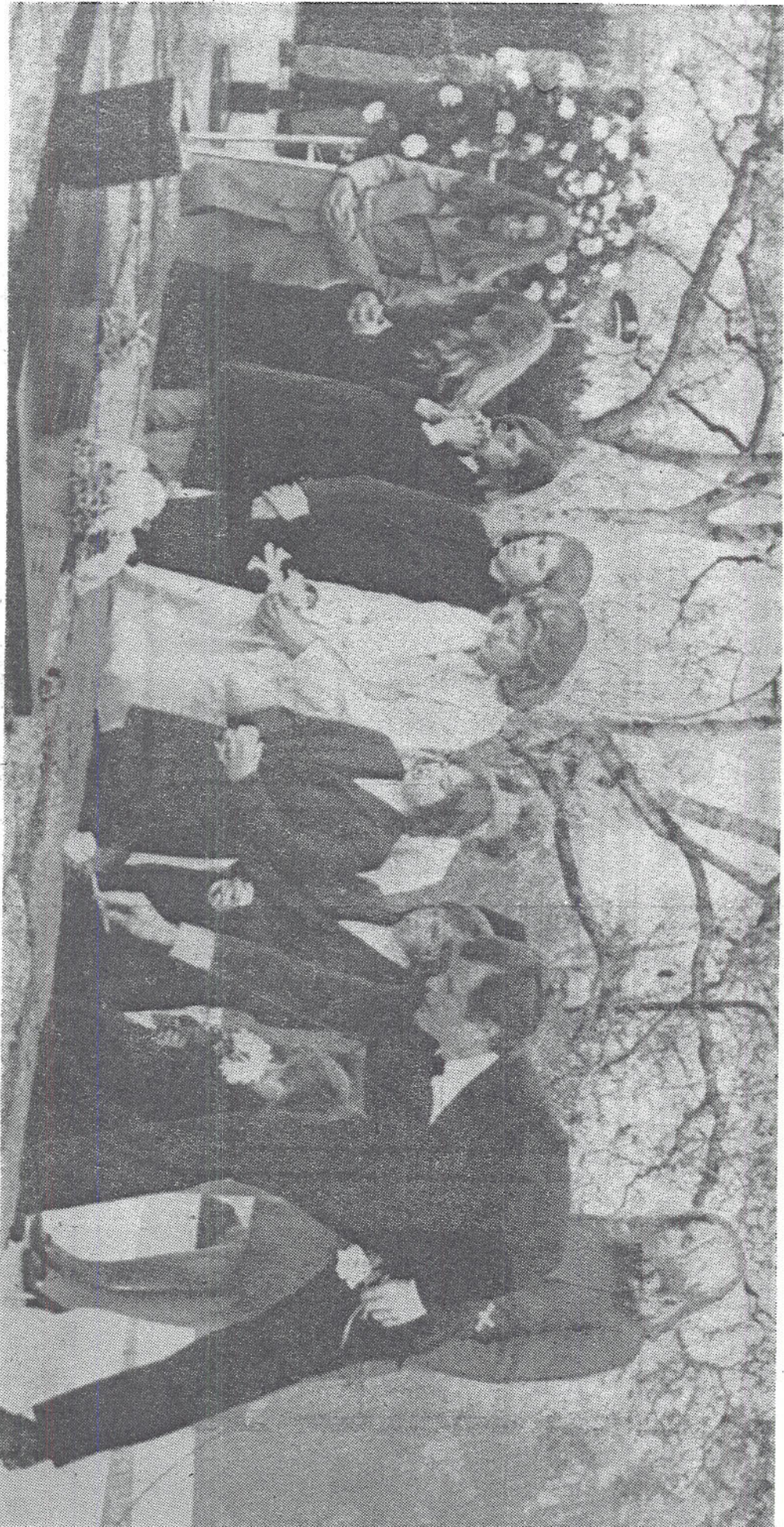


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Senator Edward Kennedy, accompanied by members of the family, placed a flower on the grave of his brother, the late President, at Arlington National Cemetery. AP Wirephoto

The Kennedys' Decade of Anguish

Visit to a President's Grave

Washington

The people who loved John Kennedy, or cherished his ideals, or admired his style, climbed the hill to his grave in Arlington National Cemetery yesterday on the tenth anniversary of his death.

The informal procession began about 7:15 in a cool morning mist that masked the newly risen sun and chilled the marble and granite surfaces of the hillside memorial.

The first visitors were 12 members of the Kennedy family, led by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), the last of the four Kennedy brothers. He was accompanied by his wife, Joan, Ethel Kennedy, widow of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, his sister, Patricia Kennedy Lawford, and eight Kennedy children.

A makeshift kneeling pad of artificial graveside grass was large enough to accommodate only a few of the family group. The others knelt

or stood in prayer on the cold stones in front of the President's grave.

They laid flowers at the headstone of the President and those that mark the graves of Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, an infant son who died two days after his birth, and a stillborn daughter.

Already on the graves were a sterling silver rose from the Italian government and small bouquets of purple and white flowers sent to the cemetery on Wednesday by the President's widow, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Mrs. Onassis was in New York for Thanksgiving.

After spending about five minutes at the President's grave, the Kennedys walked around the hill to the nearby grave of Robert Kennedy, assassinated on the night of his victory in the 1968 California Democratic presidential primary. After another five minutes of silent pray-

er, the family walked to their cars and drove away.

Minutes after they left, a wreath of red, white and blue carnations was placed at President Kennedy's grave on behalf of President Nixon by a military aide.

Later in the morning, Sergeant and Eunice Kennedy Shriver came to the grave with several Shriver children. Cemetery officials said the turnout of citizens at the grave was slightly less than that of a "normal Saturday or Sunday."

Others who made visits to the grave were Evelyn Lincoln, who served as President Kennedy's personal secretary, and a delegation from the Army's Special Forces, a counterinsurgency assistance unit admitted by Mr. Kennedy.

The Green Berets, as the Special Forces members are known, placed a replica of a Green Beret at the memorial at 2 p.m., the hour that President Kennedy was a

pronounced dead on Nov. 22, 1963, at Parkland hospital in Dallas.

The President had been shot minutes earlier by Lee Harvey Oswald as Mr. Kennedy rode in an open car in a parade through Dallas.

The only eulogies spoken at the memorial were the remarks of ordinary citizens who recalled the late President.

"I think it was the way he changed the feeling in the country more than his actual accomplishments in office that mean so much to me," said Garry Light, a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and now an employee of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"It may not be so important to people in the future. I think you had to be living then to feel it."

Jerry Dunne, a seminarian at Desales Hall in Hyattsville, Md., said, "I've been thinking how far we've come from belief in public offi-

cials since he was killed. I think it will take someone like him to restore that belief.

"If you look back at his record, there is not that much there that is tangible, but the belief he inspired is real even if it is intangible."

Some who came to the memorial expressed a continuing political allegiance to the Kennedy family, often coupled with the hope that Senator Kennedy will not risk greater public exposure by running for president in 1976 or later years.

To Candida Powers, a 19-year-old Seaman's apprentice at Patuxent, Md., Naval Station, however, Senator Kennedy's candidacy is inevitable.

Standing near the grave about 8:30 in the now bright Thanksgiving sun, she said, "We'll go for it. The Kennedys stand for going on, for giving it all you've got."

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