**The John F. Kennedy Library Newsletter**  
*A Publication of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation*

**Former Oklahoma Congressman Mike Synar Receives the 1995 Profile in Courage Award**

**John F. Kennedy**  
*Profiles in Courage*

*Former Congressman Mike Synar accepts the Profile in Courage Award, from Caroline Kennedy, John F. Kennedy, Jr. and Senator Kennedy.*

"The stories of past courage can define that ingredient—how much they can teach, how much they can inspire hope, how much they can inspire. And it is the stories of courage that I want to share with you, because all of us need to be inspired by the courage of others."  
John F. Kennedy  
*Profiles in Courage*

**A Gift to History**

The Foundation is pleased to announce the receipt of a major gift from the estate of Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, made through the generosity of Mrs. Onassis, Caroline B. Kennedy and John F. Kennedy, Jr.

The donation includes documents, photographs, paintings and drawings, books and personal artifacts. The Foundation is now reviewing the materials for preservation and ultimate donation to the John F. Kennedy Library, and for possible inclusion in an expanded exhibit in the Library's museum on the life and work of Mrs. Onassis.

Among the paintings are a charcoal sketch of John F. Kennedy by Elaine de Kooning, renderings of the Blue Room and Green Room for the White House restoration supervised by Jacqueline Kennedy, and an oil study for the White House portrait of Jacqueline Kennedy by Aaron Shikler.

Papers documenting Jacqueline Kennedy's years in the White House and immediately thereafter have been donated, including her personal copy of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and correspondence, handwritten notes and documents relating to the renovation of the White House.

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Mike Synar
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federal lands. In addition, Synar challenged the 1985 Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction plan and the legality of key provisions of the bill which were later declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1994, Synar paid a price for his commitment to the public interest when he lost his bid for a ninth term, finally succumbing to the cumulative effects of a controversial voting record that was often at odds with his rural Oklahoma district and the relentless efforts of powerful special interests to unseat him. Undaunted, Synar said that “if everybody wants me to lick my wounds or feel bad about (losing), they’ve got the wrong person. I have had the opportunity of a lifetime.”

Synar is currently Chairman of the National Bankruptcy Review Commission and Ambassador to the International Telecommunications Union for the United States.

The award takes its name from Profiles in Courage, the 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book written by John F. Kennedy when he was a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. The award was established by the Kennedy Library Foundation in 1989 to honor examples of political courage by elected American public officials.

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Of special note among the personal artifacts are a pair of trompe l’oeil doors from her dressing room in the White House, and her wedding dress.

Several thousand photographs document the Kennedy redecoration of the White House rooms, the establishment of the Rose Garden, acquisition of objects for the White House Collection, and Jacqueline Kennedy’s activities and trips as First Lady.

Highlights among the printed materials are a copy of the 1962 publication The Jerusalem Windows by Marc Chagall, inscribed to President Kennedy by Chagall with an original ink and watercolor drawing of the artist at work. The collection also includes a personally inscribed presentation copy of Arthur Schlesinger’s book A Thousand Days.

Acknowledging the contribution, Charles U. Daly, Director of the Foundation, said: “These priceless records and objects form an extraordinary gift not only to the Kennedy Library’s Foundation, archives and museum but also to history. We are deeply grateful to Caroline and John Kennedy for their generosity. We look forward to developing the resources and plans needed to preserve these treasures, and for their study and display.”

The artist Marc Chagall drew this sketch inside his book, The Jerusalem Windows, for President Kennedy.
The annual fundraising dinner provides many of the dollars that are the lifeblood of Library programs. The success of this year’s dinner was made possible by:

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Fundraising Dinner

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If you would like more information on how you can make these types of gifts which may benefit you as well as the programs of the Kennedy Library Foundation, please contact Jennifer Cahir, Associate Director of Development, (617) 436-9986.
William Manchester, the highly-acclaimed author and journalist, has donated his papers to the Kennedy Library. An estimated 200,000 pages have been deposited to date, and the balance is expected later this year. The Manchester papers promise to be one of the Library’s premier archival collections, an extremely rich resource for scholars and students of history and public affairs.

