

THE CARTER | Mondale CONNECTION

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A Great Speech

Rep. Barbara Jordan Takes Center Stage and Breaks Barriers with Convention Keynote Address

By Sheila Fyfe
Co-Editor

In 1974, during what became known as “Watergate summer,” Rep. Barbara Jordan of the 18th Congressional District of Texas broke into the nation’s consciousness as a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

With the committee considering articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon, Rep. Jordan famously declared in her distinctive, authoritative voice, “My faith in the Constitution is whole; it is complete; it is total. And I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution.”

With her commanding presence, Rep. Jordan quickly shot into prominence as one of the Democratic Party’s newest stars. So it seemed wholly appropriate that then-Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, about to be nominated for President, invited her to deliver a keynote address on the opening night of the 1976 Convention.

What may not be clear 50 years later is how trailblazing that invitation was.



Photo credit: LGBTQ+ Victory Institute

As the first Black woman elected to Congress from the South, Rep. Jordan was the first woman and the first African-American to give a national convention’s keynote speech. After a two-minute standing ovation from the packed Convention

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Photo credit: Brownie Harris / Corbis via Getty Images

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hall, she began her address by quickly citing the occasion's historic nature.

"There is something different about tonight," she said. "There is something special about tonight. What is different? What is special? I, Barbara Jordan, am a keynote speaker."

Harris County, Texas, Administrator Erica Lee Carter recently held Rep. Jordan's Congressional seat, continuing a legacy of public service following her mother, the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who represented Texas's 18th Congressional District for three decades. She took a moment to look back at the famous Jordan keynote address.

"It's hard to describe how astounding it was to see a Black woman centered at our national Convention," she told *The Carter-Mondale Connection*. "You have to remember that there

weren't many Black people on TV or radio at the time. We weren't seeing many positive images of our leadership or distinction. With Rep. Jordan's speech, we became central to the storyline of the Democratic Party. We realized we could be party leaders."

University of Houston professor Alison Leland, whose late husband, Rep. Mickey Leland, succeeded Barbara Jordan as the Congress member from TX-18, agreed.

"Barbara Jordan took the platform on a national stage, and to see this very prepared, gifted woman speak in a way that would silence a room with a depth of authority would be something that people around the country would remember," she said. "It was something we had not seen before."

Rep. Jordan could have used her address to deliver a laundry list of Democratic positions and

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accomplishments, but she chose instead to offer a philosophical message that linked the party's beliefs with the promise of the nation's continuing progress toward a more perfect union.

"We are a people in search of a national community," she said. "What is it about the Democratic Party that makes it the instrument people use when they search for ways to shape their future? I believe the answer to that question lies in our concept of governing."

She championed the party's approach to immigration ("Let everybody come"), inclusion ("We believe the government ... represents the authority of all the people, not just one interest group"), and innovation ("We are willing to suffer the discomfort of change in order to achieve a better future"). These beliefs and approaches, she asserted, provided and will provide "the foundations upon which a national community can be built."

Rep. Jordan was also not shy in pointing out the party's imperfections. "When the people raised their voices, we didn't hear," she said. But she was confident that Democrats would always recognize their errors as "mistakes of the heart."

"By saying that, Barbara Jordan helped make the Democratic Party more responsive to Black people," Administrator Carter said. "By emphasizing and acknowledging the party's

imperfections—where we'd gone wrong—she drove home the point that we were the political party that could actually do better."

After she left Congress, Rep. Jordan went on to teach at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, serving as the Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chair of Public Policy from 1978 to 1996. She delivered a second keynote address to the 1992 Convention that nominated Bill Clinton. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in August 1994, and died from complications of leukemia in January 1996.

Her legacy lives on in numerous awards and honors, including the Barbara Jordan Leadership Award, the LBJ School's Barbara Jordan Public Service Award, and the Barbara Jordan Legacy Award (presented to Sheila Jackson Lee in January 2024). All recognize her indelible impact on civil rights and the advancement of democracy.

Her 1976 speech, in fact, seems timeless. "She talks about America, and unity, and trust in government," Professor Leland said. "She spoke at a prophetic time—post-Nixon, and post-Watergate. Our next president is going to be echoing her themes about restoring faith in government."

