

Mrs. Kennedy Maintains a Stoic Dignity Throughout Final Hours of Public Grief

WALKS 8 BLOCKS TO THE CATHEDRAL

She Sheds Tears Only Twice — Returns to White House to Greet World Leaders

By ANTHONY LEWIS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (UPI)—Mrs. John F. Kennedy went bravely through her final hours of public grief today.

She walked the eight long blocks from the White House to St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Cathedral behind the caisson carrying the body of her husband to the funeral. It was a gesture that few who watched would ever forget.

She stood erect at his graveside, watching the powers of church and state bid him farewell.

She carried out a final duty as the President's wife, greeting at the White House the leaders of the nations who had come to pay tribute to Mr. Kennedy.

Through the long day of ceremony, she maintained the stoic dignity that she had displayed since an assassin's bullet killed her husband three days ago.

Only twice during the day did her tears appear. Once was in the cathedral, the second time after the burial service.

As the ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery ended, she turned suddenly to Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was a step or two away.

Returns to White House

She embraced him and pressed her veiled cheek against his. Her dark eyes filled, and for an instant her face looked like that of a 34-year-old girl burdened with sorrow, instead of a President's wife.

Then Mrs. Kennedy turned away. She reached out and took the hand of her brother-in-law, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy—a hand she held often during the day—and went back to the White House for the diplomatic reception.

Today happened to be the third birthday of her son, John Jr., called "John-John" by his father, John and his sister, Caroline, who will be 6 the day after tomorrow, were at the cathedral for the funeral service but were spared the ceremony at the cemetery.

As the children left the cathedral after the service John saw the honor guard of nine servicemen carry the flag-covered coffin of his father to the caisson that would bear it to Arlington.

He looked up at his mother. She whispered to him. Then he handed her a prayer book he was carrying, and his small right hand suddenly shot up to salute.

The children were taken back to the White House by their nurse, Miss Maud Shaw, and some Secret Service men.

The official business of the day began for Mrs. Kennedy at 10:25 o'clock this morning. She left the White House to travel by limousine to the Capitol, where thousands of persons had filed past the bier of the President.

Members of the White House staff lined the driveway. Across Pennsylvania Avenue, in Lafayette Park, the crowd of 20 to 30 persons deep. All was still.

Walks Between Brothers

The limousine soon reached the Capitol. Mrs. Kennedy walked up the steps with Robert Kennedy on her right and his brother, Edward M. Kennedy, on her left.

They walked together into the Rotunda and knelt for about half a minute at the foot of the coffin. Then they turned and went back out into the bright sun, with the body bearers carrying the coffin behind them.

When the procession reached the White House, Mrs. Kennedy got out of the car. She stood for a few moments behind the caisson in the driveway, her head high, her slight figure still. Once she glanced around at the dignitaries gathering behind her.

Then, to the strange sound of the bagpipes, she began the trip to the cathedral.

Past the silent crowds she walked, her two brothers-in-law on either side. Behind them came President Johnson and all the dignitaries. But the eyes of the people were on Mrs. Kennedy.

She was all in black. Her face and her brown hair could be seen only dimly from the distance, behind the black veil she flew against her face.

As the extraordinary walk began, she took Robert Kennedy's hand and held it. But then, resolutely, she dropped it and walked alone.

At the cathedral she waited for the children, who were driven over from the White House. She took them, one on each hand, and led them up the steps to meet Richard Cardinal Cushing. She dipped down in a genuflection and kissed his ring.

John seemed to be crying as they went into the cathedral, but his mother said a few words to him and he stopped. She could not so easily console Caroline, who wept after the service as they followed the coffin out of the church.

The procession formed again for the ride to Arlington. The horse-drawn caisson and the limousines crossed the Potomac. Probably few noticed the few fishermen with lines in the icy water.

Grave at Base of Hill

The grave was at the base of the hill below the Custis-Lee Mansion, in an open space among the tall, bare elms. A

John Jr., on 3d Birthday, Salutes His Father's Passing Coffin

He Attends Funeral Rites With Mother and Caroline

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (UPI)—A little boy at his grieving mother's side saluted the passing coffin.

And in that moment, he seemed the brave soldier his father would have wanted him to be on this day.

Today, John F. Kennedy Jr. was 3 years old. His world was strangely different, in little ways a child notices but does not understand.

