Brian Thomas "BT" Kennedy was a soldier, a lawyer, a devoted public servant, a patriot, and a loving family man. In all of these significant life roles, he was highly successful through hard work and diligence, and accomplished many great things for his family, his state of New Jersey, and his country. Underlying all his achievements were Brian's strong Catholic faith and his adherence to the highest standards of moral principles in his life and in his work.

Brian was born on Apr 11, 1934, in the Astoria section of Queens, New York City. His parents were Thomas and Mary Torpey Kennedy. Brian had two sisters, Janet and Lorna. Brian spent his early years in Astoria, attending school and being grounded in the Catholic faith which sustained him throughout his life. He was taught by the Irish Christian Brothers at the Power Memorial Academy, an all-boys Catholic High School in Manhattan, New York, and became a proud graduate of that school in 1952. Brian spent the next year at Manhattan College, but his heart was set on entering the Military Academy at West Point, 50 miles north of Manhattan on the Hudson River. Brian pursued a West Point nomination from Congressman James J. Delaney, 7th District, and it was with a great sense of pride, excitement, and joy to Brian and all the Kennedy family that the telegram arrived in the spring of 1953 with the news that Brian had been accepted to attend West Point. Brian entered the United States Military Academy at West Point on Jul 7, 1953, to begin his four years there as a member of the Class of 1957.

Brian's time at West Point was spent entirely in Company L-1, one of the "runt" companies which held down the middle of the parade line when the cadet companies were assigned by height. Brian was very popular with all his companymates and classmates, and all knew him by his nickname, "BT." He is remembered for his time competing on the cross country trails and on the tennis courts, his love of baseball, and his wonderful, great smile. Brian remained committed to his Catholic faith by attending daily Mass while at West Point. Each company had an Honor Committee representative, and Brian became the elected representative of Company L-1 to lead in following the West Point Honor Code—which is: A cadet will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate those that do. This is the Brian remembered—a classmate with integrity and a zest for life and sports.

Brian graduated from West Point on Jun 4, 1957. In 1958, he married Maura Madigan, and they eventually raised a family of five children: Tom, Paul, John, Marie, and daughter Janet, who passed away at four months of age. Soon after Brian began his training as a young officer in the Infantry. He was injured during a helicopter parachute jump, and later he was forced to withdraw from Ranger School training because of his injuries. Recognizing the physical limitations on furthering his military career, Brian resigned from the Army in 1960. He then began a challenging path of working for General Electric Company during the day and studying law at New York University at night. He completed this arduous journey by earning his LLB in 1964, and for the remainder of his life he practiced law in the state of New Jersey. He was the senior law partner in the Kennedy and Kennedy law firm, with his son Paul. He was also a member of the Monmouth County Bar Association for over 46 years.

Brian had a passion for politics, and he soon began a political career as a Republican in the state of New Jersey. His first elected office was to the New Jersey State Assembly, where he served two terms (1971–73 and 1975–77). He ran and was
elected as state Senator and served in the New Jersey State Senate from 1977 to 1983. Brian’s success at the state level encouraged him into running for the United States Congress in 1984 and in 1986. He also entered the primary race for one of the New Jersey United States Senate seats in 2000. Although he lost these races for federal office, Brian proved to be a popular candidate, establishing his name and reputation with a large number of New Jersey voters. Throughout his political career, Brian proved himself to be a true patriot, always showing a love of country and always expressing a firm belief in the goodness and promise of the people he represented in his state and in his country.

Brian was devoted to his children and spent much time with them attending Mets baseball games and playing his beloved tennis. In 1989, he married Jacqueline and for the remainder of his life, he was a faithful and loving husband to her. As a father, he was an inspiration to all his children including his stepsons: Joseph, Brian, and Timothy.

Throughout his life, Brian maintained a great love of learning and reading, and he had a passion for anything to do with his beloved West Point. His pride in wearing his West Point class ring was such that he never removed it from his finger. Brian’s Catholic faith remained with him throughout his life and sustained him in difficult times. Brian passed away at the age of 77 on Mar 21, 2012. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy of service and commitment to God, his family, the State of New Jersey and his country. He was a faithful and loyal son to West Point, and he earned his honored place in the Long Gray Line.

_Well Done, Brian. Be Thou at Peace._

— His loving Wife, Jackie, and Classmate Joe Tedeschi