

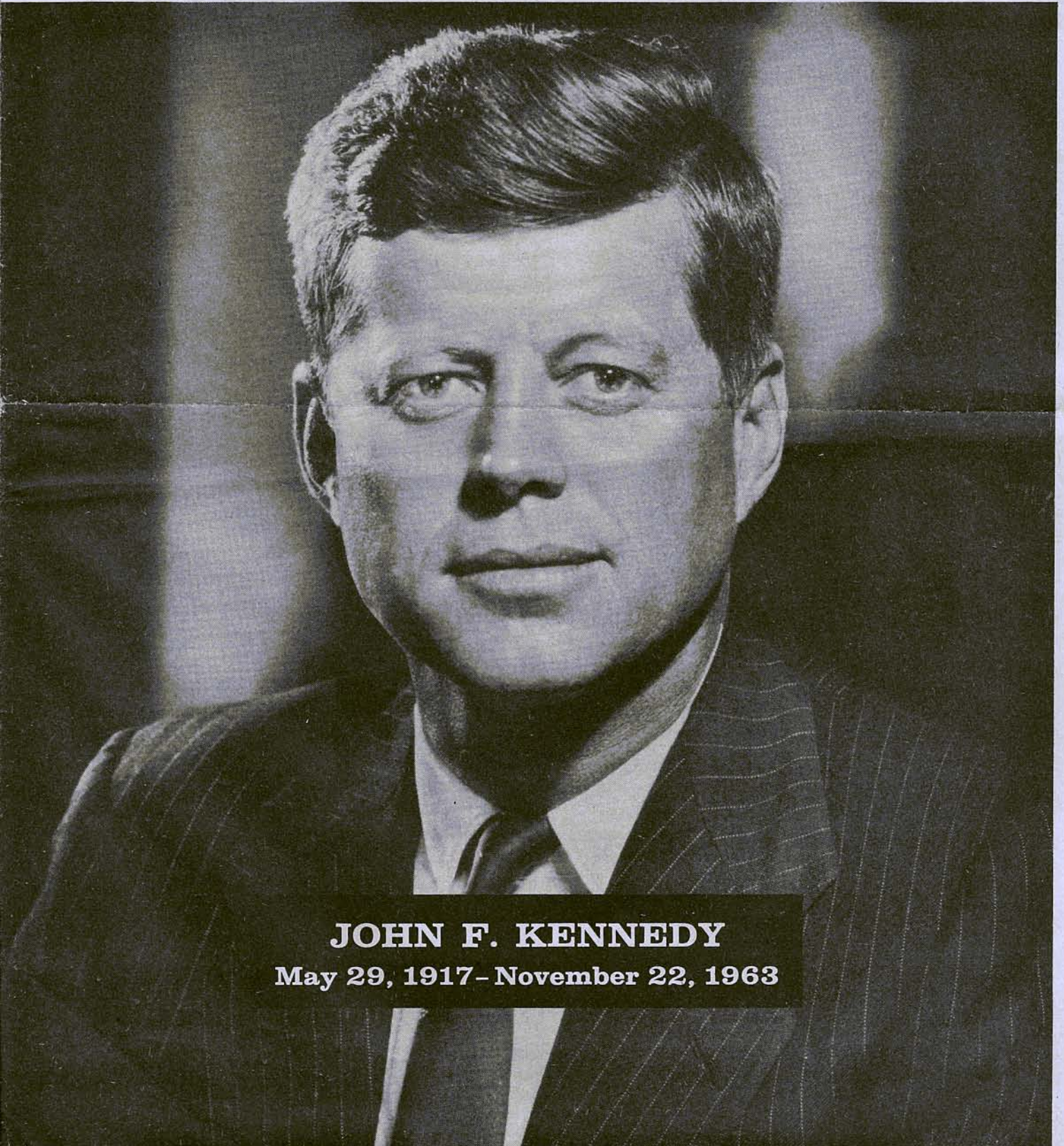
MY **WEEKLY**
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Special Memorial Section



JOHN F. KENNEDY
May 29, 1917 - November 22, 1963

We present this special issue as a tribute to John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States. On these pages we reprint his Inaugural Address given at the Capitol on January 21, 1961.



The Late President Kennedy's Inaugural Address

Vice President Johnson, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chief Justice, President Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon, President Truman, Reverend Clergy, fellow citizens:

We observe today, not a victory of party but a celebration of freedom—symbolizing an end as well as a beginning—signifying renewal as well as change. For I have sworn before you and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forebears prescribed nearly a century and three-quarters ago.

The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe—the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and

place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage—and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

This much we pledge—and more.

