



EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer's Briefing Materials **Vicki Reggie Kennedy Interview, 04/08/2010**

Robert A. Martin, Research Director

Miller Center Documents¹

- Vicki Reggie Kennedy Timeline.
- Vicki Reggie Kennedy Fact Sheet.
- Vicki Reggie Kennedy Key Events.

Secondary Source Materials

- Vicki Reggie Kennedy bio, www.kidsandguns.org.
- Edward M. Kennedy, *True Compass* (New York: Twelve, 2009) pp. 421-427, 440-444, 448-449.
- Peter S. Canellos, ed., *The Last Lion: The Fall and Rise of Ted Kennedy* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009) pp. 282-291, 305-310.
- "Kennedy's Closest Confidante, in Politics and Life," *The New York Times*, 8/29/2009.
- Adam Clymer interview with Vicki Kennedy, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, McLean, Virginia, 06/28/1995.
- Adam Clymer interview with Vicki Kennedy, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Washington, D.C., 05/13/1999.

Oral History Interviews

- Doris and Edmund Reggie interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 08/12/2005.
- Doris and Edmund Reggie interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/16/2008.
- Edward M. Kennedy and Vicki Reggie Kennedy interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 10/09/2007.
- Edward M. Kennedy and Vicki Reggie Kennedy interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/09/2007.

¹ These are original documents created by Miller Center researchers for the Edward M. Kennedy Oral History Project. Please acknowledge credit for any use of these materials.

- Trina Vargo interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 11/07/2008.
- Ranny Cooper interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 02/25/2008.
- E.J. Dionne interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 02/20/2007.

VICKI KENNEDY TIMELINE

Prepared by Mark D. Nevin

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 11/04/2009

- 1954** Victoria (Vicki) Anne Reggie, the second of six children of Edmund and Doris Reggie, is born in Crowley, Louisiana. Her parents, the children of Lebanese immigrants, are devout Catholics. Her father is a city judge, banker, and politician. Her mother is an heiress to the Bunny Bread baking fortune. Her brother Gregory later describes their family life as “Mayberry-like. Our father came home from work every night, and everyone sat around the dinner table. There was no TV on. We said grace, ate dinner, and talked about what was going on in the world. We were all encouraged—no expected—to participate.” (Peter S. Canellos, ed., *Last Lion: The Fall and Rise of Ted Kennedy*, New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009, p. 285)
- 1956**
- August* Edmund Reggie maneuvers to have the Louisiana delegation to the Democratic National Convention support John F. Kennedy (JFK) for the vice presidential nomination over Estes Kefauver. When Louisiana Governor Earl Long leaves the convention, Reggie invites JFK to speak to the Louisiana delegation convincing them to switch their support from Kefauver to JFK. Kefauver eventually wins the nomination for vice president. (*The New York Times*, 10/01/1992; *The Boston Globe*, 07/06/1992)
- 1959** JFK and Jackie Kennedy visit Crowley, Louisiana, for the annual rice festival. They also attend a fundraising lunch for Louisiana Democrats and a reception at the Reggie home. In an interview 35 years later, Edmund Reggie recalled that 135,000 people attended the event in the town with a population of 15,000. Reggie remembered that Jackie “blew the lid off” the rice festival when she addressed the crowd in French. (*The Times-Picayune*, 05/21/1994; Canellos, p. 283)
- 1960** Edmund Reggie serves as co-campaign director in Louisiana for JFK’s presidential race. (*The Times-Picayune*, 08/28/1979)
- August* Edmund Reggie and Frank B. Ellis, a former Democratic National Committeeman, lead a successful fight in the Louisiana Democratic State Central Committee to ensure that electors pledged to Democratic nominee JFK are on the ballot in the state. Others had supported a resolution placing unpledged electors on the ballot. JFK wins the primary. (*The Washington Post*, 08/12/1960)
- November* JFK defeats Richard Nixon to win the presidency. JFK easily carries Louisiana.

- 1961** JFK dispatches Edmund Reggie on a diplomatic mission to the Middle East. (Canellos, p. 283)
- 1968** Edmund Reggie manages RFK's presidential campaign in Louisiana. The Reggies meet EMK for the first time when he stands-in for RFK at a campaign fundraiser in the state. Over the years, EMK visits the Reggies numerous times in Louisiana. (Canellos, p. 282)
- 1971** Edmund Reggie persuades EMK to speak at an AFL-CIO convention in Baton Rouge. At the time, there is considerable speculation that EMK will run for president in 1972. The Reggies and the Kennedys begin to see each other socially. The Reggies occasionally visit EMK and his wife Joan at their home in McLean, Virginia.
- 1972** Edwin W. Edwards, a personal friend of Edmund Reggie's, is elected governor of Louisiana. Reggie serves as an advisor to Edwards. (*The New York Times*, 02/14/1974)
- 1975** Doris Reggie becomes a member of the Louisiana State Democratic Central Committee. She serves on the central committee until 1992. (*Who's Who in American Politics*, p. 792)
- July* Along with other long-time Kennedy supporters, Edmund Reggie refuses to support Sargent Shriver's presidential campaign. Instead, he is "waiting for Teddy," despite EMK's statements that he will not run. As Reggie explains, "It seems to be one of those times when people want the genuine thing, not the in-law imitation." (*The New York Times*, 07/22/1975)
- 1976** Vicki Reggie graduates with honors from the Newcomb College of Tulane University in New Orleans. (Adam Clymer, *Edward Kennedy: A Biography*, New York: William Morrow & Co., 1999, p. 492)
- Summer* Vicki Reggie works as an intern in EMK's mail room. Except for a photo-op and a brief conversation as her internship was coming to an end, EMK and Reggie have very little contact that summer. (Clymer, p. 492; Canellos, p. 286)
- 1979** Vicki Reggie graduates summa cum laude from Tulane Law School, where she was an editor of the Tulane Law Review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. After graduation she moves to Chicago to clerk for Robert A. Sprecher in the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. (<http://www.kidsandguns.org>)
- August* Edmund Reggie announces that he is forming a Louisiana "Draft Kennedy" committee to encourage EMK to challenge President Jimmy Carter for the Democratic presidential nomination. "I have nothing against President Carter," Reggie explains. "It's just that I don't think he represents the kind of politics that the Democratic party represents." (*The Times-Picayune*, 08/28/1979)

