Gage Sitte

POL 313

March 16, 2015

Dr. Springer

***John F. Kennedy***

***Introduction***

“Don’t let it be forgot that once there was a spot, for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot” (Manchester 1967). Less than a year after Jacqueline Kennedy’s husband was assassinated in Dallas Texas she forever connected that famous line from the Richard Burton play to John F. Kennedy’s Presidency, and in some ways it was. John F. Kennedy would lead the United States of America through just over 1,000 days of action packed history, and would leave a legacy that nearly matches that of Abraham Lincoln or George Washington. “Kennedy led the US and the Western alliance during some of the most intensive years of the Cold War. With good reason, he remains an enduring symbol of the US in the early 1960s, when the nation was at a peak of its confidence and optimism” (Duncan 2013). His public life would remain a highlight of the American Presidency for decades to come. Future Presidential hopefuls would utter his name or a part of his speech because they knew what John F. Kennedy meant to the United States and to the citizens he served. On the other side, John F. Kennedy’s personal life is still shrouded in mystery, scandal, and amazement. His sexual appetite would bewilder not only Jacqueline Kennedy, but also Americans, as the revelations became known.

“They have made him a legend when he would have preferred to have been a man” (Manchester 1967). John F. Kennedy is arguably the most notable and popular president in the last century. His quest to call American citizens to action with “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country” is still alive today in the Peace Corps (Sorensen 1965). His calm demeanor and decisive thinking during the Cuban Missile Crisis has led many to ask if a Presidential candidate could do the same as he had. During a debate with Ronald Reagan a reporter asked, “President Kennedy had to go days on end with very little sleep during the Cuban Missile Crisis, is there any doubt in your mind that you would be able to function in such circumstances” ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). 2011)?

John F. Kennedy displayed in many ways the Benedictine values that the students at the University of Mary share, and others not so much. Many of them are so notable that even a student in a junior level history course could point them out. Throughout this project, you will see the many contradictions of John F. Kennedy. As Ronald Regan once said of him, “It always seemed to me, that he was a man of the most interesting contradictions, American contradictions… that he was self-deprecating yet proud, ironic yet easily moved, highly literally yet utterly at home with the common speech of the ordinary man” (Reagan 1985). Though John F. Kennedy had many flaws, and is not in any sense of the word a perfect human being, his desire to help those that needed help, his call to strive to be better as a country and society, and his determination for peace with those that differed in many ways with the United States briefly demonstrates John F. Kennedy the man.

***Community***

“Striving together for the common good and growing in relationship to God, one another, and self” (University of Mary 2015). “Our most basic common link, is that we all inhabit this small planet, we all breath the same air, we all cherish our children’s futures, and we are all mortal” (Kennedy 1963). John F. Kennedy was elected to the Presidency of the United States during a time where the famous saying “rather dead than red” was commonplace. This phrase was a reference to people who lived under the flag of the Soviet Union. Many thought that John F. Kennedy would take a hard stance against Communism, like Harry S. Truman had in Korea, or Dwight D. Eisenhower’s Doctrine, but they were in for a rude awakening when President John F. Kennedy demonstrated actions towards community with the Soviet Union, and not dissimilarity with the Soviet Union.

President John F. Kennedy shocked the world when he proclaimed to the world in May of 1961, “I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth” (Kennedy 1961). This was a surprise to many because the United States was lagging behind the Soviet Union in the race to space. On October 4, 1957 the Soviet Union propelled a satellite into Earth’s orbit and making them, not the United States, the leader in the space race.

The United States fell considerably behind the Soviet Union when it came to manned spacecraft as well. It took nearly a year to match the Soviet Union’s daring achievement of placing a man, Yuri Gagarin, into space, but the United States did catch up in February 1962 when John Glenn made the space race a hot and heated one (NASA 2015). However, going back to May of 1961, President Kennedy’s challenge of placing a man on the moon would change by the last year of his Presidency. He announced it in 1961 as a goal for the United States, but he realized that the world was a community, and that this great endeavor should include all humanity. It was a goal that was so daring; it made him come across as a soft politician on Communism.