"Barbara Jordan is a central figure in our becoming a more perfect union," Administrator Carter said. "You can't say that phrase—a more perfect union—without saying her name."

Learn More About Barbara Jordan

Watch

Barbara Jordan's
[1976 Democratic Convention Keynote Address](#)

Barbara Jordan's
[1974 Statement to the House Judiciary Committee](#)

Read

Obituary for Barbara Jordan,
The New York Times, Jan. 18, 1996
["Barbara Jordan Dies at 59; Her Voice Stirred a Nation"](#)

Visit

[The Barbara C. Jordan Archives](#)
Texas Southern University

["The Barbara Jordan Legacy"](#)
Texas LBJ School

The Carter-Mondale Connection is published quarterly by volunteers in the interest of sustaining the community of Carter-Mondale Campaign and Administration alumni and friends.

Publisher

Jim Gammill

Co-Editors

Mark Cohen

Sheila Fyfe

Graphic Design

Veronica DeBoisbriand

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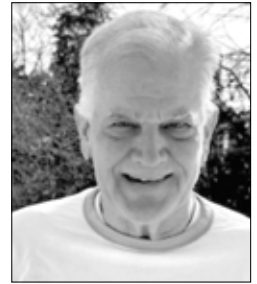
LETTER FROM THE PUBLICATION TEAM



Mark Cohen



Sheila Fyfe



Jim Gammill

Where were you 50 years ago in July?

For most readers of *The Carter-Mondale Connection*, the answer is in and around Madison Square Garden in New York City—watching as Hamilton Jordan’s prescient 1972 memo on how a one-term governor of Georgia could capture the Democratic nomination for President became a reality.

This second issue of *The Carter-Mondale Connection* doesn’t seek to replay that historic Convention but rather take a few behind-the-scenes looks. It also examines a historic speech Democrats still treasure a half-century later.

As we put our second edition of *The Carter-Mondale Connection* to bed, we remain gratified by the enthusiastic response Issue #1 generated. It was heartwarming to hear from so many Campaign and Administration alumni—not to mention members of the White House press corps as well as a handful of family members of colleagues who have passed on.

The Carter-Mondale Connection is a volunteer-led effort. If you haven’t yet hit the Subscribe button, please do. We’ll never sell ads in the newsletter, and never sell our subscription list. But we would like to make sure everyone sees every issue.

If you enjoy this issue, please pass it along to anyone who may be interested. Subscriptions are free and open to anyone with an interest in the Carter Campaigns and Administration.

And please send us your letters and comments. We hope to have the newsletter and website become a community of interest. But that only happens if you help start a dialogue.

Enjoy Issue #2 and thanks for reading!

Mark Cohen	Sheila Fyfe	Jim Gammill
Co-Editor	Co-Editor	Publisher

1976 Democratic National Convention: What Didn't Make It into the Campaign Books

Democrats gathering in New York in 1976 might have felt they had something to prove. It was their first convention since the landslide loss of 1972 and its ill-fated nomination for Vice President. It was the first convention to test the party's transformative delegate selection reforms.

But the political landscape had shifted to Democrats' advantage. Nixon had resigned in disgrace, and an unelected Republican was in the White House. Buoyed from their victories in the 1974 midterms, Democrats knew they had a great opportunity to take the country in a new direction.

Before and during the primaries, the Carter Campaign had anticipated battles in New York. But once Carter won the Ohio primary on Super Tuesday, the Anybody-but-Carter effort dissipated and Democrats unified. The big issues—like the party platform—were largely resolved pre-Convention. But there was still plenty of work to do, 24 hours a day. Here are some memories from those who were behind the scenes.



Photo courtesy of Rick Hutcheson

Jim Gammill

I started work on the Convention in February, before any of our major primary wins. We were preparing for a fight. But after Ohio, the Convention turned into one big party.

