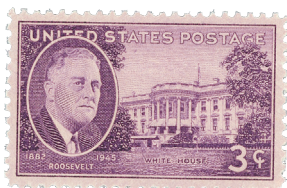


## This Day in History... June 5, 1968

# Bobby Kennedy Assassinated

Bobby Kennedy was shot by an assassin on June 5, 1968, and died from his wounds early the next day.

Robert F. (Bobby) Kennedy was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 20, 1925, though the family moved to New York two years later. Bobby was the seventh of nine children born to Joe Kennedy Sr., a businessman and leading figure in the democratic party who hoped one of his sons would grow up to be president. While he focused on preparing Bobby's older brothers for such a feat, he encouraged the younger siblings to study current events so that they too could enter public service.



*In 1935, FDR sent RFK an album and stamps and invited him to the White House to see his collection.*

I am going to frame your letter and I am going to keep it always in my room." Today, these letters are in the collections of the National Archives.



*On RFK's 76th birthday in 2001, the Department of Justice building was renamed in his honor.*

Beginning in 1959, Bobby began devoting his time to running his brother's presidential campaign, as he had done in 1952 during John's senatorial campaign. After John won the 1960 presidential election, Bobby was appointed attorney general and also acted as the President's closest advisor. These roles gave Bobby considerable influence in both foreign and domestic affairs. He had greater power as attorney general than anyone else who has held that position, and used it to pursue leaders of organized crime and the mafia. During



*RFK sent 400 federal marshals to protect the Freedom Riders and pressed the Interstate Commerce Commission to desegregate interstate travel.*

As a child, Bobby liked visiting historic sites and playing games that improved his vocabulary and math skills. He was very interested in American history, covering his walls with presidential portraits and his shelves with books on the Civil War. He was also an avid stamp collector. When he was 11, Bobby received a letter from fellow collector President Franklin Roosevelt that read, "Your dad has told me that you are a stamp collector and I thought you might like to have these stamps to add to your collection. I am enclosing a little album which you may find useful. Perhaps sometime when you are in Washington you will come in and let me show you my collection."

Bobby replied, "I liked the stamps you sent me very much and the little book is very useful. I am just starting my collection and it would be great fun to see yours which mother says you have had for a long time. I am going to frame your letter and I am going to keep it always in my room."

Weeks before his 18th birthday, Bobby joined the US Naval Reserve and went on to attend the V-12 Navy College Training Program at Harvard. After his older brother Joe was killed in action in 1944, Bobby requested to be assigned to the ship that was named in his honor. Bobby served aboard the USS *Joseph P. Kennedy Jr.* for four months in the Caribbean before being honorably discharged.

Bobby went on to attend Harvard and join the varsity football team. After graduating, Bobby sailed to Europe and the Middle East and submitted stories for the *Boston Post*. In the following years, he passed the bar and continued to write for the *Boston Post*, notably covering the Treaty of Peace with Japan.

In 1951, Bobby followed his brother John's lead and entered politics as an attorney in the US Department of Justice. In 1953, he became counsel for the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, chaired by Senator Joseph McCarthy. Kennedy held that position for the next two years. He finished the 1950s as chief counsel to the Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor-Management Field.

his term, convictions against these people rose 800 percent.

Bobby used his influence to push for civil rights reform. He supported the Freedom Riders and sent US marshals to enforce a federal court order to integrate the University of Mississippi.

In 1965, following his term as attorney general, Bobby ran for a seat in the US Senate, representing New York State. After three years as a US Senator, sensing the vulnerability of Lyndon Johnson, Bobby decided to run for President of the United States. He was immensely popular, as people saw him as the embodiment of his slain brother.

On June 5, 1968, Kennedy was assassinated at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles shortly after delivering a victory speech following his win in the California primary. As he exited through the hotel's kitchen pantry, he was shot multiple times by Sirhan Sirhan, a 24-year-old Palestinian immigrant reportedly angered by Kennedy's support for the formation of Israel. Kennedy died from his wounds in the early hours of June 6. He was just 43 years old. His death shocked the nation, coming just five years after the assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy, and marked a tragic turning point in American political history.



