# Source 4 – Caroline Kennedy

## **Procedures**:

Read the following source and answer the questions below.

## “A Daughter’s Ideals” from the "Commemorating Camelot: Three Women Who Shaped JFK’s Legacy" Site Bulletin.

President Kennedy’s mother and wife sought to commemorate his life by associating him with a particular set of ideals. The more recent work of his daughter seeks to make his legacy accessible to the next generation by demonstrating how those ideals continue to be relevant. In 1989, Caroline Kennedy helped to establish the Profile in Courage Award. This award was inspired by President Kennedy’s 1956 book Profiles in Courage, which chronicles the lives of eight senators who demonstrated extraordinary bravery, refusing to be swayed from a moral course even under extreme pressure. Accordingly, the Profile in Courage Award acknowledges individuals who demonstrate great bravery in public service.

Caroline Kennedy has administered the Profile in Courage Award to a diverse group of recipients for over twenty years. While it is most commonly given to public officials who serve at the local, state, or national levels, the award has also been given under special circumstances to international figures and to non-government officials. In 2002, Caroline edited a companion volume to her father’s titled Profiles in Courage for Our Time. In this book, she commemorated figures who lived according to the moral principles that her father first admired as a child when he read about King Arthur and demonstrated during his presidency.

Like the tale of King Arthur, President Kennedy’s story lives on as contemporary mythology about a modern hero. The Kennedy women who commemorated him over the past fifty years were instrumental in creating and sustaining this mythology. It is in part because of the work of these women that President Kennedy’s legacy endures and continues to inspire new generations.

## Questions:

Who was Caroline Kennedy? How has she helped to commemorate her father’s life and legacy? Watch this [video on the Profile in Courage Award](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd_nvqx4LAM) and take notes on the content. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd_nvqx4LAM>

In your opinion, who are some of the most notable people who have been honored by this award?

How does the creation of the Profiles in Courage Award connect with the way that we remember President Kennedy?

Who are some people in your community or state that would be worthy of this award? Why?

## Additional Resources:

[Commemorating Camelot: Three Women Who Shaped JFK’s Legacy](https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/commemorating-camelot-three-women-who-shaped-jfk-s-legacy.htm) is available through the National Park Service:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/commemorating-camelot-three-women-who-shaped-jfk-s-legacy.htm>