A Massachusetts native and decorated World War II combat veteran in the Pacific, William Manchester first met John F. Kennedy in 1946 and came to know him well in the years that followed. He maintained an active correspondence over time with JFK, members of the Kennedy family and a wide range of national and world leaders.

Mr. Manchester is a prolific writer. His publications include 19 books and innumerable articles written over a 50-year career. Twelve of his books are still in print, often in multiple editions and in several languages.

Although he has written three novels and his most recent book, *A World Lit Only by Fire* (1992), is an examination of the late Medieval mind and the emergence of the Renaissance, the bulk of his work deals with recent history, politics and biography. He has written important biographies of Winston Churchill, E. L. Marden, and Douglas MacArthur and histories of the Rockefeller family in America and the Krupp family in Germany. Currently, he is completing the third volume of his Churchill biography.

The Manchester Collection at the Kennedy Library will include all of his interviews, notes, research materials, drafts, manuscripts and correspondence relating to these works.

A substantial portion of Manchester’s writing focuses on John F. Kennedy and the Kennedy years, and he is widely recognized as one of the most influential contributors to the literature of JFK’s life and times. His 1962 journalistic study *Portrait of a President: John F. Kennedy in Profile* is based on interviews with the President in the White House, members of his administration, family and others.

*One Brief Shining Moment: Remembering Kennedy* (1983) is “a recollection of high summer written in the autumn of life, a tribute to a man I knew and an inquiry into why his memory should be cherished.” *The Glory and the Dream: A Narrative History of America, 1932-1972* (1974) and *Controversy: And Other Essays in Journalism, 1950-1975* (1975) also recount the events and personalities of the Kennedy years.

Manchester’s most famous book is his epic best-seller *The Death of a President: November 22-November 25, 1963* (1967), which chronicles in painful detail the events surrounding the murder of President Kennedy. It was begun at the suggestion of Jacqueline Kennedy ten weeks after that historic tragedy. While the book caused him to become embroiled for a time in a legal controversy with the President’s family, he contributed $750,000 from its profits to the Kennedy Library, in what Jacqueline Kennedy called “this noble gesture, of such generosity, which makes the circle come around and close with healing.”

Manchester’s writings—whether on Churchill, MacArthur, Krupp or Kennedy—were and would have continued to be of great interest to JFK. For this reason, the Library and the Kennedy family asked him to consider donating to the Kennedy Library the entire corpus of his papers, not just those relating to his Kennedy books and related subjects.
Kathleen Guilmarin, a sophomore at Kennebunk High School, was the first winner of the Profiles in Courage Essay Contest and Scholarship. Her essay was one of 230 essays submitted by students from throughout New England. Contest rules required that the students write not more than 1000 words on some aspect of political courage. Below is her winning essay.

A sixteen year old boy lay in his bed thinking. He wasn’t worried about football, homework, or farm chores. Tom Andrews had cancer, so he wondered what mattered in life. How was the world a better place because he had lived?

The cancer spread. Tom lost a leg, but he was given time ...time to answer the questions which had challenged him in his illness.

After graduating from Bowdoin College, he worked as an advocate for the handicapped. Ambitious to accomplish more, Andrews was elected to Maine’s House of Representatives in 1982. When he ran for Congress eight years later, he was called, “The Young Man in a Hurry.” His country had accumulated a frightening deficit of almost six trillion dollars, and Tom was anxious to cut unnecessary spending, military fat, and laxness in government efficiency. The people applauded and sent him to Washington.

Just six months in office, Andrews faced a crucial vote on the closing of Loring Air Force Base. Loring was not in Tom’s district; it was in an area nicknamed the “Appalachia of Maine.” If it were to close, 4,500 people...
would be out of work in a region already suffering. On the other hand, if antiquated military installations were shut down throughout the nation, the country could save 1.6 billion dollars.

Tom studied the base closing process and concluded it was fair. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, he knew Loring’s old B-52’s were not needed for long range bombing of the Soviet Union, a country which no longer existed.

Tom refused to join in popular but vain attempts to save the base. He believed the defense of America was too important to be determined by the “gimme, gimme” attitude of politicians and shortsighted constituents. He explained, “We can’t decide we’re going to make cuts in only 49 states...we have to be willing to say, ‘Yes, we’re going to cut unnecessary spending in our state and in our own district.’”

