13 young performers. The lyrics of several of the songs had been adapted from Robert Kennedy's speeches.

Near the end of the services,

the children moved forward to place flowers on their father's grave. Three-year-old Rory, dressed in white with a ribbon in her pony-tailed hair, stepped away from the group and whirled on her toes, waving a red rose at the crowd.

The family then began moving slowly, greeting friends along the way, up the 150-foot walkway to the site where John Kennedy is buried. There, inside a tall enclosure of hedges, Caroline Kennedy laid a rose on the granite marker.

The Kennedys and their friends then drove to Hickory Hill, Mrs. Kennedy's home in McLean.