

George W. Andrews III

Lying-in-State Ceremony for President John F. Kennedy: Part Two

Recollections of President John F. Kennedy's Lying-in-State Ceremony at the Capitol, November 24-25, 1963.

Interview recorded May 21, 2010

The funeral was going to be that Monday morning. And asked if I could come at, at, like, four o'clock in the morning. I said, "Sure." So I showed up at the Capitol, and for a couple hours, just as the people came into the Dome to, to see the body, I would show them where to go. I took a break at sunrise. And I walked out on the balcony of the East Front. And it was the most incredible scene. The sun was coming up. Another beautiful fall, crisp, day. Supreme Court to my left; Library of Congress to my right; East Capitol, the street, going right down between them. The Plaza was packed with people. And there were still people lined up on East Capitol as far as the eye could see. And it was deathly quiet. The only thing you could hear was people crying. And I looked out at that scene and I said, "George, don't ever forget this. You are a fly on the wall of one of the most momentous events in American history. And there's nobody that can see, or that is seeing, what you're seeing right now." And, I think that's the last thing I'd see when my time comes.