He understood this would not be without cost. One anguished munitions worker told him, “My job is your bottom line.” Tom replied, “I care about your job, but it is not my bottom line.” He explained however painful it might be to convert defense industries and retrain workers, America had no choice than to face the harsh economic realities of a changing world.

In 1992, Tom was reelected, but when he ran for the Senate in 1994, voters were angry. The once proud, independent people of Maine were visibly scared. A reporter demanded to know if an independent commission recommended closing two military bases in or near Maine, would Andrews support the closures. He said he would.

Tom was aware that defense industries brought more dollars to Maine than any other business except tourism. Yet, he rejected the idea of telling voters what they wanted to hear. “I think that is the reason why the country is in so much trouble. You have to do what you think is right, not what you think is politically helpful.”

Thus, he voted for the Brady Bill in a state with the second largest per capita membership in the National Rifle Association. He voted for restrictions on shipping arms to foreign countries despite Maine’s munitions plants. During the campaign, he voted against a 175 million dollar bill, some of which would have gone to his state. Tom could have used this to brag about what he had accomplished for Maine. Instead, he cited the bill as an example of “outrageous pork” needlessly being pushed through Congress.

Tom’s opponent had a field day, using a slogan, “Maine needs a Senator who will fight for us.” Tom fired back, “Maine needs a Senator who is willing to tell the truth...even when it hurts.”

Election day arrived. Tom lost by 13,666 votes. Nationwide, his party was trounced. He was disappointed, not disillusioned. His abiding faith in the “goodness of people” continues. Defeat means merely that he has to redouble his efforts to educate and to explain. “The Democratic Party has to stand for something. We have to let people know what we believe and why we believe it. If we just go along, if we abandon our principles, where will the people go?”

“But, Tom,” he was asked as the furniture was being stripped from his office, “doesn’t it hurt?” He answered with the simple dignity that is his trademark. “I would rather lose an election doing what I thought was the right thing to do than win an election doing what I thought was wrong. I would have felt hollow inside. Elections are not the most important thing in life. Trying to keep the planet, trying to improve life...that is the most important thing.”

As a boy, cancer taught Tom truth can hurt, and obstacles can be overcome. As a man, he discovered what matters in life is twofold: integrity and working for a better world. Believing this, he walks toward the future, certain that out of pain will come promise.

Spring Fellowship Recipients Announced

The Kennedy Library and Foundation have awarded the 1995 Kovler, Schwartz and Sorensen Fellowships.

This year’s Marjorie Kovler Fellowship was won by Tom Wells, a research fellow in sociology at the University of California at Berkeley. He will use the funds in support of research for his book, Elkhorn: A Biography. This will be the first major biography of Daniel Ellsberg.

Marc Richards was the recipient of the Ahsa Schwartz Fellowship. Mr. Richards is a teaching assistant and Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of California at Davis. The funds will be used to assist work on his dissertation Research in the Nursery: Mobilization of the Children for the Cold War.

Library Opens Papers Known as “Camelot” Documents

In May, the Library opened for research papers relating to the interview conducted by Theodore White with Jacqueline Kennedy on November 29, 1963, one week after the assassination of President Kennedy. The interview was the basis for Mr. White’s brief story, For President Kennedy: An Epilogue, published in the December 6, 1963 memorial issue of LIFE.

Mr. White donated these papers, known as the “Camelot Documents,” to the Kennedy Library in December 1969. In his deed of gift, he stipulated that they remain closed until one year after the death of Mrs. Onassis.

The papers consist of handwritten notes, some hard to decipher, undated draft typescripts of the interview with revisions in both Mr. White’s and Mrs. Kennedy’s handwriting, a copy of Mr. White’s December 19, 1963 transcript of his handwritten notes of the interview marked “Original Delivered to Mrs. Kennedy,” and other related items.

Theodore White, a native of Dorchester, had a long career as one of America’s most distinguished journalists. He is best known for his works on recent American history and politics, especially his best-selling account of the 1960 presidential campaign, The Making of the President, 1960, the first in a series of similar books on presidential election campaigns which created a new genre in political writing and won a Pulitzer Prize in 1962.