- September* Following the resignation of executive counsel Camille Gravel, Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards announces that his friend Edmund Reggie will serve as the next executive counsel to the governor effective October 1. Edwards emphasizes that Reggie's "coming on board" should not be viewed as support for the draft Kennedy movement in which Reggie has been active. Reggie says the appointment will not curb his actions on EMK's behalf and that he hopes to be able to lobby the Governor to support EMK. (*The Times-Picayune*, 09/15/1979)
- 1980** Edmund Reggie directs EMK's campaign in Louisiana. Doris Reggie casts the only Louisiana vote for EMK at the Democratic Convention. (Canellos, p. 282)
- Vicki Reggie marries Chicago attorney Grier Raclin. They live in Washington, D.C. where they pursue legal careers. She specializes in banking law and makes partner at the firm of Keck, Mahin, and Cate. (*People*, 03/30/1992; Burton Hersh, *The Shadow President*, South Royalton, Vermont: Steerforth Press, p. 107)
- August* Doris Reggie serves as one of twelve Louisiana delegates to the Democratic National Convention pledged to support EMK. After EMK releases his delegates on the 13th, Doris Reggie casts the only Louisiana vote to nominate EMK as the party's presidential candidate. She also serves on the convention's platform committee. (Clymer, p. 492; *The New York Times*, 08/14/1980)
- 1981**
- January* EMK and Joan Kennedy announce they are getting divorced.
- 1982** The Reggie's buy a summer home on Nantucket. EMK is a frequent visitor, and he and Vicki Reggie cross paths occasionally in the 1980s. Edmund Reggie nicknames EMK "The Commander" because "he is always ordering everybody else around all the time." "But he was a very good friend," Reggie later recalled. "Shortly after we got here, he brought his present boat, the *Mya*. He brought it here to be christened and wanted Doris to hit the champagne on the bow of the boat, and she did. We had a wonderful time. Since then, our friendships have deepened a great deal. I just love him." Doris Reggie remembered that "one of the very first visitors we had was Teddy. He sailed over to see us at our new Nantucket home He visited with us on many, many occasions. He'd spend the night and we'd go sailing or go on the beach. . . . He was always charming. In those days, he was not married and he was dating different people, and he would bring over the most charming young women and we'd have a lot of fun with them." But Doris also recalled that EMK worked hard, too: "whenever he would come over or whenever we'd see him, he always had a briefcase. . . . Everything went into the briefcase, and he had it with him and he studied it. We could have fun that night, but the next morning he was taking care of his business and making the phone calls or recalling what we discussed that we were going to do." (Clymer, p. 492; Hersh, p. 106; Canellos, p. 286)

- 1983** Vicki Reggie gives birth to son Curran Raclin. (*Cape Cod Today*, 10/03/2005)
- 1985** Vicki Reggie gives birth to daughter Caroline Raclin. (Canellos, p. 286)
- 1986** Edmund Reggie has emergency heart surgery. EMK calls Doris Reggie everyday her husband is in the hospital. EMK also speaks with Reggie's doctors.
- 1987** The bank founded by Edmund Reggie, Acadia Savings and Loan of Crowley, collapses as a part of a nationwide wave of bank failures. Reggie is tried for questionable lending practices. He eventually pleads no contest to one count of misapplying bank funds, pays a fine, and serves three years' probation and four months home detention. (Canellos, pp. 284-285)
- 1990** Vicki Reggie and Grier Raclin divorce. (Edward M. Kennedy, *True Compass*, New York: Twelve, 2009, p. 422)
- 1991**
- Spring* William Kennedy Smith is charged with sexual battery in Palm Beach. EMK and his son Patrick had been with Smith in a bar on the night in question and are later called to testify. (Clymer, pp. 488-491)
- June* EMK attends a fortieth wedding anniversary dinner for Edmund and Doris Reggie at Vicki Reggie's home. EMK invites her to dinner the next day and the couple begins to date. Later that summer, EMK begins to spend a lot of time with Vicki Reggie and her two children. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, pp. 422-427; Walsh, *The New Yorker*, 03/31/1997)
- October* Senate confirmation hearings are held for Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. EMK is criticized both for waiting too long to challenge the nomination and for his criticism of Thomas's personal behavior regarding women during the hearings. Several articles appear suggesting EMK has been weakened by the Palm Beach incident. (Clymer, pp. 499-500, 518)
- EMK gives an important speech at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in which he acknowledges that he has made mistakes in the conduct of his private life. EMK says that his shortcomings will be addressed. Vicki Reggie and one aide attend the speech with EMK. (Walsh, *The New Yorker*, 03/31/1997; Clymer, pp. 502-503)
- EMK and Vicki Reggie go to Hyannis Port, where she first meets Rose Kennedy. (*Her Grace Above Gold: In Loving Remembrance of Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy*, Deschamps Printing Company, Inc., 1997, pp. 246-248)

