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Robert and Ethel Kennedy, 26 December 1963

Robert F. Kennedy
Ethel Kennedy

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We are deeply touched by your thoughtfulness in letting us know that you share in our sorrow.

We are consoled by the knowledge that the love he gave is returned in full measure.

Dear Gustav,

My thoughts to you.

Robert and Ethel Kennedy
Dear God,

Please take care of your servant

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need—not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation”—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself . . .

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world . . .

With a good conscience 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.
The Honorable
James O. Eastland
5116 Macomb St.
Washington, D.C.

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