

Caroline Christens Carrier Named for Father



SMASHING the traditional bottle of champagne against the bow, Caroline Kennedy christens the Carrier Kennedy in honor of her father, the late President John F. Kennedy, Saturday at Newport News, Va. Her mother clasps her hands before her face to

ward off the champagne spray. Son John leans back as he watches the bottle break. President Johnson peers through railing at left. Newport News Shipbuilding Co. president D. A. Holden helps Caroline.

President Voices Prayer for Peace, Praises JFK

Ceremony Is Held for Colossal Ship

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL
NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP)
— President Johnson and Kennedys by the dozen gathered beneath the bow of a colossal aircraft carrier Saturday and a 9-year-old miss christened it the John F. Kennedy in honor of her father.

Caroline Kennedy took two swings before splintering the traditional bottle of champagne on the world's largest conventionally powered aircraft carrier.

Her mother, Jacqueline Ken-

nedy, and her brother, John, 6, were there to help swab champagne from her pretty blue and white dress.

Horns and whistles tooted and blasted. The band blared. And high, above, one at a time, in red against the gray hull, lights spelled out the initials J.F.K. in a copy of the scrawling script of the assassinated president.

Tugs slowly inched the ship into the James River to escort it a mile or so away for a year of outfitting before she joins the fleet.

5 BLOCKS LONG

The 61,450-ton ship is as long as five city blocks, as tall as a 23-story building. Its flight deck is big enough for four football fields, and it cost \$188.5 million.

In the only speech of the day, Johnson noted that it was Kennedy who asked Congress in 1963 for funds for the ship.

"We pray," Johnson said, "that her years will be years of peace. But if she must fight, both the flag she flies and the name she bears will carry a profound message to friend and foe alike."

Kennedy asked for the money for the carrier, Johnson said, because he understood that strength is essential to sustain freedom and because he recognized that "we cannot afford to mark time or stand in place."

'ROLE NOT EASY'

In the course of history, Johnson said, American strength and resolve often have tipped the scales of war against aggres-

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SHIP CEREMONY

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sors or would-be aggressors. He said the role never has been an easy one, that it always required strength and patience and "incredible courage to wait where waiting is appropriate, to avoid disastrous efforts to short-cut history."

And it required sacrifice as the price for commitment to ideals, he said. No president understood better than Kennedy the historic American role and purpose, Johnson said, no man knew the burdens of that role more deeply, and no man ever gave more.

"Let this ship we christen in his name," he said, "be a testament that his countrymen have not forgotten."

Richard Cardinal Cushing, archbishop of Boston and a long-time friend of the Kennedy family, delivered the invocation.

Had he lived, John F. Kennedy would have been 50 Monday. And the man who succeeded him in the White House announced that Friday night he signed a bill making a national historic site of the two-story frame house in which Kennedy was born—at 83 Beale St., Brookline, Mass., a Boston suburb.

The Kennedy family has bought the house and is restoring it to the style of Kennedy's boyhood years there.

This was a day for the Kennedys to overshadow the President in a sense. They had him far outnumbered, for one thing—something like 33 members of the family, from up and down the country, brought by Navy planes.

For Jacqueline Kennedy, it was the first such public ceremony she has attended in this country since the death of Kennedy.

Though Mrs. Kennedy is an

old hand at ship christenings, it was the first for Caroline. So Caroline was sponsor of the carrier and her mother was the matron of honor.