

# Joseph P. Kennedy Dead; Forged a Political Dynasty

## Family Tragedies Marred Success in Business and Government

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HYANNIS PORT, Mass., Nov. 18 — Joseph P. Kennedy, the patriarch of a political dynasty beset by tragedy, died peacefully today at his summer home at the age of 81.

A family spokesman said that death came at 11:05 A.M. in a second-floor bedroom overlooking Nantucket Sound. Mr. Kennedy had been unconscious since last Saturday when he suffered another in a series of heart attacks.

At his bedside were his wife of 55 years, Mrs. Rose Kennedy, and the last of his four sons, Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Also in the room were the widows of two other sons, Mrs. Aristotle Onassis, who was married to President John F. Kennedy, and Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, who was married to Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York.

President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 and Robert Kennedy in 1968.

Others present were Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her husband, R. Sargent Shriver, Ambassador to France;



Associated Press

Joseph P. Kennedy

Mrs. Joan Kennedy, wife of Edward Kennedy; Mrs. Jean Kennedy Smith, and her husband, Stephen Smith, and Mrs. Patricia Lawford Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy had been in ill health since 1961 when he suffered a stroke in Palm Beach, Fla. His constant companion since then, Ann Gargan, a niece was also at the bedside.

President Nixon led the nation in expressing sorrow. In

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a statement, the President said: "Joseph P. Kennedy leaves a long and distinguished record of service to his country, a genuinely unique record that involved his entire family in the making of American history. He enjoyed with grace the triumphs of his life and he endured its tragedies with great dignity."

Richard Cardinal Cushing, a long-time friend and spiritual adviser to the Kennedys, said: "His exceptional abilities were generously placed for many years in the service of his country. He instilled a sense of purpose in his family so that all its members extended their increasing maturity into careers of unparalleled public service and achievement. We can truly say of Joseph P. Kennedy that he was a father of the family in our time."

Messages of condolence also were sent by Secretary General Thant of the United Nations and President Eamon DeValera and Prime Minister Jack Lynch of Ireland, homeland of Mr. Kennedy's grandfather.

Funeral services will be simple for the man who served as United States Ambassador to London just before World War II.

A white funeral mass will be celebrated at 9 A.M. Thursday at St. Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic Church in Hyannis, where the family has worshipped, especially during summers, for many years. The mass is called white because the clergy will wear white instead of purple vestments, in accordance with post-Vatican II precepts of accenting the message of resurrection after death rather than mourning.

Cardinal Cushing is expected to preside at the mass. Only the family and a few close friends will attend the service in the church, a white chapboard structure that bears a memorial to Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., a Navy flier who died in action over the English Channel in World War II.

Burial will be in the family plot in Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline. Before the service, Mr. Kennedy's body will remain in his home in the family compound here. There will be no wake.

The official announcement said: "Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy died peacefully today at his home in Hyannis Port. He was 81 years old. Mr. Kennedy was pronounced dead at 11:05 A.M. by his physician, Dr. Robert D. Watt. With him at the time of his death were his wife and members of his family."

Following his stroke eight years ago, Mr. Kennedy had suffered a brain spasm, several heart attacks and in 1968 a heart "block," for which he was given oxygen. Tonight at 6 o'clock, members of the family attended a special mass at St. Francis Xavier's Church. It was celebrated by the Rev. John J. Cavanaugh, former president of the University of Notre Dame and now chaplain at St. Mary's College in Indiana.

Six of the eldest male grandchildren will serve as honorary pallbearers at the funeral. They are Joseph P. Kennedy 3d; Christopher Lawford, Robert Shriver, Stephen Smith Jr., John F. Kennedy Jr. and Edward M. Kennedy Jr. There are 27 grandchildren in the family.





Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy leaving St. Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic Church, Hyannis, yesterday.



Mrs. Kennedy walking along the beach at Hyannis Port with her daughters, Mrs. Steven Smith, center, and Mrs. Patricia Lawford, following the death of her husband yesterday.



United Press International

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat, also walked the beach. With him are his son Edward Jr., 8, and Ann Gargan, who is a niece of the late Joseph P. Kennedy.