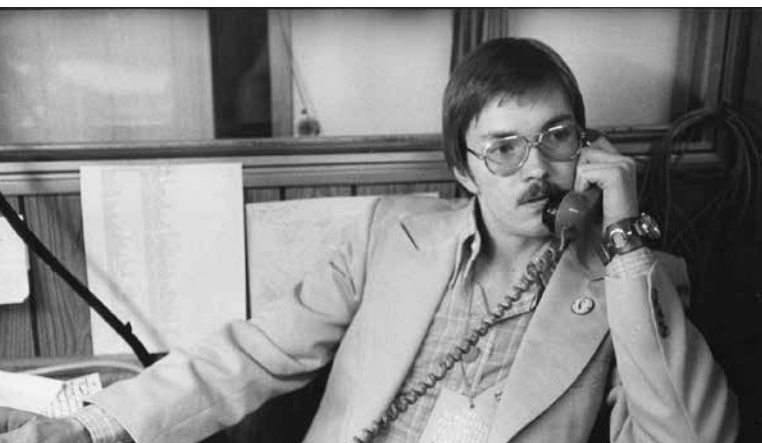


Photo courtesy of Rick Hutcheson

Rick Hutcheson

We had set up our delegate tracking operation at the end of the primaries—constantly talking to our delegates and to others who were on the fence. We sent some names to Gov. Carter for follow up, or we'd bring our field people, who had lots of credibility with the delegates, back in.

Eventually, delegate tracking morphed into a convention floor tracking operation. I remember standing onstage with Hamilton Jordan, looking out at all the assembled Democrats and telling them how to vote on everything that came up. It was quite an experience for a 24-year-old.

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Richard H. Rovere, “Letter from the Garden,” *The New Yorker*, July 19, 1976

“No major-party convention in memory has been such a model of smooth, efficient organization. And it marked the emergence of new political styles and leadership, not only in the person of Carter but in that of Walter Mondale, who has much in common doctrinally with the principal Democratic spokesmen of the last several decades but who is wittier and more of an intellectual than most, and is given to wry understatement.

“The mere display of unity was a remarkable spectacle and a demonstration of Carter’s imagination, showmanship, and audacity.”

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Bill Simon

I didn’t really have a title. I did whatever Rick didn’t want to do. I’ve never slept so little in my life. It was a constant state of complete exhaustion—a 15 or 25 on a scale of one to 10. Rick was a tough taskmaster, and in driving communications to the floor, we couldn’t let a lot of things go sideways. And in those days, everybody was smoking and screaming all the time. Now, everything’s more geared to TV—two hours a night, like it’s the movie of the week.

Lori Baux

I was told absolutely not to let anybody in the trailers who wasn’t supposed to be there. One day I looked up and a guy had entered—I had no idea who he was. He said something like, “Hamilton said I could be in here.” As far as I was concerned, he was just another dude dropping Hamilton’s name. I threw him out. Well, turns out it was Warren Beatty.



Photo courtesy of Rick Hutcheson



Photo courtesy of Rick Hutcheson

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Alicia Smith

It's amazing how ballsy you can be with people when you're only 23 and have dirty clothes and haven't eaten.

Dot Padgett

We organized volunteers from Georgia to go to each of the state caucuses, to keep in touch. This was tremendously important, because it had so much of the footprints of Jimmy Carter: To thank them, let them know how much we appreciated them, that we knew they were there. Little things like that made the Convention what it was.

New Yorkers were wonderful. I think it's because we Georgians were very polite and not aggressive, so it sort of set the tone for everybody we met. They had not been accustomed to our manners. Even the New York policemen were polite!

Ted Mondale

The first thing my parents said to us when we got to the hotel in New York was, "We expect you to be on your best behavior. And these people from the Campaign are going to take you around. Do what they say."

The Convention was a very surreal experience. I remember at one of the receptions, Miss Lillian came up to me and said, "You have to have some of this champagne. It's \$100 a bottle!"

We were all treated extremely well. The entire Carter family and the Campaign treated us as human beings—and that's not always the way highly performing, stressed-out politicians treat others. Especially kids. It showed a character in them that you don't see every day. It showed the kind of people all the Carters are.



