

GOVERNOR RECALLS JOHN F. KENNEDY AS MAN OF PEACE

(Following is the address delivered by Gov. Grant Sawyer at the recent Governor's Gala and Grand Centennial Finale at Hotel Sahara, which raised \$15,000 for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library Fund and served to commemorate Gov. Sawyer's 46th birthday anniversary.)

THIS IS AN OCCASION which I shall recall with a great deal of pride and pleasure for many years to come. As Nevada chairman of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library fund-raising campaign, I am honored to be a part of the proceedings.

To all of you who have so kindly offered me birthday greetings, I am sincerely appreciative. I am, however, even more grateful that you have chosen to express your well wishes at this time and place. For in so doing, you have contributed generously toward the John F. Kennedy Library, a magnificent memorial soon to rise on the banks of the Charles River in Boston, Massachusetts.

As a lasting reminder of the man and his deeds, the library will serve as more than a collection of books and mementoes recalling the Kennedy era. Its most important attraction will be an institute for the study and teaching of public affairs in democratic life. This facility will be made available to scholars and researchers from all the nations of the world.

The library also will include two other major components—a museum and an archive.

The museum will house the many mementoes associated with the late President. Visitors will be able to see his rocking chair, a hand-written draft of his inaugural address, gifts from more than 170 heads of states, and the coconut shell he used in the Pacific to send word that he and the crew of PT 109 were still alive.

The archive, meanwhile, will contain President Kennedy's personal papers, as well as copies of public records necessary for a thorough understanding of his administration.

IN DESCRIBING the 10 million dollar memorial, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy has said:

"It will play a continuing role in preparing young men and women for lives of public service. John Kennedy believed so strongly that one's aim should not just be the most comfortable life possible. He believed we should all do something to correct the wrongs we see. He believed that one man can make a difference and that every man should try."

John F. Kennedy was one who tried. We shall not soon forget his qualities of true greatness—his vision, his courage, his devotion to the nation and the principles of freedom. He was a statesman who cherished a dream of a permanently dynamic society, spreading abundance to the last corner of this land and extending justice, tolerance and dignity to all citizens. And he labored to achieve this dream with a passion born of the conviction that all men are, in fact, created equal.

John F. Kennedy was a man of this nation, but also a man for all nations. He was trusted and admired throughout the Free World, and where he was not loved—in the capitals of totalitarianism—he was nonetheless respected. When he said, "While we shall negotiate freely, we shall never negotiate freedom," he was speaking not only for America but for libertarians in every corner of the earth.

He did more than merely preserve the peace; he strengthened it. In Berlin during that fateful summer of 1961, and in Cuba during the grim Autumn of 1962 he forcefully demonstrated to the rulers of communism that the hand extended in friendship can also, if compelled, draw the sword.

HE IS, ABOVE ALL, remembered as a man of peace. Last month, in Europe, I was privileged to lead a tour of six nations to acquaint foreign citizens with Nevada's many attractions.

Our group, comprised of 34 public officials and businessmen, quickly discovered that John F. Kennedy still lives in the hearts of the world's free people.

In Germany, West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt told us, "When he died, Berlin lost its best friend and the first citizen of the Free World."

In Rome, on the anniversary of his death, the great bells of ancient cathedrals tolled a mournful requiem, and scores of Catholic and



KELLY CHRISTMAS PLAY--Part of cast in "Story of Christmas Carols" staged by Matt Kelly School Chorus at December PTA meeting included (above from left) Chestine Green, Angel; Mary Neal, Mother Mary; Dwight White, Joseph; Paulette Davis, Angel, and Tony Robinson, St. Francis of Assisi. Lower photo shows Mrs. Margaret Edwards (right), Las Vegas Area PTA official, installing new Kelly PTA officers, President Claude Parson (left), and Vice President Mrs. George Wilson. (See story)

Protestant churches conducted memorial services for thousands of Italian citizens.

In London, Amsterdam, Paris and all other large cities on the continent, we had planned to distribute silver dollars as part of our "Sell Nevada" tour. In many instances, our hosts politely declined and asked if they might have Kennedy half-dollars instead.

This, then, is how the man and his deeds are remembered in Europe, where free men live in fear of communist aggrandizement and look to the United States for leadership in the ceaseless struggle to preserve democracy. In John F. Kennedy, they knew a friend.

He was no less admired and respected by the people of his own nation. He was a child of the century--first president to be born after 1900--and he possessed all the best qualities of youth. He was vigorous and courageous, strong and yet gentle. He was, in sum, a remarkable kind of leader, and he was as thoroughly American as the Liberty Bell or the fielder's glove.

He was, according to writer Benjamin, "A man who bore no other person lasting grudge or envy, for he was a loving man lately come to lasting love."

WE ARE IMMEASURABLY RICHER for having known him and infinitely poorer by his passing. In little more than a thousand days and a thousand nights, he breathed new spirit and new quality into every aspect of American life. He wasted no time and he lost no opportunities.

Writing in the Encyclopedia Britannica publication entitled "A Tribute to John F. Kennedy," Theodore Sorenson remembered his deeds with these words:

"No other president in history did so much to show friend and foe alike the suicidal futility of nuclear war and the enduring possibilities of peace.

"No other president in this century did so much for human rights and the recognition of human dignity.

"No other president in this century achieved so much legislation for the health and education of Americans.

"No other president in peacetime history ever achieved so great and rapid an increase in our capacity to deter aggression and defend freedom.

"No other president in our time did so much to summon the American people to the realities of their responsibilities.

"And, finally, no other president in our time did so much to bring hope to the world--hope

for a life of decency, hope for a world of peace, hope for the American destiny."

The John F. Kennedy Library is a fitting monument to the man and his works. But there is yet another memorial--one which will endure so long as men are free to exalt the precious gift of liberty.

IT IS EMBODIED in the words of Pericles, the great Athenian statesman, who more than 2,000 years ago delivered a moving funeral oration for Grecian heroes who died in battle against the legions of Rome.

He said: "For every land is a sepulcher for famous men; not only are they commemorated by inscriptions of monuments in their own country, but even in foreign lands there dwells an unwritten memorial of them . . . graven not so much on stone as in the hearts of men."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th president of the United States, lies buried under the sun and under the stars in the stillness at Arlington. He sleeps for eternity, but he will not be forgotten. His memory is graven not so much on stone as in the hearts of men.

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