President John F. Kennedy felt that the achievement of landing mankind on the surface of the moon is something that the world should share, not just a nation. And so on September 20, 1963 at the United Nations, President John F. Kennedy made it aware that he was extending a cooperative hand in having a joint operation between the United States and the Soviet Union in the goal of landing on the moon. He first discussed in his September 20, 1963 address to the United Nations how the community of the world needs to think of the world not as separate nations but as one community, differing in opinions but able to work for a common good. “The fact remains that the United States, as a major nuclear power, does have a special responsibility in the world. It is, in fact, a threefold responsibility--a responsibility to our own citizens; a responsibility to the people of the whole world who are affected by our decisions; and to the next generation of humanity. We believe the Soviet Union also has these special responsibilities--and that those responsibilities require our two nations to concentrate less on our differences and more on the means of resolving them peacefully” (Kennedy 1963). John F. Kennedy was breaking political, social, and economic walls. John F. Kennedy was asking America’s so-called greatest enemy for help, for cooperation and to further the community of the world. John F. Kennedy was asking the world to set aside each other’s differences to achieve community and peace.

President John F. Kennedy was demonstrating here that the whole world was a community of human beings. John F. Kennedy was asking each country to set aside its political, economic, and spiritual differences to work for the common good. To start this process President Kennedy asked the Soviet Union to agree to cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union to land a man on the moon. “Finally, in a field where the United States and the Soviet Union have a special capacity-in the field of space--there is room for new cooperation, for further joint efforts in the regulation and exploration of space. I include among these possibilities a joint expedition to the moon” (Kennedy 1963).

President Kennedy’s extending of community was not just in the area of space. A few months before President Kennedy proposed a joint effort to the moon he asked for peace with the Soviet Union. On June 10, 1963 at the American University in Washington, President Kennedy said “I have, therefore, chosen this time and place to discuss a topic on which ignorance too often abounds and the truth is too rarely perceived – yet it is the most important topic on Earth: peace. What kind of a peace do I mean and what kind of a peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war… I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on Earth worth living. The kind that enables men and nations to grow and to hope and to build a better life for their children – not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women – not merely peace in our time, but peace in all time” (Kennedy 1963).

This speech, which would be later remembered as President Kennedy’s Peace Speech, and Ted Sorensen called “of major importance…” (Sorensen 1965) is arguably the most important speech of the Cold War? It was so important that the Soviet Union printed the entire text of the speech in major newspapers in the Soviet Union. “The full text of the speech was published in the Soviet Press. Still more striking was the fact that it was heard as well as read throughout the U.S.S.R. After fifteen years of almost uninterrupted jamming of Western broadcast, by means of a network of over three thousand transmitters and at an annual cost of several hundred million dollars, the Soviets jammed only one paragraph of the speech… and then not jam any of it upon rebroadcast – and then suddenly stooped jamming all Western broadcast…” (Sorensen 1965). John F. Kennedy, more than any other President during the Cold War, proposed community with a 15 year old conflict with the so-called enemy.

John F. Kennedy’s hope for community, peace, and cooperation was seen nearly every day after June 10, 1963. He later signed with the Soviet Union the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The Cold War seemed to becoming to an end with President Kennedy, but that all changed on November 22, 1963 with a single bullet.

***Hospitality***

“Receiving others as Christ with warmth and attentiveness” (University of Mary 2015). “He hated no enemy, he wept at no adversary, and he was neither willing nor able to be flamboyant or melodramatic” (Sorenson 1965). President John F. Kennedy displayed hospitality to all he could. “He’s like one of us…” an older woman told a news reporter in Fort Worth Texas the morning of his assassination (Three Shots that Changed America 2014). John F. Kennedy brought forth a Presidency that seemed open to all, and able to see all sides of the situation. Hospitality was part of John F. Kennedy’s nature. He showed great pride and passion for those that defended the United States, for those who challenged him, and to those that wanted to bring the world together.

President John F. Kennedy carried on the policy that was enacted in 1954 in Vietnam. He sent 16,000 advisors to Vietnam to help the South defend its territory (Caro 2012). Though there was no major confrontation of hand-to-hand combat during John F. Kennedy’s term, he still grieved over those that lost their lives during it. President Kennedy wrote personal letters to the families of fallen soldiers (Sorenson 1965). When Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers was assassinated, after Kennedy gave his address to the nation about Civil Rights, Kennedy was quick to invite the family of Mr. Evers to the White House (Stoughton 1963). President John F. Kennedy always kept the White House doors open to those whom needed him. He was always quick to help and extend his hand.

