# housands bid farewell to J.P., a radio legend

BY PAT MURPHY

STATE WHITE

As J.P. McCarthy himself
might have said, it was a fine
gethering.

Thousands of friends and illisteners — some in person and othcers via live television — paid their
best respects to the legraday redio star at his funeral Mass at St.

House of 6 the parish in addition
to his being a famous radio per
Still others, including Irish guiteners. Some in person and othcers via live television — paid their
J.P. when I was a kid, "ald Perdio star at his funeral Mass at St.

House of 6 the Hills. Catholic
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As J.P. McCarthy himself sonality. In the said, it was a fine gethering. Thousands of friends and listeness—some in person and others via live television—paid their last respects to the legendary redices transpects to the legendary redices the said of the Hills. Church in Bloomfield Hills. Many of these who gathered at the Norman Gothic church Saturday and the AJ. Desmond and the Norman Gothic church Saturday and the AJ. Desmond and Sons Funeral Home in Troy Friday had known McCarthy—or J.P., as they affectionstity called him—on a professional or personal basis for years.

"J.P. called me Mr. Tiger," regalled has belief years.

"J.P. called me Mr. Tiger," regalled has belief years.

"J.P. called thin Mr. Radio."

Others, like Virginia Tarus, who also sang and played by wednesday at the Sloan-board by the station, who personified Workers and the stating Cancer Center in Manhattan, where he was being treatment of the mean that the station, and the mean that the station can be supported by the station of the mean that the station can be supported by the station of the mean that the station can be supported by the station of the sta

a chance to say goodbys.

"When you have two cardinals and two governors (at your funeral)," and the governors (at your funeral)," and the Rev. William Conningham, one of the eulogiters, "you've done pretty well, particularly by Irish stendards." He was referring to Adam Cardinal Malda, Edmund Cardinal Sooks, former Gov. James Blanchard and current Gov. John Engler, respectively, who were among the nearly i,800 people present.

As director of Focus-HOPE, an inner-Detroit organization, Cunningham said be frequently called on McCarthy to lend his name to charity fund-raisers. McCarthy's support was so important, said the priest, he and others were figuratively trying "to touch the hem of his garment" in order to make their fund-raisers successful.

Perhaps McCarthy's fevorite charity was PAL (Police Athleic League), for which he annually chaired a golf tournament and raised more than \$1 \text{ million over the years.}

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McCarthy's best friend and colling buddy, John Schaefer of Bloomfield Township, said he and others admired the splomb, style, intelligence, wit and insight with which J.P. Interviewed poets, public officials, industrial magnates and other guests.

"He made you (listeners) feel like they were part of the Interview."

Schaefer mused about a reason for McCarthy's untimely death at age 62. "Maybe the ratings on

God's radio show were low, " he said, and God needed a radio hall-of-fame personality. His friend was not perfect, Schaefer said. "He liked good whiskey, particularly good whiskey that was free." Once, en route to Singapore, said Schaefer, his friend joked that the duration of the flight made it possible they could "get drunk and suber twice."

But McCarthy was a family

Tearful goodbye: Family members and friends of J.P. McCarthy console one another before Saturday's funeral Mass. man devoted to his wife Judy, to whom he lovingly referred to as "the blond bombshell," and his six children, said the Birmingham stiorney.

The hour-long funeral Mass was characterized by traditional music like "The Lord is My Shepherd" and "May Songs of the Angels Welcome You."

But t also highlighted songs McCarthy featured on his annual St. Patrick's Day party-broadcast, which attracted automobile tycons as well as U.A.W. members.

A flutiat played "Londenderry defermed as a sociate pastor."

Air" ("Danny Boy"), and the choir sang a traditional frish blessing that begins, "May that blessing that

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P.S. Several of the older people in the muscle-strengthening study mentioned above were able to walk without the walkers and canes that they needed previously.





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