- December* EMK testifies at William Kennedy's Smith's trial. Vicki Reggie, who had helped EMK prepare his testimony, is in the courtroom. (Canellos, p. 281)
- EMK sails from Hyannis Port to Nantucket to ask the Reggies for permission to marry their daughter. (Canellos, p. 289)
- 1992** Important issues EMK works on this year include higher education legislation, family medical leave, Prescription Drug User Fee Act, fetal tissue research, and the Health America bill.
- January* EMK proposes to Vicki Reggie at a performance of *La Boheme* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. They decide not to announce their engagement until the school year of Reggie's two young children has ended. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, pp. 426-427; Clymer, p. 511)
- March* EMK and Vicki Reggie decide to announce their engagement after learning that *The Washington Post* has received unconfirmed reports of the couple's engagement. Vicki's daughter, Caroline, had reportedly told a classmate, whose parent works for the *Post*. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, pp. 426-427; Clymer, pp. 512-513)
- April* EMK and Vicki Reggie visit EMK's sister, Patricia Kennedy Lawford, in St. Croix over the Easter holiday. While snorkeling, EMK gives Reggie her engagement ring. (*The New Yorker*, 03/31/1997; Clymer, p. 512)
- May* EMK and Vicki Reggie host a gala reception for Mikhail Gorbachev at the JFK Library. (Clymer, p. 512)
- July* EMK and Vicki Reggie are married in a small ceremony at EMK's home in McLean, Virginia. EMK had not yet been granted an annulment of his first marriage from the Catholic Church. The annulment is later granted in 1994. EMK and Vicki Kennedy (VK) honeymoon in Vermont. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, p. 427; Clymer, pp. 512, 564)
- EMK speaks at the Democratic National Convention in New York, following a videotaped tribute to RFK. (Clymer, p. 514)
- Fall* EMK and VK conduct a number of interviews to dispel rumors that the marriage was made simply to help EMK's political career. During a luncheon for about a dozen of Boston's most influential professional women VK wins over the group by revealing details about herself and about how her relationship with EMK developed. (Clymer, pp. 518-519; Hersh, p. 109; Canellos, p. 306)
- VK takes on a more active role in EMK's political life. She becomes his most trusted political advisor and sounding board. EMK regularly includes VK in staff strategy sessions, and she routinely accompanies him to important events. At the

same time, she imposes more structure on EMK's personal life and begins to take charge of Kennedy family matters as well. (Canellos, p. 307)

- November* Patrick Kennedy is reelected to his third term to the Rhode Island House of Representatives. (<http://www.house.gov/patrickkennedy/congressman.html>)
- Bill Clinton is elected president.
- 1993** Important issues EMK works on this year include national health care, NIH reauthorization, family and medical leave, abortion access, Stephen Breyer nomination to the Supreme Court, and national service legislation.
- March* President Bill Clinton nominates Jean Kennedy Smith Ambassador to Ireland. EMK had asked Clinton in November to consider making the nomination. Kennedy Smith's nomination is confirmed by the Senate in June. She is the second Kennedy family member to be an ambassador. Joe Kennedy had been Ambassador to England in the 1930s. (Clymer, pp. 520-521)
- Summer* EMK names his nephew, Michael Kennedy, chairman of Citizens Energy Co. in Boston, as the manager of his 1994 senate campaign. EMK decides that his campaign will highlight his fight for the middle class and working families in his home state, and that his senate work will concentrate on Massachusetts. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994)
- August* EMK and VK go for a sail off Martha Vineyard with President Clinton, his wife Hillary Clinton, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and her companion Maurice Tempelsman. EMK asks Onassis to invite the Clintons after learning they would be on the Cape. (Clymer, p. 529; Canellos, p. 382)
- Fall* EMK, VK, and her seven-year old daughter Caroline Raclin host a lunch for 1,200 influential New England women and five women Democratic Senators to kick off EMK's reelection campaign against Republican challenger Mitt Romney. (Clymer, pp. 533-534)
- October* On the 10th, EMK, Jr., marries Dr. Katherine Anne ("Kiki") Gershman at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in Block Island, Rhode Island. (*The New York Times*, 10/11/1993)
- December* EMK and VK travel to Ireland to visit with Jean Kennedy Smith. They discuss the possibility of issuing a visa for Gerry Adams, head of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, to travel to the United States. EMK is initially hesitant to support this initiative, calling Adams "a terrorist." But VK cautions him against making a hasty decision about the visa and counsels him to hear what his sister has to say. Kennedy Smith arranges meetings with author Tim Pat Coogan and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds to help persuade him that this is a wise course of action. Reynolds explains to EMK that the idea behind extending

a visa to Adams is to demonstrate to him and the IRA that they could advance their cause without violence. In order to move the Irish Republicans toward peace, Reynolds tells EMK that “he’s [Adams is] our best hope.” (Clymer, pp. 536-537; Maier, pp. 572-579)

1994 Important issues EMK works on this year include the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization, the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, the Clinton health care plan, and abortion clinic access legislation.

January On the 2nd, EMK leaves Ireland still undecided about the Gerry Adams visa. Shortly thereafter, EMK speaks to Northern Ireland political leader John Hume at Tip O’Neill’s funeral, and the Irish politician convinces EMK that granting Adams the visa is the right course of action. EMK begins to rally support for Adams, and when Adams applies for the visa on the 14th EMK sends a letter to President Clinton arguing, “It is important for the United States to facilitate the emerging dialogue as an alternative to violence.” Thirteen other Senators and twenty-eight representatives also sign the letter. The State Department, the U.S. Embassy in London, the British government, and officers in Kennedy Smith’s own embassy in Dublin oppose the visa. Clinton overrules them and grants Adams a forty-eight hour visa. (Clymer, pp. 536-537, 520)

February Mitt Romney announces he will run for EMK’s senate seat. Radio talk show host Janet Jechelian, 1982 gubernatorial candidate John R. Lakian, Gary Todd, a central Massachusetts radio salesman, and James Darwin Carter, a Georgia native who raised over one million dollars through a national direct-mail effort, have also expressed an interest in challenging EMK.

Spring At VK’s urging, the EMK campaign investigates Romney’s business. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, p. 441; Clymer, p. 550)

Caroline Raclin makes her first communion. EMK gives her the rosary that the Pope had given him fifty-five years before. (Clymer, p. 534)

May Jackie Kennedy Onassis dies in her home in New York with Caroline Kennedy and JFK, Jr., at her side. EMK and VK visit her that day and are on a plane back to Washington when she dies. EMK delivers a eulogy at the funeral at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in New York. He says she was a “magnificent wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend.” “Her two children turned out to be extraordinary, honest, unspoiled, and with a character equal to hers.” She is buried next to JFK in Arlington National Cemetery. (Clymer, p. 542)

A survey suggests over 60 percent of Massachusetts respondents think EMK should not run for reelection. (*The Guardian*, 09/12/1994)

Romney wins a substantial victory at the Republican State Party Convention. John Lakian, who cleared the 15 percent threshold of convention delegates, will also

appear on the primary ballot in September. The other candidates fail to reach the 15 percent mark. (*The Boston Globe*, 05/16/1994)