***Moderation***

“Honoring all God’s creation and living simply with balance and gratitude” (University of Mary 2015). “If I don’t have sex every day, I get a headache” (Stewart 2013). President John F. Kennedy supposedly said this to British Prime Minister Harold McMillian. John F. Kennedy’s personal life has led many to ask at what risk he put the United States and its secrets. His personal life and sexual innuendos have stained his reputation and for some his presidency. “By the 1980s and 1990s various writers were beginning to attack the rose tinted view of John F. Kennedy that had prevailed since his assassination in 1963” (White 2013). It seems that in the realm of moderation, Kennedy’s was non-existent. He felt that he could have any woman he wanted when he wanted. He felt untouchable in his sexual conquest, but after so many years, and many deaths, it has tarnished the Camelot zeal.

For many of the proposed affairs that happened between many woman and John F. Kennedy there seems to lack a lot of evidence. Though each woman is very determined to sell her story the evidence of it actually happening is far and in between. Mimi Beardsley, a 19-year-old White House intern, made headlines when she said that she had an affair with the 45-year-old President. It is just so convenient that Beardsley herself destroyed all evidence of the affair, a coat and a signed picture by the President given to Beardsley (NBC Nightly News 2012). Nevertheless, to counteract the lack of evidence, “There may not have been many witnesses to Jack Kennedy’s love life, but there was enough circumstantial evidence to convict him a thousand times over” (Heymann 1989).

John F. Kennedy would have private gatherings or parties that would include the best Hollywood had to offer. “…Jack Kennedy threw large bashes at the Mayflower for celebrities such as Audrey Hepburn, Betty Garble, Judy Garland, Marlene Dietrich, Bing Crosby, and Frank Sinatra” (Hymann 1989). A part that may have encouraged his sexual dalliances might have been his close ties to Hollywood. After all Peter Lawford, who was John F. Kennedy’s brother in law, was part of the rambunctious Rat Pack which also included Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Joey Bishop. “A link between Sinatra and Kennedy had been established in 1955 by the marriage of Peter Lawford, a member of Sinatra’s notorious ‘Rat Pack,’ and Pat Kennedy, Jack’s sister…” (Heymann 1989).

“…The English actor (Peter Lawford) became a fast and faithful supporter of the future President, providing him every imaginable amenity from dates with actresses and showgirls, to a California safe house where Kennedy could carry out his West Coast assignations” (Heymann 1989). Frank Sinatra in particular had been wooed by the smooth talking Senator in the late 1950’s and even campaigned for John F. Kennedy when he ran for President in 1960. However, Frank Sinatra did much more for the Senator than just sing songs and kiss babies. “Sinatra, an indefatigable source of names and telephone numbers of attractive and available women, invariably received the red carpet treatment from Kennedy” (Heymann 1989).

This is in my view the greatest weakness of President John F. Kennedy. A man who had brought so much hope and promise to the United States was in some sense a sexual addict. He would continue his affairs until the day he died. Though he did have many mistresses, I think it unfair to claim that John F. Kennedy did not love his wife Jacqueline. John F. Kennedy demonstrated a lack of self-control and moderation when it came to this area. However, what is moderation in this area when you are 45 years old, married with two children and President of the United States?

***Prayer***

“Attending to the mystery and sacredness of life, abiding in the divine presence, listening and responding to God” (University of Mary 2015). “With a good conscious 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” (Kennedy 1961). John F. Kennedy is remembered fondly as the only Catholic President. This was a major challenge for him and for his rise to the Presidency. John F. Kennedy’s stance on religion and prayer is confusing, contradictory, but also amazing. Though he had a religious conviction, his stance on his own religion was kept separate from his political life. “I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute” (Kennedy 1960).

