



ACTRESS SHIRLEY JONES, left, leaves services Wednesday for her former husband, actor Jack Cassidy, who died in Sunday in an apartment fire. Behind her is one of their sons, Shaun, 17. At right, singer David Cassidy, another son of the actor, leaves the Beverly Hills funeral home.

—AP Wirephotos

'Uplifting' rites for Jack Cassidy

Jack Cassidy was memorialized Wednesday by old friends and colleagues in what one performer called an uplifting service filled with laughter and joy in what the dimpled actor had been. Cassidy, 49, died Sunday in a fire that gutted his penthouse apartment.

Members of the news media were not permitted to attend the nonsectarian funeral, but were able to hear applause filtering from the funeral home.

Actor Dennis Weaver said of the service: "It was very unusual because it was very uplifting. People got up and spoke in very intimate terms about their experience with Jack. It was on a level where everybody kind of laughed. He had one of the greatest wits of anyone in Hollywood," Weaver said. "He was full of love and giving."

A spokesman said the body was cremated, and the ashes were to be strewn over the ocean.