

FUNERAL TIMELINE

The death of President John F. Kennedy deeply affected the nation and the world. Over the course of three days – November 23 to 25, 1963 – millions around the globe closely followed the state funeral in Washington, D.C., which was attended by 220 foreign dignitaries from 92 nations. Though hastily arranged, President Kennedy's funeral, modeled in part on the 1865 funeral for President Abraham Lincoln, allowed the country to pay tribute to this fallen leader and reflect upon his legacy in a sober and dignified manner. This timeline details the funeral's progression over those three November days, from lying in repose in the East Room of the White House to the burial at Arlington National Cemetery.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1963

- 4:34 a.m.** | Members of the Honor Guard escort President Kennedy's casket into the East Room of the White House.
- 10:00 a.m.** | A private Mass for family and friends is held in the East Room of the White House.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1963

- 1:08 p.m.** | The caisson bearing President Kennedy's casket leaves the White House for the U.S. Capitol.
- 1:47 p.m.** | President Kennedy's casket enters the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.
- 2:17 p.m.** | Mrs. Kennedy and her children kneel at President Kennedy's casket following a memorial service.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1963

- 2:00 a.m.** | The line of mourners outside the U.S. Capitol Rotunda stretches three miles long.
- 9:00 a.m.** | Approximately 250,000 people have viewed the president's casket.
- 10:59 a.m.** | The caisson bearing President Kennedy's casket leaves the U.S. Capitol for the White House.
- 11:35 a.m.** | Mrs. Kennedy, family members and more than one hundred world leaders begin the procession on foot to the funeral Mass, walking just over three-quarters of a mile.
- 12:14 p.m.** | President Kennedy's casket enters St. Matthew's Cathedral for a private funeral Mass. Approximately 1,200 invited guests attend.
- 1:30 p.m.** | The caisson, followed by a lengthy motorcade, travels to Arlington National Cemetery for the burial, a distance of approximately three miles.
- 2:54 p.m.** | During burial services, fifty military jets fly overhead in three formations, followed by Air Force One; the U.S. flag draping the president's casket is folded and presented to Mrs. Kennedy.
- 3:15 p.m.** | Mrs. Kennedy, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy light the eternal flame.



MARCH 14, 1967

President Kennedy is reinterred in a new location in Arlington National Cemetery.

Image credits:
Abbie Rowe, White House Photographs, John F. Kennedy
Presidential Library and Museum, Boston
St. Matthew's Cathedral, Washington D.C., National Park Service photo.

All times are Eastern Standard (EST)