When John F. Kennedy began his long road to the Presidency he knew his biggest challenge would not be his father’s enormous wealth, or his father’s secret political beliefs, but it would be where he went to Church every Sunday and the fact that he went to a Catholic Church made all the difference to how his campaign would need to be run. The United States had been publicly opposed to a Catholic candidate since 1928 with Al Smith. This was even clear at the 1956 Democratic Convention when they did not nominate Senator John F. Kennedy to be Adlai Stevenson’s running mate (Heymann 1989). American citizens were very afraid that if the United States of America had a Catholic President, it would not be the President from the White House making the decisions; it would be the Pope from the Vatican that would be behind the power. “It (the United States of America) also assumes that the top spot (the Presidency) had been permanently closed to all Catholics” (Sorensen 1965).

Senator Kennedy in 1960 had to address the issue of his religion but the question came about of how to do so? “He (John F. Kennedy) knew he could not afford to be defensive, angry, impatient or silent no matter how many times he heard the same insulting, foolish or discriminatory questions… to challenge it (the religious issue) early in the hope that the issue would lose some of its mystery and heat by 1960” (Sorensen 1965). John F. Kenney took the religious issue head on, but it was difficult. “I think we should just stick to the general principle of a determination to meet our constitutional obligations” (Sorensen 1965).

However, while defending his religion, John F. Kennedy clearly took the stance of separation of church and state, but what about his private religious practices and beliefs? John F. Kennedy was very open and proud of his religion, but he was also at times questioning it as well. Jacqueline Kennedy, talking to historian Arthur Schlesinger in March 1964, discussed President John F. Kennedy’s religious views. “I mean, I know he wasn’t an atheist or an agnostic or anything. No, he did believe in God but he didn’t—You know, like all of us, you don’t really start to think about those things until something terrible happens to you. And, you know, I think God’s unjust now and I think he must have thought that along --- He used to say his prayers…” (Schlesinger 2011).

John F. Kennedy made many references to his belief in God in many of his speeches. Though he may not have been a firm believer in everything the Catholic Church stood for, he did have a basis for his beliefs. He prayed every night in the words of Jacqueline Kennedy. “He’d say his prayers every night?” Schlesinger asked Jacqueline. “Yeah, but he’d do it so quickly it was really a little ritualistic thing. He’d come in and kneel on the edge of the bed --- knell on top of the bed and say them, you know. Take about three seconds --- cross himself. That was --- I don’t remember him doing that in the White House. But, you know, it was obviously --- it was just a little childish mannerism, I suppose like brushing your teeth or something. It’s just a habit. But I thought that was so sweet” (Schlesinger 2011).

Jacqueline Kennedy described John F. Kennedy’s faith as it being he would rather have it on his side, just in case it was there (Schlesinger 2011). However confusing John F. Kennedy’s religion is it does have its good moments. His two children were raised as two very good Catholics, and his brothers moved forth the religious freedom movements. John F. Kennedy was a strong figure in the world of religion and politics. John F. Kennedy met what the Constitution of the United States says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof” (The Constitution of the United States 1787). John F. Kennedy was a staunch supporter of the separation of church and state and believed that other politicians should separate the two as well. He demonstrated how one’s own religious views could be held highly, but that they not interfere with one’s political acts of the United States.

***Respect for Persons***

“Recognizing the image of God in each person and honoring each one in their giftedness and limitations” (University of Mary 2015). “I look forward to an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization as well” (Kennedy quotes 2015). President John F. Kennedy was elected in a time when a large percentage of Americans were given no respect, let alone much else. The lack of civil rights had been brewing for many years before 1961, but John F. Kennedy knew that action had to be taken to protect American citizens. John F. Kennedy had made a campaign promise that he would end segregation “with the stroke of a pen” (Martin 1983). When John F. Kennedy was finally elected the stroke of a pen had to wait two long years. African Americans began sending to the White House bottles of ink and pens with notes saying, “Maybe you need a pen Mr. President” (Martin 1983)?

John F. Kennedy once asked, “What are Negroes really like” (Martin 1983)? He certainly had not spent a lot of time with an African American outside of maids and house servants growing up. Of course, once John F. Kennedy got into politics in 1946 that all changed, but by no means was he the first, the loudest, the most committed politician in Washington D.C for civil rights either. Robert Kennedy (who would be the staunch supporter of civil rights in the Kennedy family) said upon entering the White House, “We just didn’t sit down, wring our hands, shake our heads, and have meetings about how awful it was about the Negro in Mississippi” (Martin 1983).

