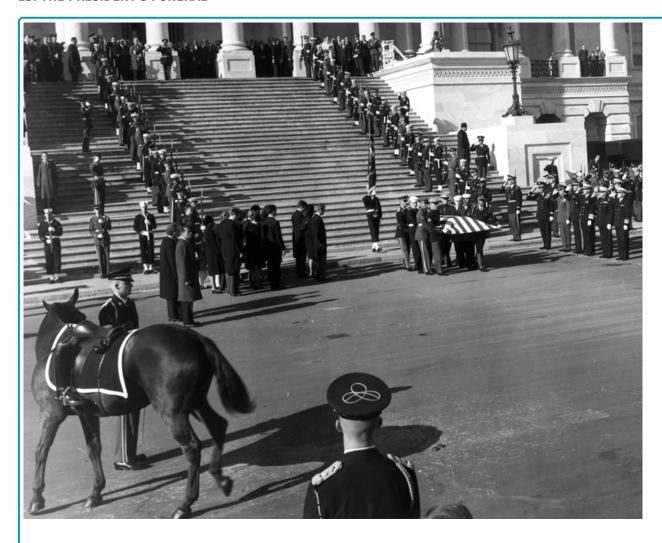
THE PRESIDENT'S FUNERAL



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13. THE PRESIDENT'S FUNERAL



While military personnel carry the President's coffin, a riderless horse waits. The horse's name is "Black Jack." Note the reversed boot in Black Jack's left stirrup. It symbolizes that the deceased will never ride again. Public-domain photo by SP/4 David S. Schwartz, online via the JFK Library and Museum, image SC-49-079-1462-11.

Using the funeral of Abraham Lincoln as a model, Jackie Kennedy and Washington officials planned a state

funeral for the President. A wealth of photographic evidence depicting the President's wake, his <u>funeral</u>, and his final journey from St. Matthew's to Arlington Cemetery is available at the National Archives.

- Only invited guests were allowed to view the President's <u>flag-draped casket</u>, lying in state in the East Room of the White House.
- Members of the general public were allowed to pay their respects when the <u>President's coffin</u> was brought to the Capitol rotunda. Mrs. Kennedy and her two children followed the casket up the Capitol's steps.
- Lyndon Johnson, the new President, <u>honored</u> John F. Kennedy, the fallen leader, at services held in the Capitol rotunda.
- Millions of Americans watched on television as Jackie and her two children left the Capitol.
- Crowds also <u>lined</u> the Washington streets on the day of the funeral, 25 November 1963.
- A <u>caisson</u> bore the flag-draped casket during the funeral procession (<u>led</u> by Jackie and the President's brothers) from the White House to St. Matthew's Cathedral.
- As the caisson bearing his father's casket passed by, the young John Kennedy <u>saluted his father</u>. The famous picture, memorializing his poignant tribute, was taken by Stan Stearns. The day of the funeral was John's third birthday.
- The committal service at Arlington Cemetery was a particularly moving ceremony.
- Servicemen, from each branch of the United States military, <u>removed the flag</u> from the President's coffin and gave it to Mrs. Kenendy.
- Jackie <u>lit</u> an <u>eternal flame</u> at her husband's grave site.
- After the funeral, Mrs. Kennedy <u>received well-wishers</u> in the Red Room of the White House.
- In early December, Congress passed a law to help Mrs. Kennedy defray her expenses. Included in the appropriation was a <u>payment</u> to be used for the President's burial expenses.

The flame still burns, but now there are more graves.

Jackie was buried at her husband's side when she <u>died</u> of cancer in 1994. Two of their children are buried next to their parents: Patrick, who lived only a few days and died about three months before his father, and the couple's first child, a still-born daughter. The ashes of their third child, JFK Jr., were buried at sea. (So was the <u>coffin</u> that carried the President's body from Parkland Hospital to Washington, D.C.).

Controversy over the assassination continues. Was there a second gunman? If so, who was it? Some historians believe there may have been a third shooter. Could that really be the case? Was there a conspiracy? If so, who was involved? Where, exactly, was the President struck? We may never learn the answers to some of the important questions.