Where was his father? The tall man with the laughing blue eyes who had a big desk and saw lots of important people and stooped to spank him good-naturedly and took him on helicopter rides and called him John-John.

This was supposed to be the day of The Party—the cake with three candles to blow out, the friends singing boisterous "Happy Birthdays," the gifts.

He did get a letter, as did his sister, Caroline, from President Johnson. No one outside the White House knew what the letters said.

But home, the White House, was quiet. Some of the furniture was gone.

Soldiers Are Stern

And the soldiers outside, whose salutes he delighted in trying to return with one of his own, looked different. Today they did not glance down at him and sneak a wink or a smile. Their commands barked, their rifles clattered harshly.

His mother, Mrs. John F. Kennedy, left in the morning to go to the Capitol and ride back behind the soldiers and the horses and the wagon with the flag-covered box.

He and his sister, meanwhile, dressed and put on their blue coats. It was cold outside. Caroline will be 6 on Wednesday. There was supposed to be a big birthday celebration at Hyannis Port on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving.

John was born on a Thanksgiving Day. His father had just been elected President.

Secret Service agents came and led John and his sister out to the north portico. Mrs. Kennedy, dressed in black, met them at the door and took them to a limousine. Then she walked back up in line with their uncles, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, and the slow, sad march to the church began.

President and Mrs. Johnson and a host of aides and security agents followed Mrs. Kennedy on foot. John and Caroline rode in the car behind them.

A half-mile later, in front of St. Matthew's Cathedral, the parade stopped. John and Caroline were brought around to join their mother.

The little boy looked around, bewildered, and started crying. His mother spoke to him softly and he stopped.

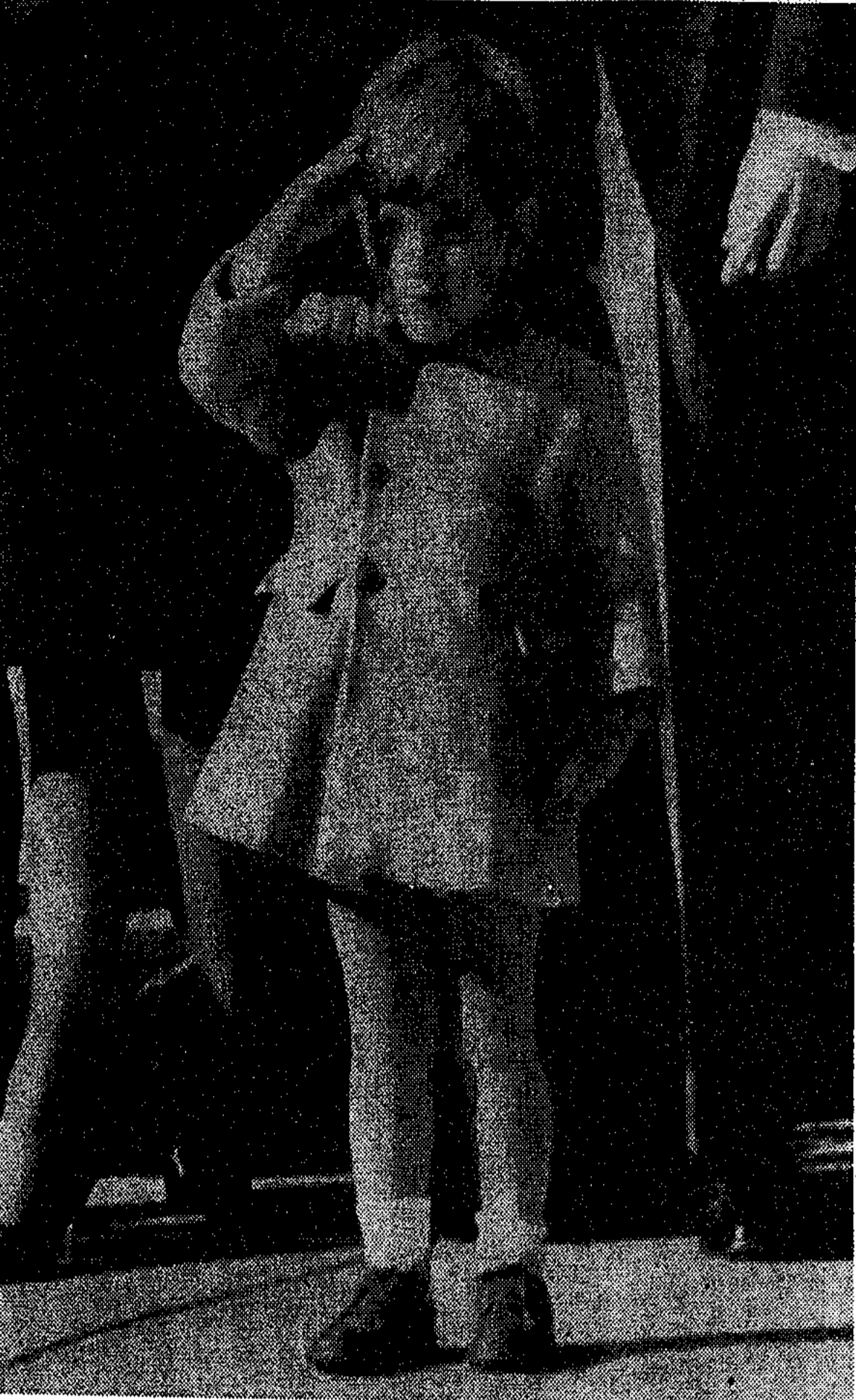
They walked up the steps of the cathedral, and there waiting was Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston. John seemed awed by the tall, craggy-faced man towering above him, wearing a white, two-pointed miter and black vestments.