Upon entering the Presidency John F. Kennedy knew what he had promised to the African American voters, but he also saw the need to do it in a timely matter in which good and strong legislation would get passed that would actually do something, than passing a meager weak bill that would do nothing. “But the President didn’t believe in sending up civil rights legislation when he felt the Congress and the country weren’t ready for it” (Marin 1983). John F. Kennedy did not have the power nor the backing to get a civil rights bill passed through Congress. Nevertheless, John F. Kennedy did believe that he could use the power of the Presidency to grant certain rights to African Americans. When James Meredith was being barred from entry at the University of Mississippi in September of 1962, John F. Kennedy took full action by federalizing the National Guard in making sure that Meredith did enroll and be granted access to the University of Mississippi (Martin 1983). Though John F. Kennedy’s early stances on civil rights was confusing and at times contradictory his attitude had changed by 1962. In 1962, John F. Kennedy signed into law the anti-discriminatory housing bill (Martin 1983). Then when John F. Kennedy met Martin Luther King, Jr., he said, “Nobody needs to convince me any longer that we have to solve the problem, not let it drift… but how do you go about it” (Martin 1983)?

John F. Kennedy, towards the end of his life, began to see the harsh life African Americans were living in, and he needed to do something about it. On June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy proposed what would become the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He gave a speech that day to announce his plans and his ideas of what needed to be done. “This is not a sectional issue. Difficulties over segregation and discrimination exist in every city, in every State of the Union…” (Kennedy 1963).

President Kennedy laid out in the speech the discontent and the hardship that was being placed on African Americans “The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities, whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated. If an American, because his skin is dark, cannot eat lunch in a restaurant open to the public, if he cannot send his children to the best public school available, if he cannot vote for the public officials who will represent him, if, in short, he cannot enjoy the full and free life which all of us want, then who among us would be content to have the color of his skin changed and stand in his place? Who among us would then be content with the counsels of patience and delay” (Kennedy 1963)?

President Kennedy then said, “I am, therefore, asking the Congress to enact legislation giving all Americans the right to be served in facilities which are open to the public -- hotels, restaurants, theaters, retail stores, and similar establishments. This seems to me to be an elementary right. Its denial is an arbitrary indignity that no American in 1963 should have to endure, but many do… Other features will be also requested, including greater protection for the right to vote” (Kennedy 1963). John F. Kennedy had made the greatest advancement in civil rights since the 13th Amendment ended slavery. He was now asking Congress to extend basic rights to all citizens, regardless of the color of their skin. John F. Kennedy had finally lived up to his campaign promise.

***Service***

“Meeting the needs of others in the example of Jesus the servant leader” (University of Mary 2015). “And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country” (Kennedy 1961). When it comes to the word service, John F. Kennedy ranks at least among the top five Presidents in this category. All his life he had given everything so that he might serve his country. He had been serving in many areas, first as a sailor in World War 2, then as a Congressman, then a Senator, and finally a President. It is amazing what service John F. Kennedy gave this country, and he ultimately gave his life for this country.

As is obvious, John F. Kennedy came from a father who was a multimillionaire. Joseph Kennedy had amassed a fortune that would live to see his grandchildren and great grandchildren, and could have sustained his sons and daughters to a very comfortable living standard. This all leads to the idea that John F. Kennedy could have easily taken a different path in life, one that included living off his father’s fortunes, contributing nothing to society, but that is not what Joseph Kennedy raised his children to be, they were going to serve.

In the summer of 1941, with war edging its way closer to U.S. shores, young John Kennedy wanted to sign up for the Army. His older brother Joseph Kennedy Jr had enlisted in the Navy and was already serving. At the time, Joseph Kennedy Sr. was Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Ambassador to England. Neither John nor Joe needed to sign up. Their father had connections and money to keep both of them out of the war, and he wanted to. But Joe Jr. and John wanted to dive head on into the war effort. At the time of John F. Kennedy’s first enlistment in the summer of 1941, part of his spine “had rotted away” (Caro 2012). John F. Kennedy was denied entry into the army because of his health condition. John F. Kennedy then asked his father Joseph Kennedy Sr. to rig his health records in order to enlist. “…Insisting that his father arrange for a special, in effect fixed-in-advance, examination by a Navy Board of Examiners that, in October, cleared him to enlist” (Caro 2012).

