

THE CAPE COD KENNEDY LEGACY

The Kennedy family loved Cape Cod, where they vacationed in the summer when John F. Kennedy and his siblings were children.

The famous Kennedy Compound in Hyannis Port was a joyous place during JFK's life. The Big House at the Compound eventually became the year-round home to JFK's parents Rose and Joe Kennedy, and then to his brother, Senator Ted Kennedy. The Kennedy family has been on Cape Cod for nearly a century now.

Ted Kennedy once said, "The time President Kennedy spent in Hyannis Port during his youth and presidency were among the happiest days of his life."

In July 1992, a new JFK Museum opened in Hyannis, envisioned as a place to "not only honor a former president but to remember him as a neighbor." Wendy Northcross, one of the originators of the museum, and today its executive director, talked about the museum and what draws visitors from around the world.

"I have found that people really like to see artifacts that the President touched," Northcross said, such as the president's rocking chair which he used daily because of chronic back pain. The rocking chair is on display at the JFK Hyannis Museum, on loan from the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in NYC, until the end of 2024.

This spring, a special exhibit on John F. Kennedy, Jr. opens in April/May, which Northcross describes as "a look back at his life as a little boy in the White House, and also as a man who loved to visit Cape Cod and did often – including our museum. John Jr. and his wife Caroline Bessette were in the process of remodeling the President's home in Hyannis Port for their own use when they tragically died. John really loved this place. We will have some artifacts, video and photography as part of the exhibit."

Also, visitors will get to view a new documentary produced in Ireland called, "JFK: The Three Miles." It had its US

premiere at the museum in June 2023, and runs several times a day in the Scudder Room for Civic Engagement as part of the museum admission.

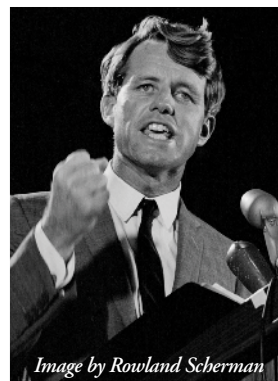
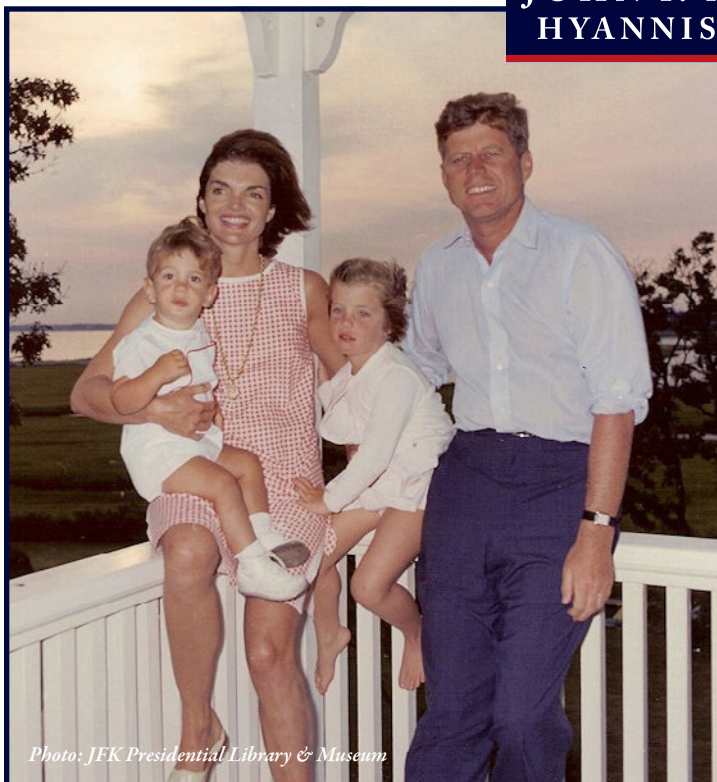
"The documentary has subtitles, and it is rich with the language and lilt of the Irish natives of Galway," says Northcross, who helped the filmmakers with edits. "As I introduce the film to our guests, I tell them, "JFK visited Galway on his trip to Ireland in 1963. He was there for 90 minutes, but those who saw or met him have been talking about it ever since."

For a lovingly curated tribute to the Kennedy family's deep connections to Cape Cod, visit the JFK Hyannis Museum, located at 397 Main Street in Hyannis.

jfkhyannismuseum.org



JOHN F. KENNEDY HYANNIS MUSEUM



Presidential Summers:

The Kennedys on Cape Cod

Learn why their lives were centered in this one place.

Robert F. Kennedy: Ripple of Hope

A special exhibit commemorates RFK and his role in the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

397 Main St, Hyannis ★ 508-790-3077 ★ jfkhyannismuseum.org

Check out our new schedule of walks & talks