To those old allies whose cultural and spiritual origins we share, we pledge the loyalty of faithful friends. United, there is little we cannot do in a host of new cooperative ventures. Divided, there is little we can do—for we dare not meet a powerful challenge at odds and split asunder.

To those new states whom we welcome to the ranks of the free, we pledge our word that one form of colonial control shall not have passed away merely to be replaced by a far more iron tyranny. We shall not always expect to find them supporting our view. But we shall always hope to find them strongly supporting their own freedom—and to remember that, in the past, those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside.

To those peoples in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required—not because the Communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.

To our sister republics south of our border, we offer a special pledge—to convert our good words into good deeds—in a new alliance for progress—to assist free men and free governments in casting off the chains of poverty. But this peaceful revolution of hope cannot become the prey of hostile powers. Let all our neighbors know that we shall join with them to oppose aggression or subversion anywhere in the Americas. And let every other power know that this hemisphere intends to remain the master of its own house.

To that world assembly of sovereign states, the United Nations, our last best hope in an age where the instruments of war have far outpaced the instruments of peace, we renew our pledge of support—to prevent it from becoming merely a forum for invective—to strengthen its shield of the new and the weak—and to enlarge the area in which its writ may run.

Finally, to those nations who would make themselves our adversary, we offer not a pledge but a request: that both sides begin anew the quest for peace, before the dark powers of destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity in planned or accidental self-destruction.

We dare not tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed.

But neither can two great and powerful groups of nations take comfort from our present course—both sides overburdened by the cost of modern weapons, both rightly alarmed by the steady spread of the deadly atom, yet both racing to alter that uncertain balance of terror that stays the hand of mankind's final war.

So let us begin anew—remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.

Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us.

Let both sides, for the first time, formulate serious and precise proposals for the inspection and control of arms—

and bring the absolute power to destroy other nations under the absolute control of all nations.

Let both sides seek to invoke the wonders of science instead of its terrors. Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease, tap the ocean depths and encourage the arts and commerce.

Let both sides unite to heed in all corners of the earth the command of Isaiah—to “undo the heavy burdens . . . [and] let the oppressed go free.”

And if a beachhead of cooperation may push back the jungles of suspicion, let both sides join in creating a new endeavor—not a new balance of power, but a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved.

All this will not be finished in the first 100 days. Nor will it be finished in the first 1,000 days, nor in the life of this Administration, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin.

In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe.

Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need—not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle year in and year out, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation”—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself.

Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, north and south, east and west, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.



John Kennedy—the young athlete



Lieutenant Kennedy—a Navy hero



Senator Kennedy on campaign trail



President Kennedy, a world figure



... a proud and devoted father



... and a man with heavy burdens

John F. Kennedy . . . A Courageous Leader

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, our 35th President, was born into a family of wealth. His life might have been a quiet and easy one. Instead he chose the path of action and struggle.

Like all political leaders, he was a controversial figure. Many people agreed with his policies. Many did not. Yet even his political enemies acknowledged his qualities of character. High on this list of qualities were courage, energy, leadership, a deep love of family, and a scholarly, perceptive mind.

He was born May 29, 1917, in Brookline, Mass., one of nine children of Rose and Joseph P. Kennedy. His father, a financier, became one of the wealthiest men in America. Joseph Kennedy also served in the Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt and became U.S. Ambassador to England before World War II.

The future President attended Choate School in Connecticut before entering Harvard University. He traveled in Europe during summer vacations. During his senior year at Harvard, he wrote a thesis about the Nazi menace. It was published as a book under the title *Why England Slept* and became a best-seller.

His deeds in World War II as a Navy PT boat commander have become a model of wartime courage. After his boat was cut in half by a Japanese destroyer, young Kennedy towed an injured shipmate through the water for five hours with a strap clenched in his teeth. Mr. Kennedy's back was seriously injured in the collision.

He entered politics after the war, being elected to the House of Representatives in 1946 and to the Senate in 1952. He faced death twice during serious operations on his injured spine. During his recovery, he wrote *Profiles in Courage*, which won the Pulitzer prize.

John F. Kennedy continued to display courage and devotion to duty after his election to the Presidency in 1960. He accepted the blame for the ill-fated Cuban invasion in 1961. He forced Soviet Premier Khrushchev to order the withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Cuba in 1962. Again he stood firm in the recent crisis on the Berlin autobahn.

Despite the long hours he spent at his desk and in traveling to many parts of the world, Mr. Kennedy found time to be with his family. He showed deep sadness at the death of his infant son last summer, but courageously continued his search for peace and a better world.

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