When he was in training he had to sleep on a table, for his back was so bad that it was impossible to sleep in a bed, and John F. Kennedy would have to sleep on a wood board for the rest of his life (Caro 2012). Doctors at basic training told him to go to Mayo Clinic to get a spinal fusion, instead he signed up for sea duty (Caro 2012). John F. Kennedy was then assigned to boat PT -109. Then during near black out conditions on August 1, 1943 John F. Kennedy’s PT boat was hit by a Japanese destroyer.

Two crewmembers were killed upon impact but one was left with serve burns and was unable to swim. So John F. Kennedy took the man’s life jacket strings and pulled him with his teeth for three miles (Caro 2012). They swam to a nearby island in the middle of Japanese territory. Reports that came in of the wreck reported that all had died. The men were all rescued when Lieutenant John F. Kennedy carved a message in a coconut and gave it to some natives on the island. Kennedy returned a war hero and his back had gotten worse, but when they were rescued John F. Kennedy did not want to go back state side. “New PT boats were being fitted out with heavier guns, and he wanted command of one. ‘He wanted to get back at the Japanese,’ his squadron commander was to recall. ‘He got the first gunboat,’ PT-59. And the commander would recall that ‘I don’t think I ever saw a guy work longer, harder hours,’ as it was being made ready for sea” (Caro 2012). After John F. Kennedy’s service in the war a squadron commander said, “He made us all very aware of our obligations as citizens of the United States to do something, to be involved in the process” (Caro 2012). “He was awarded The Navy and Marine Corps Medal…” for his heroic actions in the South Pacific (Moy 2011).

Though John F. Kennedy returned home with a hero’s welcome, other thought differently. “General Douglas Macarthur commented that JFK should have been court-martialed for his actions leading up to the sinking of PT-109” (Moy 2011). Though some thought his actions were dangerous it nonetheless blew over and John F. Kennedy remained a hero.

This is just a short and brief example of John F. Kennedy’s overall service to the United States and the world. He demonstrated that no matter ones background, everyone should get involved and serve. John F. Kennedy arguably gave more service to this country than any other president this nation has had. He has left behind a legacy of service, and has instilled in later generations the need and desire to serve.

***Conclusion***

“From Dallas Texas, the flash apparently official, President Kennedy died at 1 p.m. Central standard time, 2 o’clock Eastern standard time…” (Cronkite 1963). On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated. The end of innocence some would call that day and in some ways it was. Nearly a year after John F. Kennedy’s murder American combat forces would be on the ground in Vietnam, a war that would last around 10 years. John F. Kennedy’s hopes and plans for peace and cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union would die with him in Dallas.

In Oliver Stone’s movie *Nixon,* Anthony Hopkins, who plays the 37th President, looks up at John F. Kennedy’s portrait in the White House and says, “When they look at you they see what they want to be. When they look at me they see what they are” (Stone 1995). This phrase means a lot, it would describe the times that would proceed John F. Kennedy’s death which would result in an absolute break down of the political system of the United States. Ronald Reagan would later remark about President Kennedy, “And when he died, when that comet disappeared over the continent, a whole nation grieved and would not forget. A tailor in New York put up a sign on the door ‘Closed because of a death in the family.’ The sadness was not confined to us. ‘They cried the rain down that night’ said a journalist in Europe. They put his picture up in Hudson Brazil, and tents in the Congo, offices in Dublin and Warsaw (Reagan 1985).

John F. Kennedy was and is a hero to thousands. His hopes and goals are still beating in the hearts of people and generations alive today. He brought forth a sort of mentality that commandeered respect for government, and that each person should do his or her part for their country. “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them” (Kennedy 1963).