Photo courtesy of Rick Hutcheson



Photo courtesy of Alicia Smith



Photo courtesy of Alicia Smith

1976 DNC: Mondale Memories

Jimmy Carter's choice of a running mate was not nailed down when delegates flocked to New York for the 1976 Democratic Convention—which meant that six members of the U.S. Senate were wondering for the better part of three days if they would be picked.

Finally, on Thursday morning, July 15, President Carter made his announcement.

"I've asked to serve as my running mate, if the delegates will approve, Sen. Walter Mondale from Minnesota," he said. "I have absolutely no doubt that I have made the right decision.

"During the process ... I've learned more and more about the relationship that can exist between myself and the Vice Presidential nominee. As I've had a chance to get to know Sen. Mondale personally ... and have discerned a great compatibility between him on the major issues that face our nation and myself."

Meanwhile, Team Mondale found out the news in different ways. Here are a few Mondale Memories from that week.



Photo credit: Owen Franken / Corbis via Getty Images

Jim Dyke, general counsel, DNC Platform Committee

I was so impressed with Walter Mondale, on a number of different levels. But quite frankly, I'd never had any interaction with him until that point. Once he was selected as our VP candidate, Bob Strauss approached Mondale and said, "I've got someone here you might want for your campaign. He ain't much, but he's all I got." Which, for him, was a compliment.

I was practicing law and teaching a course as an adjunct professor at Howard University Law School then, and I was in my office at Covington & Burling, meeting with a summer associate and former student of mine named Ellen Klein. All of a sudden my phone rings, and it's Mondale. He said, "I'd like you to join my campaign as my political and policy adviser." Ellen was sitting there hearing

one side of our conversation. When I hung up I told her, "I'm sorry, I have to leave because I'm now embarking on a campaign with Walter Mondale." But I stopped and turned around and asked, "Would you mind if maybe I called you sometime?" She said, "If you want. It's your [expletive deleted] dime."

We just celebrated our 47th anniversary in January. When we married, I was Domestic Policy Adviser to the Vice President, and Ellen later became a lawyer at Bob Strauss's firm. And it all started with that call from Walter Mondale.

Bert Carp, legislative counsel

Sen. Mondale took a small group of staff up to New York with him at the beginning. I don't think

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he knew at the time whether he was going to be VP. Obviously we knew there was a selection process—when Mr. Charles Kirbo comes by the office, everyone knows something is up.

When the selection was announced, a few more of us were invited to come up.

I got a very nice credential that let me go places and wander the Convention floor.

I don't remember that we were surprised, because it was a fairly public selection process, and Carter and Mondale hit it off. They had a genuine connection, with many things in common—that small-town, religious upbringing.

Also, the politics would have supported that [choice]: Mondale would have been the choice of organized labor, and Carter had a tenuous relationship with the labor movement. Mondale was from the right part of the country, too.

I have to add that Mondale cut a much tougher deal than any subsequent VP nominee. He had his own advance staff and speechwriting staff. He had had a short presidential run, so the structure was there. There was no regular Carter presence on Mondale's campaign plane going forward. There was a lot of trust there.

Gail Harrison, speechwriter

As the Convention was getting underway, a small Mondale team went up to New York by train. I was asked to go because I had worked on multiple issues across the board and had written some speeches. Part of my first job was to compile a detailed legislative and public policy record from when Mondale was Attorney General of Minnesota, so I knew something about all the issues he had touched.

We had a Mondale suite and the staff had rooms across from Madison Square Garden. As the week progressed, the suite became more and more crowded with political people and members of the press who had been close to Mondale or members of his team. Because of the chaos, Sen. Mondale moved to an undisclosed location near Central Park. I was tasked to answer the phone at the previous hotel in case Carter called the wrong room. But as it turned out, he called the right room on Thursday morning.

When Dick Moe called and gave me the news, I was thrilled. But the next part of our conversation was "You need to write Senator Humphrey's nominating speech—today."

I was terrified. I had never written anything for Humphrey. He and Mondale had known each other since the 1940s, so it was hard to step into the role of imagining what one would say about the other.

Unfortunately, the suite where I needed to work was quickly flooded with folks. So I grabbed my typewriter, retreated to the bathroom, locked the door, put the typewriter on the toilet seat, and pounded away.