Former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara
At Library’s Spring Forum Series

On April 27, Robert McNamara was introduced to a capacity crowd of over 1,000 at the Library by Richard Donahue, Staff Assistant to President Kennedy and member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. Mr. Donahue observed: “The lesson of the book is quite clear. We must learn from history.”

Mr. McNamara spoke for almost an hour and then responded to audience questions. The discussion touched on the wide range of issues, events and decisions covered in Secretary McNamara’s book in which he wrote:

“We of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations who participated in the decisions in Vietnam acted according to what we believed were the traditions and principles of this nation and we made our decisions in light of these values. We were wrong, terribly wrong. I believe, therefore, we owe it to future generations to explain why.

The danger of communist aggression during the four decades of the Cold War was real and substantial and we should not forget that.

Although during those years the west often misperceived and exaggerated the power of the east, to have failed to defend ourselves against the very real threats would have been foolhardy and irresponsible.

In this century we will have killed 160 million human beings through war, across borders or within nations. As this era of bloody conflict comes to a close, I think we have an opportunity to view the future with hope. The Cold War has ended. That was a major cause of the killing. We have the lessons of Vietnam before us. They can be learned and applied. We should see much more clearly than we have the danger to the world of nuclear conflict and nuclear destruction. And we can act to reduce that.”
Hemingway Award Celebrates Twentieth Anniversary

On April 2, the Kennedy Library was the site of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation Award ceremony. The award, presented annually to the best first work of fiction published during the previous year, was given to Susan Power for her novel, The Grass Dancer.

Established by Mary Hemingway in 1976 to honor her late husband's name and to support American writers who are just beginning their careers, the Hemingway Award has become one of the most prestigious literary awards in the United States. In its twenty years of existence, the award was often presented at the Kennedy Library. Since 1993, at the special request of Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the award ceremony has found a permanent home at the Library.

Because this year marked the award's twentieth anniversary, a special day-long celebration was organized. The celebration grew out of a suggestion by Mrs. Onassis, herself an editor, who was deeply interested in this award and the new writers to whom it was given. Co-sponsored by PEN New England and hosted by Caroline Kennedy, Patrick Hemingway, and five of New England's finest writers - Alice Hoffman, Jayne Ann Phillips, George Plimpton, E. Annie Proulx, and John Updike - the ceremony was attended by more than 425 members of the Boston literary community, as well as members of the Hemingway Foundation and Society, and the Friends of the Hemingway Collection.

Earlier in the day, a conference on contemporary fiction was held with the cosponsorship of the Northeast Modern Language Association.

Susan Power, this year's award recipient, is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (Yanktonai Dakota). She is a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School, and holds an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa writing program.

Remarks of former Congressman Mike Synar, 1995 Recipient, Profile In Courage Award

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am honored, humbled and I must confess, awestruck to be the recipient of this award.

Whatever recognition I ever receive is due to my family, friends, and Oklahomans, whose faith and support in me made me a better Congressman and person.

As this century comes to a close, our nation and world once again face great challenges.

I do not believe we can approach these challenges relying on misconceptions, misinformation and misunderstanding.

I do not believe we can solve our problems by wasting time worrying about labels — liberal or conservative.

And I do not believe we will conquer the future if we are paralyzed by fear or silence.

I believe that in a nation of immigrants, whose forbearers gave up a life they knew to risk everything for a better life — qualities of leadership run deep within the American people.

I believe to be courageous is to be guided by your own internal moral compass, rather than the popular decisions and the madness of crowds.

All across this nation, ordinary men and woman are displaying those qualities of leadership —

Members of school boards are resisting pressure from extremists to control school board curricula;

Doctors are literally risking their lives to make a woman's right to choose a meaningful choice; and, some unknown public defender will give an unpopular plaintiff his or her constitutional right to a fair trial.

All across this country, you can find examples of such courage. As was said of the Marines at Iwo Jima in 1944: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."
Synar Remarks

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These thousands of men and women of courage are living refutation of the belief that public office can only be held by a slavish devotion to public opinion polls. Each day, these people respond without reservation to President John F. Kennedy’s call when he said: “Whether we fulfilled our responsibilities to the state, our success or failure will be measured by the answers to four questions. First, were we truly men of courage? Second, were we truly men of judgment? Third, were we truly men of integrity? Finally, were we truly men of dedication?”