*Stamp features a family photo provided by Bobby's wife.*



*With an eight-year age difference, the brothers weren't always close. A seven-week trip to Asia, the Pacific and Middle East in 1951 brought them closer.*



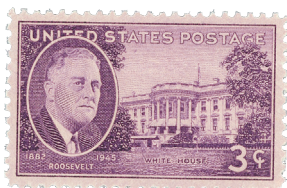
*RFK created the first program to include all 26 federal law enforcement agencies in his investigation into organized crime.*

## This Day in History... June 5, 1968

# Bobby Kennedy Assassinated

Bobby Kennedy was shot by an assassin on June 5, 1968, and died from his wounds early the next day.

Robert F. (Bobby) Kennedy was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 20, 1925, though the family moved to New York two years later. Bobby was the seventh of nine children born to Joe Kennedy Sr., a businessman and leading figure in the democratic party who hoped one of his sons would grow up to be president. While he focused on preparing Bobby's older brothers for such a feat, he encouraged the younger siblings to study current events so that they too could enter public service.



*In 1935, FDR sent RFK an album and stamps and invited him to the White House to see his collection.*

I am going to frame your letter and I am going to keep it always in my room." Today, these letters are in the collections of the National Archives.



*On RFK's 76th birthday in 2001, the Department of Justice building was renamed in his honor.*

Beginning in 1959, Bobby began devoting his time to running his brother's presidential campaign, as he had done in 1952 during John's senatorial campaign. After John won the 1960 presidential election, Bobby was appointed attorney general and also acted as the President's closest advisor. These roles gave Bobby considerable influence in both foreign and domestic affairs. He had greater power as attorney general than anyone else who has held that position, and used it to pursue leaders of organized crime and the mafia. During



*RFK sent 400 federal marshals to protect the Freedom Riders and pressed the Interstate Commerce Commission to desegregate interstate travel.*

As a child, Bobby liked visiting historic sites and playing games that improved his vocabulary and math skills. He was very interested in American history, covering his walls with presidential portraits and his shelves with books on the Civil War. He was also an avid stamp collector. When he was 11, Bobby received a letter from fellow collector President Franklin Roosevelt that read, "Your dad has told me that you are a stamp collector and I thought you might like to have these stamps to add to your collection. I am enclosing a little album which you may find useful. Perhaps sometime when you are in Washington you will come in and let me show you my collection."

Bobby replied, "I liked the stamps you sent me very much and the little book is very useful. I am just starting my collection and it would be great fun to see yours which mother says you have had for a long time.

Weeks before his 18th birthday, Bobby joined the US Naval Reserve and went on to attend the V-12 Navy College Training Program at Harvard. After his older brother Joe was killed in action in 1944, Bobby requested to be assigned to the ship that was named in his honor. Bobby served aboard the USS *Joseph P. Kennedy Jr.* for four months in the Caribbean before being honorably discharged.

Bobby went on to attend Harvard and join the varsity football team. After graduating, Bobby sailed to Europe and the Middle East and submitted stories for the *Boston Post*. In the following years, he passed the bar and continued to write for the *Boston Post*, notably covering the Treaty of Peace with Japan.

In 1951, Bobby followed his brother John's lead and entered politics as an attorney in the US Department of Justice. In 1953, he became counsel for the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, chaired by Senator Joseph McCarthy. Kennedy held that position for the next two years. He finished the 1950s as chief counsel to the Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor-Management Field.

his term, convictions against these people rose 800 percent.

Bobby used his influence to push for civil rights reform. He supported the Freedom Riders and sent US marshals to enforce a federal court order to integrate the University of Mississippi.

In 1965, following his term as attorney general, Bobby ran for a seat in the US Senate, representing New York State. After three years as a US Senator, sensing the vulnerability of Lyndon Johnson, Bobby decided to run for President of the United States. He was immensely popular, as people saw him as the embodiment of his slain brother.

On June 5, 1968, Kennedy was assassinated at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles shortly after delivering a victory speech following his win in the California primary. As he exited through the hotel's kitchen pantry, he was shot multiple times by Sirhan Sirhan, a 24-year-old Palestinian immigrant reportedly angered by Kennedy's support for the formation of Israel. Kennedy died from his wounds in the early hours of June 6. He was just 43 years old. His death shocked the nation, coming just five years after the assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy, and marked a tragic turning point in American political history.



*Stamp features a family photo provided by Bobby's wife.*



*With an eight-year age difference, the brothers weren't always close. A seven-week trip to Asia, the Pacific and Middle East in 1951 brought them closer.*



*RFK created the first program to include all 26 federal law enforcement agencies in his investigation into organized crime.*