But there is <u>one witness</u> who saw exactly <u>what happened</u> when a bullet struck the President's head. Jackie Kennedy was looking at her husband when he was mortally wounded. And while she did not permit her 313-minute interview with William Manchester to be unsealed during her lifetime, the tapes will ultimately be available - in 2067 - one hundred years after they were made.

When those tapes are finally played, the public will likely <u>hear Jackie say</u> it didn't matter to her whether there was a conspiracy to kill her husband. What mattered was that her <u>husband was dead</u>. It wasn't important to her who pulled the trigger. What was important was that her children had <u>lost the father</u> they adored.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-PRESIDENT-S-FUNERAL-Assassination-of-John-F.-

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-PRESIDENT-S-FUNERAL-Assassination-of-John-F.-K ennedy

Media Stream



JFK's Coffin at the White House

Photo by Abbie Rowe, U.S. National Park Service. JFK Library and Museum, photo AR-8255-K.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/JFK-s-Coffin-at-the-White-House



JFK's Casket in the White House East Room

JFK Library and Museum, image 0085-30614.

PD

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/JFK-s-Casket-in-the-White-House-East-Room



JFK Lies in State at the Capitol Rotunda

U.S. National Archives, image 18-2590a.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/JFK-Lies-in-State-at-the-Capitol-Rotunda



Jackie and Children Follow JFK Coffin at Capitol

U.S. National Archives, image 18-2577a.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jackie-and-Children-Follow-JFK-Coffin-at-Capitol



LBJ Pays His Respects at the Capitol

U.S. National Archives, image 18-2576a.

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Mrs. Kennedy and Her Children Leave the U.S. Capitol

U.S. National Archives, image 04-0065a.

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mrs.-Kennedy-and-Her-Children-Leave-the-U.S.-Capitol

The President's Coffin and the Riderless Horse

Photo by SP/4 David S. Schwartz, JFK Library and Museum, image SC-49-079-1462-11.

View this asset at:

 $\underline{\text{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-President-s-Coffin-and-the-Riderless-Horse}$

Crowds Line the Streets During JFK's Funeral

U.S. National Archives, image 18-2591a.

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Caisson Bearing the Coffin at White House

U.S. National Archives, image 18-2589a.

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View this asset at:

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Mrs. Kennedy Leads the Funeral Procession

U.S. National Archives, image 18-2588a.

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mrs.-Kennedy-Leads-the-Funeral-Procession

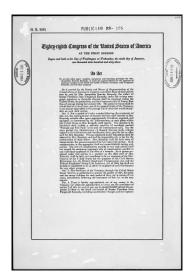
Mrs. Kennedy and Her Children at the White House

U.S. National Archives, image 18-2578a.

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<u>Bill Authorizing Financial Assistance for Mrs. Kennedy</u> U.S. National Archives, image 28-2273a.

PD

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Committal Service at Arlington Cemetery

U.S. National Archives, image 18-2584a.

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Committal-Service-at-Arlington-Cemetery



JFK's Coffin Delivered to His Grave Site

Photo by Abbie Rowe. JFK Library and Museum, image AR-8255-3D.

View this asset at:

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Jackie Greets Dignitaries After the Funeral

U.S. National Archives, image 04-0148a.

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Jackie and Children Light an Eternal Flame

U.S. National Archives - photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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Mrs. Kennedy with the Coffin Flag U.S. National Archives, image 18-2585a.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mrs.-Kennedy-with-the-Coffin-Flag



Removing the Flag from JFK's Coffin

U.S. National Archives, image 18-2586a.

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Television Coverage of the President's Funeral

U.S. Television coverage of President Kennedy's funeral, online courtesy U.S. National Archives. View this asset at:

 $\underline{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Television-Coverage-of-the-President-s-Funeral}$



Young John Kennedy Salutes His Father

Segments of President Kennedy's funeral and the procession to Arlington Cemetery. Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Young-John-Kennedy-Salutes-His-Father