- June* EMK criticizes Romney for not being involved in important issues such as gun control and abortion. (*The Boston Herald*, 06/04/1994)
- Romney challenges EMK to a series of debates. (*The Boston Herald*, 06/02/1994)
- July* VK resigns from her law firm over its decision to represent Libya in a wrongful death suit filed by the family of a victim of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. (*The Boston Globe*, 07/21/1994)
- August* The IRA agrees to a ceasefire, but under the condition that the U.S. grants a visa to Joe Cahill, an IRA activist and convicted terrorist. The IRA leadership believes that only Cahill has the standing to persuade hard-line supporters that this is the right course of action. While vacationing in France, Kennedy Smith is contacted by Reynolds who apprises her of the situation. Kennedy Smith then returns to Dublin, and repeatedly calls Clinton, urging him to grant the visa. She also convinces EMK to lobby the President. Before making a decision, Clinton once again contacts Reynolds who assures him that this will result in a “complete cessation” of violence. Clinton agrees to authorize Cahill’s entry and the ceasefire is announced within hours. (Clymer, p. 548; O’Clery, pp. 155-157; *The Washington Post*, 08/31/1995; *The Irish Times*, 03/09/1996)
- Romney launches a series of ads focusing on welfare, healthcare and crime. Two weeks later, EMK’s pollster finds that Romney has gained over ten points. Near the end of the month, EMK airs an ad on his role in passing the crime bill. Romney counters with an ad mocking the idea of EMK as tough on crime. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994; *The Boston Herald*, 08/03/1994)
- September* Joseph Kennedy II (JPK II) runs a column in *The Boston Herald* criticizing Mormons. He charges that Mormons treated African-Americans and women as “second-class citizens.” Despite his June promise not to raise the issue of religion—Romney is a Mormon—EMK says it is proper to ask Romney about the issue of blacks in the church. Romney asks EMK to repudiate the statements. Michael Kennedy, JPK II’s brother, responds that he had “never been able to control my brother, but I would not deny him either.” EMK later issues an apology. (Clymer, pp. 550-551; *The Nation*, 10/14/1994)
- Adams travels to the U.S. for a second time, and EMK and VK greet him at the airport in Boston. This event is interpreted as a signal that Adams is now acceptable to moderate Irish-Americans. While in Washington, Adams spends a night as a guest at Hickory Hill, the home of Ethel Kennedy. Traveling around the country, Adams is treated as a celebrity; however, he is not permitted to visit the White House or to have contact with high-ranking officials. EMK lobbies for Adams, having a reportedly “angry” phone call with National Security Adviser

Tony Lake. The White House eventually caves into the pressure. Vice President Al Gore calls Adams and informs him that the ban on American officials having contact with Sinn Fein has been rescinded. (O'Clery, pp. 168-175)

EMK's ex-wife, Joan Kennedy, announces that she plans to reopen her divorce settlement with EMK. She hires one of Boston's toughest divorce lawyers, Monroe Inker, and takes EMK to court on the 6th. (Clymer, p. 550; *The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994)

On the 18th, EMK holds a campaign meeting to discuss how to deal with Romney who is expected to win the Republican nomination. In attendance are EMK, VK, Edmund Reggie, John Sasso, Bob Shrum, and Kennedy pollster Tom Kiley. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994)

Romney wins the Republican state primary on the 20th defeating John Lakian. EMK is unopposed for the Democratic nomination. Romney pulls even with EMK in the polls. (*The Boston Globe*, 09/21/94, 11/10/1994)

Both President Clinton and Hillary Clinton appear at fundraisers for EMK. (Clymer, p. 553)

The EMK campaign interviews Ampad workers on strike from a plant in Marion, Indiana, and produces ads depicting Romney as a heartless businessman. Although currently on a leave of absence, Romney is chairman of the company that owns Ampad. The commercials are effective in driving up Romney's negative ratings. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/10/1994)

EMK and VK host a series of gatherings at their Boston apartment for supporters, and VK appears in television ads for the campaign. "I reject strongly the label of my husband as a womanizer," VK explains. "I know the tremendous respect he has for me, and for his daughters, and for his mother. I think that says it all." VK later says that she loves campaigning. "People are so warm and so open and talk to me about the difference Ted has made in their lives, or talk to me about the concerns in their lives. It's wonderful. I love it." She is seen as a great political asset by EMK and others. (*The New York Times*, 09/24/1994; Kennedy, *True Compass*, pp. 440-444; Canellos, pp. 297-298; EMK and Vicki Kennedy interview with Natalie Jacobson, JFK Library, 10/29/1994)

October Joan Kennedy announces that she will wait to reopen her divorce settlement with EMK until after the November election. (*The New York Times*, 10/06/1994)

An invitation-only rally at Faneuil Hall marks a new start for EMK's campaign in which former Democratic National Committee chairman Paul Kirk and EMK's former chiefs of staff David Burke and Ranny Cooper take over from Michael Kennedy. Burke serves as EMK's "body man," traveling with EMK on the

campaign trail. VK campaigns on her own but rejoins EMK and Burke every night. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, pp. 440; *The Nation*, 10/14/1994)

On the 12th, *The Boston Globe* and *The Boston Herald* jointly invite the candidates to two debates. EMK and Romney agree to the two debates. Prior to the first debate, *The Boston Herald* conducts a poll showing EMK with an 18 percent lead on Romney. (*The New York Times*, 10/26/1994)

In their first debate at Faneuil Hall, Romney pits his “skill and experience in the private sector” against EMK’s seniority in the Senate to argue that he knows how to create jobs better than EMK. EMK gets Romney to concede that he does not know how much his plans for health care would cost, and accuses Romney of not giving medical care to part-time workers he employs. Romney counters with similar accusations about employees at the Kennedy’s Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Romney also charges that EMK is “soft on crime.” Commentators call the debate a draw. (*The New York Times*, 10/26/1994)

In a second debate in Holyoke, Romney promises to oppose increasing taxes and spending, though he separates himself from other Republicans by saying he does not support cutting money for student loans or reducing the federal tax on capital gains. EMK emphasizes his accomplishments and his ability to build coalitions, which he plans to do next for health care legislation. He also challenges Romney on where he stands on the issue of banning cheap handguns. A telephone survey completed before the debate finds EMK leading 52 to 38 percent. (*The New York Times*, 10/28/1994)

