

## JFK Remembrance Day 22 November 2013 – Palm Beach

I was on 'the committee' that put together the events for a JFK Remembrance in Palm Beach.

- 10:00 Ecumenical service at St Edwards – where Kennedy family attended mass
- 12:00 Lunch at the Beach Club, with Kennedy memorabilia and with short talks by persons who had interacted with JFK
- 1:30 Laying of memorial wreath in the waters off Palm Beach

My job was coordinating the Navy Color Guard for the luncheon and the Coast Guard detachment for the wreath laying.

I asked grandson Jacob to come along as my official "Cadet Photographer," and he was with me at every event and did an outstanding job as photographer.

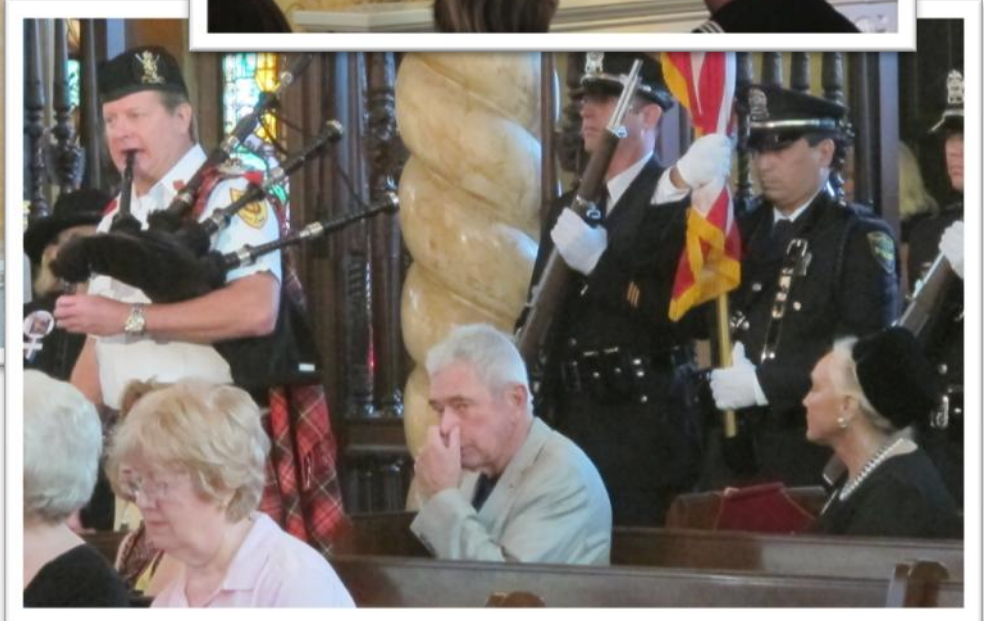
Along the way Jacob met quite a few interesting people, including Palm Beach Historian Jim Ponce (who knew JFK and was 47 days younger than JFK) and Astronaut Bob Crippen.

Except for the Palm Beach Post page 1 photo and any photos in which he appears, Jacob was the photographer for all other shots.

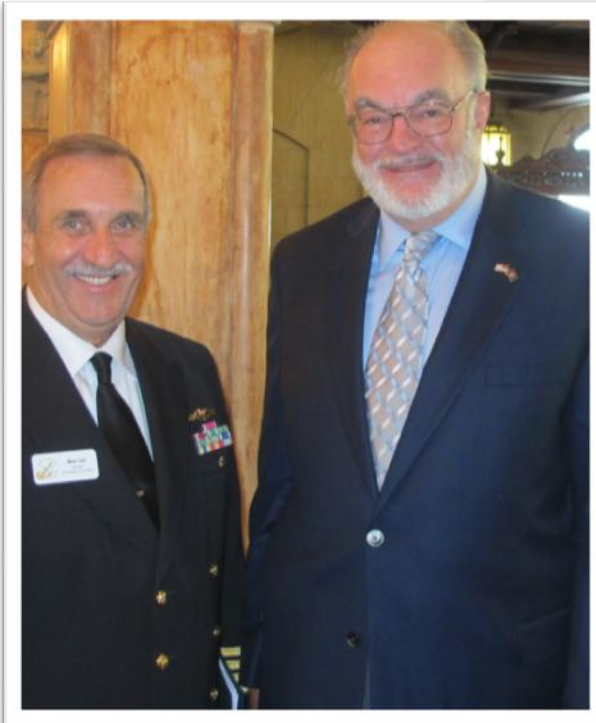
First stop was St Edwards church, and we met Jim Ponce on the sidewalk as we approached the church. He was kind enough to pose with us while telling us something of JFK.



Inside the church Jacob used his Cadet Photographer badge to good advantage and roamed as required to take good photos.



After the church service we chatted with Navy League and Palm Beach friends.



The first persons we saw at the luncheon were Captain Jack Veasy, the overall event chairman, and Astronaut Bob Crippen; both are solid Navy Leaguers and good friends.



**Committee members and speakers sat on a raised dais. Lunch was preceded by the rendering of honors by the Navy Color Guard and a beautiful piper - accompanied rendition of the Lord's Prayer by Arlene Zin.**



**At the appropriate time, we left the luncheon to board a waiting Coast Guard vessel for the laying of the wreath. A large wreath had been made for a planned ocean event off the Kennedy estate, but heavy surf precluded small boating in the ocean. Jacob and I hastily prepared a smaller wreath and it was used for the ceremony at the Palm Beach inlet.**



**Pictured here are the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of Coast Guard Station Lake Worth Inlet, as we were leaving the Beach Club.**

**Both wreaths had been on display inside.**



The weather provided some sizable swells even in the inlet, but the ceremony went off precisely on time and was beamed on live video back to the Beach Club. I recited the Prayer of Commemoration and Remembrance that I had written a few days before the event, and the Jacob/Grandpa wreath was cast by the Coast Guard CO and was pictured on page 1 of the Palm Beach Post the following day.



*Palm Beach Post* – Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer John Gatti (left) and Capt. Ken Lee salute each other as a wreath they laid Friday in honor of John F. Kennedy floats in the Palm Beach Inlet



# **Prayer of Commemoration and Remembrance (K.Lee 22 Nov 2013)**

**John Fitzgerald Kennedy**

**Family home in Palm Beach 1933 to 1995**

**World War-2 United States Naval Officer in combat 1941-1945**

**United States Congressman 1947 - 1953**

**United States Senator from Massachusetts 1953 - 1960**

**President of the United States 1961-1963 .... 1000 days**

**Slain 50 years ago this day at his hour – 1:30 pm November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1963 Dallas, TX**

**He gave light and youthful energy to our nation in a troubled world.**

**He bade us, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country."**

**He gave vision and purpose in setting our course to space and to the moon.**

**In death he gives us memories of the high value and high cost of freedom and an open society; memories of the remarkable strength of a family and a nation in mourning; and memories of a family and a nation determined to pursue national service and leadership in the face of dangers from within and without.**

**May almighty God continue to give rest to the immortal soul of our beloved brother John Fitzgerald Kennedy and to the souls of his loving family, here and beyond.**

**AMEN**

**For Jacob, the Coast Guard boat ride was a real highlight of the day, and the sailors were really attentive to him and told him all about the boat specs and some operations.**



**For Grandpa, the highlight of the day was having Jacob along step for step all day; he did excellent work and spoke enthusiastically with all that he met. Grandpa couldn't have been more proud!**