Works Cited

Caro, Robert A. 2012. *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Passage of Power.* New York: Alfred A. Knoph. **(Book 1)**

Constitution of the United States of America. 1787. First Amendment. Accessed March 1, 2015. <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html>. (**Government Document 1)**

Cronkite, Walter. 1963. “Cronkite Informs a Shocked Nation.” March 1, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PXORQE5-CY>. **(Primary Source 1)**

Duncan, Jason K. 2013. “John F. Kennedy and the Irish Catholic Political Tradition.” *Forum.* Vol. 11, Issue 4. P. 683-694. **(Academic Journal 1)**

Heymann, C. David. 1989. *A Woman Named Jackie.* New York: Carol Communications. **(Book 2)**

JFK: 3 Shots that Changed America. 2012. History Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVkapOpc8EA>. **(Primary Source 2)**

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald. “Address Before a Join Session of Congress.” Speech. Washington D.C, May 25, 1961. <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/xzw1gaeeTES6khED14P1Iw.aspx>. **(Primary Source 3)**

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald. “Address before the 18th General Assembly of the United Nations.” Speech. New York, New York. September 20, 1963. <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/JFKWHA-218.aspx>. **(Primary Source 4)**

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald. “Address of Senator John F. Kennedy to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association.” Speech. Houston, Texas. September 12, 1960. <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/ALL6YEBJMEKYGMCntnSCvg.aspx>. **(Primary Source 5)**

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald. “Commencement Address at the American University.” Speech. Washington D.C, June 10, 1963. <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/BWC7I4C9QUmLG9J6I8oy8w.aspx>. **(Primary Source 6)**

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald. “I look forward to an America.” Speech. <http://www.ranker.com/list/a-list-of-famous-john-f-kennedy-quotes/reference>. **(Primary Source 7)**

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald. “Inaugural Address.” Speech, Washington D.C, January 20, 1961. <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/BqXIEM9F4024ntFl7SVAjA.aspx>. **(Primary Source 8)**

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald. “Proclamation 3560.” Washington D.C, November 5, 1963. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=9511>. **(Government Document 2)**

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald. “Report to the American People on Civil Rights.” Speech, Washington D.C, June 11, 1963. <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/LH8F_0Mzv0e6Ro1yEm74Ng.aspx>. **(Primary Source 9)**

Manchester, William. 1967. *The Death of a President.* New York: Galahad Books. **(Book 3)**

Martin, Ralph G. 1983. *A Hero for our Time.* New York: Macmillan Publishing Company. **(Book 4)**

Moy, Ross. 2011. “Famous Trauma Victims – John F. Kennedy.” *Trauma.* Vol. 13, Issue 3. P. 245 – 249. **(Academic Journal Article 2)**

Nasa Missions. 2015. “List of NASA Missions.” Accessed March 1, 2015 <http://www.nasa.gov/missions/index.html#.VQZIKBDF_3o>. **(Government Document 3)**

Nasaw, David. 2012. *The Patriarch: The Remarkable Life and Turbulent Times of Joseph P. Kennedy.* New York: The Penguin Press. **(Book 5)**

NBC Nightly News. 2012. “Mimi Alford on JFK Affair.” <http://www.nbcnews.com/video/rock-center/46296939#46296939>. **(Primary Source 10)**

Reagan, Ronald W. “Remarks at JFK Library Fundraiser.” Speech, Boston, MA, June 24, 1985. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRhCC-6Wdp8>. **(Primary Source 11)**

Schlesinger, Arthur. 2011. *Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy.* New York: Hyperion. **(Book 6)**

Sorensen, Theodore C. 1965. *Kennedy.* New York: Bantam Books. **(Book 7)**

Stewart, Sara. 2013. “All the President’s Women,” March 1, 2015. <http://nypost.com/2013/11/10/all-the-presidents-women-3/>. **(Primary Source 12)**

Stoughton, Cecil W. *“President John F. Kennedy with Family of Megar Evers.”* June 21, 1963. Washington D.C. <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/JFKWHP-ST-323-2-63.aspx>. **(Primary Source 13)**

University of Mary. 2015. “Our Mission: Our Benedictine Values.” <http://www.umary.edu/about/mission/benedictinevalues.php>. **(Online Source 2)**

White, Mark. 2013. “Apparent Perfection: The Image of John F. Kennedy.” *History.* Vol. 98, Issue 330. P. 226 – 246. **(Academic Journal 3)**