

May 29, 1965
JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL STAMPS

JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL STAMPS
 (May 29, 1917 - November 22, 1963)

The Republic of the Philippines joins the world in paying tribute to the memory of one of the greatest statesmen the world has ever had, as it issues today the John F. Kennedy memorial stamps.

It is a set of stamps especially designed by chief philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., of the Bureau of Posts. The familiar classic countenance of John F. Kennedy as the world remembers, and will remember it, has been captured on the 22.5 x 37.9 mm stamps, vertically arranged.

This special issue has been printed at denominations of 6, 10 and 30 centavos, at quantities of 25,000,000, 7,000,000 and 3,000,000 respectively. It was heliogravure processed in four colors, with 50 stamps to a sheet, by Harrison and Sons, Ltd. London, England.

President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was born on May 29, 1917 in Brooklyn, Massachusetts. He was born to riches, raised and educated and wed in an elite world.

His freckled-faced boyhood was marked by private schools, Harvard and education in England. At 23, his book "Why England Slept" helped awaken the United States to the imminence of world war. At 26, he was a war hero.

In 1946, he was elected to the House of Representatives. After six years in the House, at the age of 32, he ran for Senator in Massachusetts and won against Henry Cabot Lodge.

He wooed Jacqueline Bouvier in 1951 and in September 1953 they were wed amidst impressive ceremonies in Newport, R.I.

In 1960, he won his party's nomination for President. Following a strenuous campaign, he became at the age of 43, the youngest man ever elected President of the United States of America, the 35th President to occupy the White House.

He was one of the most intelligent and attractive of the 35 Presidents, and a happy healthy symbol of the might and invulnerability of his nation.

To the world, he was a leader of liberty, a leader of reason of patience and youth and promise.

Thus, his assassination on November 22, 1963, at the age of 46, by the bullets from a sniper's rifle, shocked the whole world. Dismay and disbelief was universal when the news reverberated around the world.

His brief, but portentous life brings to mind the words of his favorite passage from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes . . . "There is an appointed time for everything . . . a time to be born and a time to die . . . a time to love and a time to hate . . . a time of war and a time of peace . . ."

For the Philippines, it is time to offer this memorial stamps as its own humble homage to him who was a leader respected and loved by the world, a great preserver of peace, the late President John F. Kennedy.