The Cardinal had married the children by the hand, walked in and down the aisle to their seats.

John, who only recently started attending public worship services, grew restless during the mass. Someone picked a small book—"The Church Today—Growth or Decline"—from the literature rack at the rear of the cathedral and gave it to the boy to occupy him. He still clasped it in his hand when he left the church with his mother and sister.

They stood waiting at the bottom of the steps. Pallbearers appeared at the door with the flag-draped coffin, and as it came slowly down toward them, Mrs. Kennedy leaned down and whispered to her son.

He stood apart, straightened stiffly, and raised his hand in salute as the coffin passed. He smiled softly and proudly.



John Kennedy Jr. salutes as the coffin of President Kennedy is carried from cathedral



John and his sister, Caroline, leave after hearing mass

STUNNED SILENCE IN MASSACHUSETTS

Memorial Services Timed With Rites at Arlington

By JOHN H. FENTON
Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, Nov. 25—Massachusetts paid its official tribute to a native son today in ceremonies timed to those in Arlington National Cemetery, where President Kennedy was laid to rest.

With Gov. Endicott Peabody in Washington attending the national services, Lieut. Gov. Francis X. Bellotti presided at the Boston rites on a plaza in front of the Massachusetts State House.

The Right Rev. Msgr. Christopher Griffin, chaplain of the Massachusetts Senate, led the throng gathered in the Roman Catholic communal service for the dead.

Two battle groups of the 26th, Yankee Division and a squadron from the 102d Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard stood at attention facing the Capitol. An artillery battalion from the Yankee Division fired a 21-gun salute on the adjacent Boston Common.

At 5 P.M., the battalion fired a 50-gun salute, one for each state of the Union.

In suburban Brookline, where the late President was born, a delegation of high school students placed a wreath at the birthplace, at 83 Beals Street, in a municipal cemetery.

Many View Birthplace

Since Friday, the day that Mr. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, many people have walked past the three-story gray clapboard house. Many of them have paused to read the plaque commemorating the late President's birth.

Throughout the metropolitan area, as throughout the Commonwealth, Massachusetts observed the day of national mourning in stunned silence.

Food purveyors and a few other places dealing in necessities were closed from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. But all other businesses, except banks, were closed for the day. Banks were required by law to be open but they operated with only small staffs.

Houses of worship of all denominations held memorial services and kept their buildings open through the day for meditation and prayer.

The roar and thump of bulldozers and wrecking cranes, which have filled the air throughout the center of Boston for several months, were silent.

The few pedestrians on the streets picked their way through rubble and mounds of earth and piping marking the process of a toll road extension in the area.

TRIBUTES OFFERED AT 'NIGHT OF STARS'

Eleven thousand persons paid a hushed tribute last night to President Kennedy at the United Jewish Appeal's annual "Night of Stars" at Madison Square Garden, which is usually a festive occasion.