I thought the speech I wrote was terrible. I had been getting suggestions from all over the place, and I threw them all in. It was a real kitchen sink. That night, Sen. Humphrey used an embarrassing amount of the mess I wrote, plus heartfelt and lengthy material of his own. He was an unbelievably gifted, lovely person.

My punishment for that accomplishment was that I was asked to write speeches on the campaign plane. But Mondale almost never gave verbatim any speeches that were written for him. He once apologized to me for doing that by calling himself a "textual deviant."

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Ted Mondale, son

My brother and sister and I grew up in Washington. We were a politician's kids who thought that sending out direct mail and putting stamps on envelopes was a form of child care. At the time of the Convention, I had just graduated from high school and was working as a produce clerk at Giant Food on Wisconsin Avenue.

We had known that my father had gone down to Plains, and there was a lot of activity around the house, but nothing really specific as to was-this-going-to-happen or not. He'd gone up to New York—but he'd been to every Democratic Convention that we could remember. Also, being Norwegian, he would never have wanted to be seen as bragging about it or saying things like "I did really well, I think I'm going to get this." So life was quite normal for us that week.

But then one day I was walking home from Giant Food around five o'clock. I turned the corner—and there were literally 300 press vans sitting in front of our house. There was no way I was able to go through that, so I cut through our neighbors' back yards and came through our back yard.

A guy in a trench coat grabbed me in the bushes and yelled, "WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?" He took me into our basement and lined me up with the photos they had of our family, and said, "Okay, you go ahead." That's how I knew what was going on.

It was just us three kids in the house. We were sitting there, looking out the window at all the press, and saying, "What the hell?" We were trying to get hold of our parents, to say "Hey ..." We finally did, and they told us that we were going to New York in the morning and a staff person would be there to meet us. I didn't even have a suit. I had to borrow one.

I went from being apprehended in my back yard to being on stage at Madison Square Garden the next night, waving to thousands of people. It was extremely surreal. I don't know how you prepare for something like that. Life was never the same again.

It was a wonderful experience. Not something you'd ever forget.

To learn more about Walter Mondale's Vice Presidential nomination, visit:

["Jimmy Carter Announces U.S. Senator Walter Mondale as his Running Mate at Press Conference"](#)
Minnesota Public Radio Archive

["Remarks and Excerpts of a News Conference Announcing the Selection of Sen. Walter Mondale as the Vice Presidential Running Mate"](#)
UC Santa Barbara Archives

[1976 Democratic Party Vice Presidential Candidate Selection](#)

["A Long and Fruitful Relationship": Mondale's Son on the Friendship Between Carter and his VP](#)

Coverage Lookback:

How Newspaper Editorial Boards Judged Jimmy Carter's Selection of Running Mate Walter Mondale

By Mark Cohen
Co-Editor

JULY 15, 1976. New York City. Former Georgia Gov. and newly named Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter stood before a packed press conference to answer the one remaining question facing the Democrats in convention and make his first significant announcement as his party's nominee: His choice of Minnesota Sen. Walter "Fritz" Mondale as his running mate.

In announcing Mondale from a rumored list of six (or more) contenders, Jimmy Carter did much more than present a traditional "balanced ticket"—he initiated what political historians consider the birth of the modern, heavily vetted vice presidency.



The Democratic nominees share a laugh by a pond in Plains, Georgia, July 1976.
Photo credit: Peter Bregg, AP

No surprise for the times: Across the country, the editorial boards of major daily newspapers—ranging from progressive coastal flagships to conservative Midwestern and Southern sheets—met the announcement with an intense flurry of analysis.

The print media's reaction to the Carter-Mondale ticket offers a vivid window into a post-Watergate nation trying to gauge whether an unconventional, Southern outsider could mesh with a quintessential member of the party's liberal establishment.

The Strategic Marriage of Outsider and Insider

The New York Times led the chorus of praise for the strategic logic behind the choice. In its editorial, the *Times* characterized Mondale's selection as a comforting reassurance to the traditional, Northern, and liberal wings of the Democratic Party—who remained deeply skeptical of Carter. The paper noted that Mondale provided the "Washington heft" and deep legislative fluency that Carter lacked, transforming an experimental candidacy into a formidable, governing coalition.