On the 29th, EMK and VK are interviewed on Boston television. In his reply to a question about whether he had been lonely before meeting VK, EMK says: “Probably. I don’t think I probably knew how lonely I was until I met Vicki. I had no idea of ever having a serious relationship like this in my life. And all of that went aside when I met her, and she became a part of my life.” (Clymer, p. 543)

November EMK beats Romney. Doris and Edmund Reggie join EMK, VK, and other Kennedy family members in Boston to celebrate EMK’s victory. (*The Boston Herald*, 11/09/1994; *The Boston Globe*, 11/09/1994, 11/10/1994)

Patrick Kennedy is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Rhode Island’s 1st District, where he still currently serves. EMK and Patrick Kennedy establish a routine of meeting for lunch every Tuesday when both are in town. (Clymer, p. 559, 577; <http://www.house.gov/patrickkennedy/congressman.html>)

The GOP wins control of both the House and Senate in the “Republican Revolution.” EMK loses his chairmanship of the Labor Committee.

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend is elected Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, becoming the first Kennedy woman elected to public office. She is reelected in 1998. ("The Kennedys," *American Experience*)

1995 Important issues EMK works on in 1995 include the minimum wage, budget reconciliation (EMK tries to restore funding for education and limit spending reductions), and health insurance portability.

January Rose Kennedy dies from complications of pneumonia on the 22nd, just a few months short of her 105th birthday. EMK, Patricia Kennedy Lawford, Jean Kennedy Smith, and Eunice Kennedy Shriver had gathered in Hyannis Port to be with Rose Kennedy during her final days. Rose Kennedy's funeral service is held at St. Stephen's Church in the North End of Boston, where she had been baptized in 1890. EMK and VK both speak at the service and EMK gives the eulogy. Rose Kennedy is buried next to JPK at Holyhood Cemetery. EMK's nephew Douglas Kennedy later recalls how attentive EMK was to his mother at the Cape: "Every morning he would structure his day around her. He was constantly talking to her. Tell her the whole story of the day, in a jolly, gregarious way, and he is describing to her what happened. That made me as proud of being a member of this family as anything." EMK honors her memory by going to mass everyday for a year. (Clymer, pp. 562-564; Canellos, p. 309)

Winter Adams applies for another visa to visit the U.S. around St. Patrick's Day, which presents a dilemma: should he be invited to the annual lunch with the President and Taoiseach? The British government adamantly maintains that Adams not be permitted to fundraise and that he should be excluded from the lunch. EMK and Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) send a letter to Clinton arguing that Adams should be able to raise funds in the U.S. and that unilateral conditions, such as decommissioning of weapons by the IRA, are unfair. Kennedy Smith also phones the President and a number of congressmen pleading for Adams. Clinton opts to invite Adams to the lunch and to remove the ban on fundraising, precipitating a serious rift between Clinton and British Prime Minister John Major. (O'Clery, pp. 192-201)

November EMK and Patrick Kennedy attend Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's funeral and sprinkle dirt from EMK's brothers' graves onto Rabin's. (Clymer, p. 578)

1996 Important issues EMK works on in 1996 include health insurance portability and the minimum wage.

EMK and VK travel to Florence, Italy, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Florence Flood.

June Joan Kennedy agrees to drop her demand for larger divorce settlement after she is "assured protection in the event of the Senator's death." (Clymer, p. 578)

- 1997** Important issues EMK works on in 1997 include the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), the Presidential Race Initiative and affirmative action, the tobacco case, and the nomination of Bill Lee to the Civil Rights Commission.
- February* EMK and VK sell their home in McLean, Virginia. They rent a house in northwest Washington, D.C. until 1998, when they buy a house in the Kalorama embassy area. (Clymer, p. 592)
- March* Roger Tamraz, a Lebanese oil financier at the center of the Democratic fund-raising scandal surrounding the 1996 election, discloses that he was a fund-raiser for EMK, sought his help on an oil pipeline deal, and had hired VK to help him with some legal matters. EMK's Senate office denies there is any conflict of interest. (*The Boston Globe*, 03/21/1997)
- December* Michael Kennedy dies in a skiing accident in Colorado.
- 1998** Important issues EMK works on in 1998 include new teacher legislation, Children's Firearm Safety Act, opposition to Crime Victims' Constitutional Amendment, baseball antitrust bill, and the Clinton impeachment and trial.
- January* EMK and VK, as well as Trina Vargo, Kathy McKiernan, and Chris Doherty, travel to Northern Ireland. EMK meets with Protestant UUP leader David Trimble in Northern Ireland to discuss the stalled peace talks. The Good Friday Agreement is reached later that spring. (Clymer, p. 594)
- May* VK receives an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Suffolk University Law School in Boston for her service to the community. (<http://www.kidsandguns.org>)
- Summer* The Kennedy family holds a reunion in Hyannis Port over the Fourth of July weekend. Over 100 Kennedys attend. (Clymer, p. 603; *The Boston Herald*, 07/07/1998)
- August* On the 17th, Clinton testifies before Starr to a federal grand jury regarding his affair with Lewinsky. In his testimony, Clinton reads a statement admitting a sexual relationship with Lewinsky. Throughout hours of sparring with Starr, Clinton continuously and adamantly claims that his admission is not inconsistent with his testimony in the 17 January deposition. Later that evening, Clinton appears on national television and admits to the American public that had an inappropriate relationship with Lewinsky. EMK calls Clinton immediately after the national address to express his support. (Clymer, p. 600; Baker, p. 23)
- After vacationing for a week and a half in Martha's Vineyard, Clinton decides to make his first public appearances since admitting his affair on a short day trip to Worcester, Massachusetts on the 27th. EMK and VK joins the president for the entire day. Clinton and his staff reportedly view the day's events as a success and

a relief. At dinner, Clinton asks EMK to talk with Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV), as Clinton is reportedly concerned that Byrd's insistence on strictly following the rules of the Senate could undermine Clinton's defense. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, pp. 465-466; Baker, p. 55)