President Johnson, in a special message, called on the audience to "complete the work he [President Kennedy] began so brilliantly."

"Let us build a world in which his children and ours will be proud to live," he said.

Mayor Wagner and Senator Jacob K. Javits joined Mr. Johnson in urging a rededication to the late President's annual "Night of Stars" at Madison Square Garden, which is usually a festive occasion.

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CREWMATE EULOGIZES KENNEDY

LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 25 (UPI)—President Kennedy was eulogized today by a former fellow member of his PT-109 crew as the "best man—more man than I have ever known, or ever hope to know."

Ray Starkey, who wept silently, made his remarks today during a memorial service aboard the cruiser U.S.S. Oklahoma while Mr. Kennedy's funeral was in progress in Washington.

'Eternal Flame' at Arlington Will Be Only Temporary Setup

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25—The "eternal flame" that Mrs. John F. Kennedy lighted at her husband's grave in Arlington National Cemetery today is a temporary installation.

It is a cylinder of propane gas that feeds the flame at the burning jet at a pressure high enough to resist being blown out by the heaviest wind.

The device was installed late last night or early this morning at the request of Mrs. Kennedy. It is the only such eternal flame in Arlington Cemetery.

No final decision has been made on the nature of a more permanent arrangement. A possibility is piping natural gas from regular mains near the Custis-Lee Mansion a few hundred feet away, with a pump in the line to maintain proper pressure.

Fence Installed Near Grave

ARLINGTON, Va., Nov. 25 (UPI)—A white picket fence was placed temporarily tonight around the grave of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The site was blanketed with the flowers sent by scores of nations.

After all of the guests and spectators left, the grave was covered under the supervision of cemetery officials.

Then the fence, about two feet high, was installed to surround an area about 5 by 5 yards. The flowers, which had been in the Capitol Rotunda when Mr. Kennedy's body lay in state and had been banked on a slope beside the grave during the funeral, were placed within the enclosure.

A detachment of military policemen was stationed beside the grave. The area will be under a 24-hour-a-day military guard for the next week.

Taps Sounded on Train

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 25 (AP)—A Pennsylvania Railroad local was stopped at noon in Narberth for one minute in respect to President Kennedy. The train conductor, Harry R. McAlister of Malvern, sounded taps at a bugle while 200 passengers stood with heads bowed.

Joseph Kennedy Controls Grief; Sees Part of Proceedings on TV

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This morning, accompanied by his niece and constant companion, Miss Ann Gargan, and two nurses, he was taken on a 40-minute drive in the family car by the chauffeur, Frank Saunders.

Later the former Ambassador to Britain, who is 75 years old, took a dip in the family pool. Mr. Kennedy has been confined to a wheelchair since suffering a stroke nearly two years ago, but he was able to use a mechanical walker to reach the water.

In the afternoon he watched part of the funeral mass and processions in the nation's capital on television.

Although his doctors reported him physically able to make the trip to Washington, Mr. Kennedy elected to remain out of the spotlight as the world paid final tribute to the son who achieved the goal that had originally been set for Joseph

and President Eamon de Valera of Ireland.

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he left the church with his mother and sister.

They stood waiting at the bottom of the steps. Pallbearers appeared at the door with the flag-draped coffin, and as it came slowly down toward them, Mrs. Kennedy leaned down and whispered to her son.

He stood apart, straightened stiffly, and raised his hand in salute as the coffin passed. He smiled softly and proudly.

With her in the receiving line were Robert Kennedy and his wife, Ethel; Edward Kennedy and his wife, Joan, and Mrs. Shriver and Mrs. Lawford.

Plans Are Unknown

There was no word tonight about Mrs. Kennedy's immediate plans—when she will leave the White House, where she and the children will spend Thanksgiving, where they will live.

An announcement is scheduled for tomorrow. The general belief is that Mrs. Kennedy will want to move out as soon as physically possible. And there is some feeling that she will stay in Washington.

Perhaps her choice of residence had something to do with the decision to bury Mr. Kennedy in the Arlington Cemetery rather than the family plot in Brookline, Mass. But Cardinal Cushing said that Arlington had been chosen to avoid prolonging the funeral period into tomorrow.

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