I believe America, and yes, the world, needs bold, dynamic leadership unafraid of the risks. Without such courageous leadership, truth will be smothered out by fear and silence. William Faulkner pointed the direction—“Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth, and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world would do this, it would change the earth.”

In my life, I have tried to demonstrate such resolve—to walk in my fellow man’s steps before I led—to care for others before myself—to do what is right regardless of the consequences.

Let this award serve as notice that fidelity to the truth, simply doing what is right, and courage count. For those who have chosen and those who will choose this course—thank you.

I thank you for this honor.

Profile In Courage Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the seventh annual Profile in Courage Award. The award can be made to municipal, state or federal elected officials who have demonstrated an act of political courage, as defined by John F. Kennedy’s Profiles in Courage.

To make a nomination, send the name of your nominee and any background materials that you think would be helpful to the committee to: Profile in Courage Award Committee, Kennedy Library Foundation, Columbia Point, Boston, MA 02125.

Materials cannot be returned so please send copies of newspaper or magazine articles.
JFK Library Corps Ends Another Successful Year

The JFK Library Corps, the Foundation’s public service program for Boston middle and high school students, organized and implemented a broad range of projects during the past school year. They included environmental cleanups, day camp programs, gardening, a multi-cultural celebration and a sports program for young children.

In addition, the Corps has established a partnership with a third middle school, the John D. O’Byant School of Mathematics and Science in Roxbury. Ms. Joanne Fiske, the O’Byant School’s adult advisor said of this collaboration: “The students brought their energy and talents to the day care center and formed genuine attachments to the preschoolers they were tutoring. The O’Byant is proud of their enthusiastic performance, and they have inspired other students who want to join the Corps next year.”

Students who have participated in the JFK Library Corps service initiatives are helping both the community and themselves. As members coordinate projects, they experience an increase in self-esteem and improve academic and leadership skills. One member, Anh Pham, says: “Community work might seem hard and tough sometimes, but whenever JFK members put their minds to a specific goal, it has always been reached. We planned ahead, made a timetable and then we went out and helped with the kids or place that was in need.”

In addition to coordinating many innovative service projects this year, the Corps members have participated in a number of educational programs. These have included meetings with state representatives, participation in the Harvard Law School mock trial program and in a Women in Science conference at the New England Aquarium. Corps members also planned workshops at the New England Environmental Conference and the Mayor’s Youth Leadership Conference.

One especially interesting program was a monthly meeting with a returned Peace Corps volunteer. Phil Fantoset, a Corps team leader, said: “These seminars are extremely informative and educational. Even though they are enjoyable, at the same time the students are receiving a lesson in geography and foreign cultures. Hungry for information, the students ask questions: What is the political structure of Thailand? What are kids my age like in Iran?”

The Corps is now involved with its summer program, Exploring Communities. Corps members will travel to different Massachusetts cities and towns and learn how they are impacted by industry, geography and other factors. The students will also meet with local youth groups in each town and exchange information on social issues.
Schedule of Public Programs, Fall 1995

The calendar for fall programs will be mailed in early September. The first program will be September 19, a talk and panel discussion on the dropping of the atomic bomb and the end of World War II fifty years ago. The rest of the schedule is not complete, but tentatively there will be programs in October and November on the following topics:

- immigration
- career of Cardinal Cushing (in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth)
- violence in American films
- Abraham Lincoln
- reforming the United Nations
- selected issues in Massachusetts political history
- condition of Boston Harbor
- analysis of the upcoming presidential election
- talk by Mario Cuomo (on his new book)
- performance by the New African Company
- Social Security, Medicare and reduction of the federal deficit
- the Voting Rights Act, thirty years later

These programs will take place on either Saturday (all day), Sunday afternoon or Tuesday or Thursday evening.

Museum Hours
Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

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Senator Kennedy presents a bust of President Kennedy to Czech President Vaclav Havel. President Havel was a guest of the Foundation and Senator and Mrs. Kennedy for a luncheon in his honor on June 9.