- 1999** Important issues EMK works on in 1999 include the Juvenile Justice Act, post-Columbine gun control measures, and the tobacco lawsuit.
- July* JFK, Jr. and his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, die in an airplane accident off the coast of Massachusetts. The couple had been traveling to Hyannis Port to attend the wedding of Rory Kennedy, RFK's youngest child. Carolyn Bessette Kennedy's sister, Lauren Bessette, also dies in the accident. EMK flies to New York from Cape Cod to comfort Caroline Kennedy. EMK delivers the eulogy at a private mass held in New York at St. Thomas More church and takes on the role of family patriarch. (Clymer, pp. 603-605)
- October* VK helps found Common Sense About Kids and Guns, a group that brings together opposing sides of the gun control debate to encourage parents to follow precautionary measures to keep guns out of the hands of children. The coalition includes "gun manufacturers, the nation's mayors, child safety advocates, crime prevention activists and pediatricians." (*USA Today*, 10/07/1999; <http://www.kidsandguns.org>)
- 2000** Important issues EMK works on in 2000 include the Religious Liberty Protection Act.
- February* EMK is admitted to a Washington, D.C. hospital to be treated for bacterial pneumonia. (*The Boston Herald*, 02/10/2000)
- August* At the Democratic National Convention, EMK honors his brother JFK and endorses the presidential and vice presidential nominees, Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. EMK is introduced by his niece, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, in a speech marking the 40th anniversary of her father's nomination. (*The New York Times*, 08/16/2000)
- November* George W. Bush defeats Al Gore in a contested presidential election. The Democrats pick up seats in the Senate to force a 50-50 split.
- EMK and VK travel to the United Kingdom to give the first Smith Memorial Lecture. EMK also meets with Prime Minister Tony Blair to discuss the 2000 election and the situation in Northern Ireland.
- 2001** Important issues EMK works on in 2001 include No Child Left Behind, opposition to the Bush judicial nominations and the John Ashcroft attorney general nomination, Uniting and Strengthening America Act, Immigration

Reform/INS reorganization, military tribunals and indefinite detentions, and the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice.

- January* The Democrats regain control of the Senate for 17 days until Gore, who has been the tie-breaking vote in the evenly split Senate as Vice President, is replaced by Dick Cheney, giving the GOP control of the House, Senate, and White House.
- February* Analysis of the spending of EMK's 2000 Senate Campaign by *The Boston Herald* reveals, among other expenses, that the campaign paid for an apartment in Boston for Edmund Reggie. Aides report to the *Herald* that Reggie was a close advisor to EMK during the campaign and that the campaign paid the rent for the apartment "in lieu of compensation." (*The Boston Herald*, 02/23/2001)
- May* The Democrats regain control of the Senate when James Jeffords (R-VT) leaves the Republican Party to caucus with the Democrats as an Independent. EMK regains chairmanship of the HELP Committee, as well as the Judiciary's Immigration and Refugee Affairs Subcommittee.
- June* Curran Raclin graduates from the Maret School, a private high school in Washington, D.C. EMK is the keynote speaker. (*Boston Herald*, 05/17/2001)
- September* 9-11 terrorist attacks kill over 2,000 Americans, including 78 Massachusetts residents who boarded one of the planes from Logan Airport that hit the World Trade Center. EMK calls every one of the families. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, p. 492; Vincent Bzdek, *The Kennedy Legacy*: New York, Palgrave, 2009, p. 213)
- 2002** Important issues EMK works on in 2002 include opposition to the Bush judicial nominations, Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act, Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act, extension of Section 245(i) of the immigration law, Prison Rape Reduction Act, and the Department of Homeland Security.
- February* EMK celebrates his 70th birthday. VK organizes birthday parties for EMK in Washington, D.C., and Boston. (*The Boston Globe*, 02/22/2002)
- November* EMK, Kara Kennedy, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and Ed Schlossberg travel to Paris for the opening of the Jackie Exhibit at the Louvre.
- The Republicans regain control of the Senate in the midterm elections, returning to the GOP control of the House, Senate, and White House. EMK loses chairmanship of the HELP Committee.
- December* Kara Kennedy is diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer and told she might have less than a year to live. EMK does not accept the diagnosis and helps his daughter find a surgeon in Boston who removes a portion of her right lung in January 2003. The surgery is successful. She undergoes chemotherapy treatment in Boston and

Washington, D.C. EMK and VK accompany her to treatments in D.C. Her cancer goes into remission. (*The Boston Globe*, 05/25/2008)

2003 Important issues EMK works on in 2003 include Head Start bill, opposition to the Bush judicial nominations, submitted brief in SCOTUS affirmative action case, opposition to medical malpractice reform, Amber Alert Bill, Military Naturalization Bill, and renewal of Undetectable Firearms Act.

EMK offers to fundraise for Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, a presumptive candidate for the 2004 Democratic nomination for president. He begins to call Kerry several times a week to offer advice on campaigning and policy issues. A top Kerry aide says, "I think his desire to see John win is sincere, and I don't think he's doing the minimum to avoid getting criticized." Pundits speculate that Kerry has become EMK's vehicle for driving Bush out of office. (*The Boston Globe*, 07/24/2004, 05/10/2003)

April EMK and VK travel to the Netherlands to visit the Freysingers.

May EMK hosts a dinner for Kerry and friends in the labor community at his Washington home. EMK had thrown a similar dinner party for Senator John Edwards (D-NC) the previous spring. (*The Boston Globe*, 05/10/2003)

August EMK and VK invite John and Teresa Kerry to dinner at the Cape, where they discuss Kerry's campaign for the 2004 Democratic nomination for president against Bush. Howard Dean, the former Governor of Vermont, had overtaken Kerry in the early Iowa and New Hampshire polls. The following month Kerry officially declares himself a presidential candidate.

2004 Important issues EMK works on in 2004 include IDEA reauthorization, opposition to the recess appointments of Charles Pickering and William Pryor, opposition to Federal Marriage Amendment, opposition to Bush judicial nominations, theft of confidential computer files related to judicial nominations, increase in H-2B visa cap, resettlement for Vietnamese refugees in the Philippines, asbestos legislation, Crime Victims' Rights Act, Safe, Orderly, Legal Visas and Enforcement Act, hate crimes, abuse at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, and expiration of the Assault Weapons Ban.

