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Burial Services

Rabbi Says Ruby Was 'Misguided'

Chicago

The body of Jack Ruby was lowered into a grave yesterday before a small group of mourners.

It was in sharp contrast to the notoriety that surrounded Ruby as the self-appointed avenger of a martyred President.

At funeral services in a northwest side chapel, Rabbi David Graubart described Ruby as "a misguided patriot."

CROWD

Newsmen, photographers and the public were barred from services in the funeral chapel and the cemetery. But a crowd of curiosity seekers — about 30 women, 15 men and three small children — watched the graveside rites from outside a high wire fence. They were joined by some 40 newsmen and television cameramen.

The body of Ruby, slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, was placed in a grave alongside those of his mother, Fannie Rubenstein, and his father, Joseph.

Ruby's three brothers and four sisters were at graveside during the brief conservative Jewish ceremony.

KADDISH

Heads were bowed and all were silent as Ruby's brothers recited the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer similar to the Lord's prayer. His sisters rose for the prayer. Women do not by Jewish tradition recite it.

The family left the cemetery together. They said the words of Rabbi Graubart spoken during the earlier ceremony in the funeral chapel would remain in their hearts.

"The eyes of the world are upon us now," Graubart told 100 persons during the private chapel service. "Jack Ruby linked himself with one

of the most tragic moments in American history. He acted as a patriot, but as a misguided patriot and avenger.

"Jack Ruby was an avenger of the death of the martyred President, John F. Kennedy. He would be called in a scriptural idiom an avenger of blood who pursues the man slayer while his heart is hot and overtakes him.

"Jack Ruby thought he could acquire his spiritual world in one moment, to use the idiom of the ancient rabbis. Jack Ruby, unfortunately, destroyed his world in one moment.

"Shall we condemn him? No. I speak as a religionist who believes that man is beloved of God because he is created in His image.

"The ancient rabbis of old taught us not to judge our fellow men until we come into their place. Jack Ruby was a man who knew affliction, sorrow, and suffering.

"He was not a man of evil, he was a man of kindness to his loved ones.

"We dare not condone this act, yet we dare not sit in judgment."

Ruby was convicted of murdering Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as President Kennedy's slayer, but the conviction was reversed by the Texas Supreme Court.

Ruby was awaiting another trial on the charge when it was discovered that he was suffering from cancer. He died Tuesday in Dallas.

An American flag — an honor accorded because of Ruby's World War II non-combat service in the Army Air Corps — draped his casket at the Original Weinstein and Sons funeral home. It was removed before the coffin was lowered into the ground. All the mourners by then had gone except for one man who stood silently as

cemetery workmen piled dirt into the grave.

Permission to use the American flag on Ruby's coffin was granted by the Veterans' Administration. Ruby served 33 months in the Army Air Corps during World War II. The flag was given to his sister, Mrs. Eva Grant.

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