February Edmund Reggie is inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in Winnfield, Louisiana. EMK attends the ceremony explaining, "Usually, I'm either drawn here by Cajun cooking or by family, tonight it's family." (*The Associated Press State and Local Wire*, 02/01/2004)

May On the 23rd, VK writes an op-ed for *The Washington Post* entitled "Altar Is Not a Battlefield." The piece expresses her concern with regards to the denial of communion to pro-choice Catholic politicians, such as John Kerry. The subject catalyzes an ongoing debate within the Church. (*The Washington Post*, 05/23/2004)

- July* Edmund Reggie negotiates an agreement for the governance of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, an area of parkland and open space created by the demolition of the Central Artery in downtown Boston. EMK, Governor Mitt Romney, Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and Turnpike Authority Chairman Mathew J. Amorello sign the agreement creating the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, an independent, nonprofit organization that will raise money to maintain and run the space. The Kennedy family will appoint one of the conservancy board members with the city, state, and Turnpike Authority appointing nine others. (*The Associated Press State and Local Wire*, 07/12/2004)
- Due in large part to EMK's effort, Boston hosts the 2004 Democratic National Convention. John Kerry is nominated as the Democratic presidential nominee.
- November* In the early hours of the 3rd, Kerry consults with EMK, Edwards, and Cahill at Kerry's home in Boston. Kerry concedes nine hours later. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 11/04/2004)
- 2005** Important issues EMK works on in 2005 include Higher Education Act, opposition to Bush judicial nominations, including John Roberts for Chief Justice and the Alberto Gonzalez nomination as attorney general, opposition to bankruptcy reform, opposition to the "nuclear option," opposition to Class Action reform, asbestos legislation, increase in the H-2B Visa cap, opposition to reauthorization of the Patriot Act, funding for off-site judicial security, Kennedy-McCain and comprehensive immigration reform, opposition to liability protections for gun manufacturers, and the tobacco settlement.
- June* Joan Kennedy and her three kids reach a legal agreement naming an independent attorney as her guardian ad litem after a year long legal battle for control over her affairs. EMK says he is "very hopeful" the settlement will pave the way to a fuller reconciliation among estranged family members. "I know they love each other very much and this has been a very trying and difficult time," EMK says during an interview in his Senate office. (*Boston Herald*, 06/17/2005)
- November* Raymond Reggie, VK's brother, is sentenced to a year in prison after pleading guilty to bank fraud. Reggie, a prominent Democratic political consultant and fundraiser, obtains a light sentence after he testifies for the government in a case against a top finance aid for Hillary Clinton's 2000 campaign for U.S. Senate from New York. (*New York Sun*, 11/30/2005)
- 2006** EMK travels to Rome, Florence, and London, with VK, Pam Covington and Steve Engelberg. EMK meets with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, Tony Blair, and British Labour Party leader and future Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

- May* Patrick Kennedy crashes his car in D.C. He enters the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for addiction to prescription pain medication and depression. It is his second trip there in six months. (*The Washington Post*, 05/06/2006)
- November* The Democrats regain control of the House and Senate. EMK regains chairmanship of the HELP Committee.
- 2007** EMK and VK travel to Northern Ireland to attend the opening ceremony of the new power-sharing government at Stormont and are seated next to Baroness Eileen Paisley, the wife of the incoming First Minister Ian Paisley.
- 2008**
- January* EMK publicly endorses Barack Obama. EMK, Patrick Kennedy and Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg appear with Obama at American University in Washington, where JFK had proposed a nuclear test ban treaty in 1963. The next day Kerry Kennedy, Kathleen Kennedy, and Bobby Kennedy, Jr., publish an op-ed reiterating their support for Hillary Clinton. EMK campaigns for Obama in New Mexico and California ahead of Super Tuesday and in other states over the coming months. (Canellos, pp. 383-385)
- May* On the 17th, EMK suffers a seizure in his Hyannis Port home and is diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, pp. 4-8)
- Caroline Raclin graduates from Wesleyan College. EMK is scheduled to give the commencement address, but Barack Obama takes his place after EMK is diagnosed with cancer.
- June* On the 2nd, EMK undergoes successful surgery at Duke Medical Center in North Carolina. He returns home on the 9th. (Canellos, p. 392)
- July* The Kennedys hold a family reunion over July 4th in Hyannisport. (Canellos, p. 393)
- On the 9th, EMK makes a surprise return to the Senate and casts the crucial vote in favor of a bill to prevent planned cuts in Medicare reimbursements for doctors. Patrick Kennedy accompanies his father. EMK finishes a six-week round of chemotherapy and radiation later in the month. In an email to friends and family, VK writes that “even in the midst of this very serious business, we’ve shared a lot of laughter. But that is not surprising to those of us who love and know Teddy—there’s always laughter when he’s around.” (Canellos, pp. 394-395)
- August* EMK gives an address during the opening night of the Democratic Convention in Denver, despite being in severe pain from kidney stones. VK, Caroline Kennedy, who introduces EMK, EMK’s three children, Curran and Caroline Raclin, and other Kennedys are in attendance. (Kennedy, *True Compass*, pp. 9-12)

November EMK returns to the Senate after five months of cancer treatments. (Canellos, p. 408)

2009

August On the 11th, Eunice Kennedy Shriver dies. EMK is too ill to attend the funeral.

On the 25th, EMK passes away.

On the 28th, VK and other Kennedy family members attend EMK's memorial service at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. VK stands for hours at the library to greet the tens of thousands of mourners and thank them for coming.

On the 29th, VK and other Kennedy family members attend EMK's funeral mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Basilica in Roxbury, Massachusetts. EMK had prayed at the church daily when his daughter Kara was undergoing cancer treatment at a nearby Boston hospital. Curran Raclin gives the first reading at the service, the Book of Wisdom 3:1-9, from the Old Testament. Caroline Raclin gives the second reading, Letter of Paul to the Romans 3:31b-35, 37-39, from the New Testament. Both of the Raclin children also serve as pall bearers. The attendees include 58 current Senators, 21 former Members, President Barack Obama, who delivers the eulogy, Vice President Joe Biden, and former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. Later that day EMK is laid to rest next to his brothers JFK and RFK at Arlington National Cemetery. (<http://tedkennedy.org>; *New York Times*, 08/29/2009)

September Paul G. Kirk Jr. (D-Mass.), who was appointed to fill EMK's Senate seat, is sworn in to the Senate. VK, Curran Raclin, Kara Kennedy, and Patrick Kennedy are in attendance. (*Washington Post*, 09/26/2009)

VICKI KENNEDY FACT SHEET

Prepared by Mark Nevin

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 11/04/2009

Personal Biography:

- 1954: born in Crowley, Louisiana, the second of six children of Edmund and Doris Reggie.
- 1976: graduated with honors from the Newcomb College of Tulane University in New Orleans and worked as a summer intern in EMK's mail room.
- 1979: graduated summa cum laude from Tulane Law School.
- 1980: married Chicago attorney Grier Raclin.
- 1982: her parents bought a summer home on Nantucket.
- 1983: gave birth to son Curran Raclin.
- 1985: gave birth to daughter Caroline Raclin.
- 1990: she and Grier Raclin divorced.
- 1991: began to date EMK.
- 1992: she and EMK got married.

Legal Career:

- After graduating from law school in 1979, she clerked for Robert A. Sprecher in the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.
- Early 1980s: moved to Washington, D.C, and joined the firm of Caplin and Drysdale as a tax lawyer.
- 1987: joined the law firm of Keck, Mahin & Cate, specializing in banking law, and later became a partner.
- 1994: resigned from Keck, Mahin, & Cate over its decision to represent Libya in a wrongful death suit related to the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Public Service:

- 1999: founded Common Sense About Kids and Guns, a group that brings together opposing sides of the gun control debate to encourage parents to follow precautionary measures to keep guns out of the hands of children. She is currently the president.
- She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.
- She has served on the Board of Stop Handgun Violence in Boston, Massachusetts.
- She also works with various organizations in both Massachusetts and the District of Columbia on a wide range of issues.

VICKI KENNEDY KEY EVENTS

Prepared by Rob Martin

Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/10/2009

Year Key Events

- 1976** Vicki Reggie interns in EMK's mail room the summer after graduating from Tulane.
- 1979** Vicki graduates from Tulane Law School.
- 1980** Vicki's parents, Edmund and Doris Reggie, support EMK's presidential campaign; Doris Reggie serves as a delegate and casts the only Louisiana vote for EMK at the convention.
- Vicki marries Grier Raclin; the couple moves to D.C. to pursue legal careers.
- 1983** Curran Raclin is born.
- 1985** Caroline Raclin is born.
- 1990** Vicki divorces Grier Raclin.
- 1991** EMK begins dating Vicki after attending the Reggies' 40th anniversary dinner.
- Vicki attends EMK's Harvard speech acknowledging shortcomings in his personal life.
- EMK testifies at his nephew's Palm Beach trial; Vicki accompanies EMK to the trial.
- 1992** EMK and Vicki get engaged and are married later that summer.
- 1993** EMK and Vicki Kennedy (VK) visit Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith in Ireland; EMK subsequently decides to support the Gerry Adams visa, helping to pave way for ceasefire.
- 1994** VK plays a key role in EMK's tough reelection campaign against Mitt Romney; Patrick Kennedy is elected to the House despite huge Democratic losses in GOP revolution.
- Jackie Kennedy Onassis passes away.
- 1995** Rose Kennedy passes away.
- 1997** EMK and VK sell home in McLean and move to D.C., buying home in D.C. in 1998.
- 1998** EMK and VK travel to Northern Ireland, where EMK discusses stalled peace talks with David Trimble; Good Friday Peace Agreement is signed later in year.
- EMK holds family reunion at Kennedy compound in Hyannisport over 4th of July.
- Clinton travels to Worcester to make first public appearance since admitting inappropriate relationship with Lewinsky; EMK and VK the spend day with Clinton.

- 1999** JFK Jr., wife and sister-in-law die in airplane crash en route to Hyannisport.
VK helps found Common Sense About Kids and Guns.
- 2000** EMK is admitted to Washington, D.C. hospital for bacterial pneumonia.
- 2001** EMK is keynote speaker at Curran Raclin's high school graduation.
- 2002** Vicki throws EMK 70th birthday parties in Boston and D.C.
Caroline Raclin helps organize anti-gun rally in D.C. in wake of "D.C. sniper."
Kara Kennedy is diagnosed with lung cancer.
- '03/04** EMK and VK invite John and Teresa Kerry to their homes in Hyannisport and D.C. for private dinners to discuss the 2004 campaign, as well as to host campaign events.
- 2004** Caroline Raclin graduates from the Maret School. She enters Wesleyan that fall.
- 2005** Curran Raclin graduates from Boston College; volunteers for City Year in Boston. Later begins marketing/advertising job in Boston area.
Rosemary Kennedy passes away.
- 2006** Patrick Kennedy crashes his car in D.C.; re-enters rehab program at Mayo Clinic.
Patricia Kennedy Lawford passes away.
- 2007** EMK and VK attend Stormont power sharing ceremony in Northern Ireland.
- 2008** EMK endorses Barack Obama for president.
EMK suffers a seizure in Hyannisport; diagnosed with malignant brain tumor.
Caroline Raclin graduates from Wesleyan; Obama gives commencement address for EMK, who is about to undergo brain surgery; Caroline goes on to work as a clinical research administrator and research assistant at Massachusetts General Hospital.
Kennedys hold family reunion over 4th of July in Hyannisport.
EMK makes surprise appearance at Democratic National Convention in Denver; VK and all five children attend the convention.
- 2009** Eunice Kennedy Shriver passes away; EMK is too ill to attend the funeral.
EMK passes away.
Paul Kirk is appointed to fill EMK's Senate seat; VK, her two children, and Patrick Kennedy attend the swearing-in ceremony.