The Washington Post lauded the pick as a demonstration of Carter's political maturity. The *Post* argued that by picking a well-regarded member of the powerful Senate Finance and Budget committees, Carter had

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successfully neutralized the Republican argument that a Georgia outsider would be utterly lost in the labyrinth of federal governance.

Reassurance for Organized Labor and Traditional Liberals

Editorials in papers like the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Chicago Sun-Times* highlighted how Mondale acted as an ideological insurance policy for such vital constituencies as the party's progressive base and organized labor. The *Free Press* observed that Mondale's presence on the ticket instantly electrified a sluggish labor base, ensuring that the ground game in crucial rust-belt states would be fiercely executed. The *Sun-Times* framed the selection as a brilliant, unifying stroke that effectively closed the fissures of the chaotic 1968 and 1972 Democratic Conventions—presenting a united front to the American electorate.

Conservative Pushback: The “Tax-and-Spend” Specter

For conservative and independent-leaning editorial boards, Walter Mondale's impeccable liberal voting record was not a comforting asset, but, rather, a glaring liability. These papers seized on the choice to redefine the narrative of Jimmy Carter. If Carter had spent the primary season campaigning as a fiscally conservative, moderate Southern governor, his choice of running mate argued otherwise.

The Wall Street Journal, pre-Rupert Murdoch, led a sharp ideological critique, warning its readers that the Mondale pick unmasked the “true face” of the Carter candidacy. By elevating Mondale, the paper asserted, Carter had abandoned his posture of fiscal restraint and surrendered to the big-spending, special-interest groups of the old Democratic establishment.

In the South, conservative dailies reacted with distinct caution. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and *The Dallas Morning News*, for example, expressed concern that Mondale was far too liberal for mainstream Southern voters.

The Vetting Process as a New Standard

Beyond the ideological and geographical Electoral College arithmetic, editorial writers were fascinated by the way Carter had chosen

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Mondale. Moving away from the frantic, smoke-filled-room deals of the past, Carter had conducted a meticulous public search. He requested background checks, distributed detailed questionnaires, and conducted formal interviews with finalists at his home in Plains, Georgia.

The *Los Angeles Times* dedicated significant editorial praise to this institutional innovation. The paper argued that Carter had treated the vice presidency with the gravity it deserved, establishing a dignified blueprint that future presidential nominees would be foolish to ignore. By transforming the selection from a midnight political payoff into a rigorous, corporate-style interview process, Carter had proven his executive competence before even taking office.

And Mondale's hometown *Minneapolis Tribune* took pride in the process, noting that Mondale had emerged as the top choice not because of backroom dealing, but because he was simply the "best prepared" to step into the presidency if tragedy struck.

Assessing the Electoral Calculus

Newspaper editorials across the country ultimately recognized that Jimmy Carter's selection of Walter Mondale was an act of deliberate, pragmatic calculation.



While conservative boards warned of an impending return to high-spending liberalism, and Southern editors worried about an ideological mismatch, the overriding sentiment was that Carter had chosen wisely. He had found a running mate who provided the governance credentials he lacked, respected the institutional weight of the office, and successfully unified a notoriously fractious political party.

It was a partnership that not only redefined the campaign of 1976 but, as subsequent history would show, fundamentally elevated the power and scope of the American vice presidency itself.

For more on the how the Vice-Presidential nominees shaped the 1976 general election

Watch



[1976 Vice Presidential Debate between Walter Mondale and Bob Dole](#)

In Addition to Barbara Jordan's Keynote Address ...

Reading the transcripts of the most significant speeches of the 1976 Democratic National Convention is not just a trip back in time but also affirmation of the political challenges of today. Here's a sample of what other Convention speakers had to say on July 12–15 in New York's Madison Square Garden.



TUESDAY NIGHT JULY 13

Address by Coretta Scott King

"We have now come to a period when America seems to have retreated even from its prophecy of human rights and equality of opportunity. When millions of Americans turned to their government for active help, they were treated to benign neglect.

"The Democratic Party must insist that there be no more neglect of the nation's poor and disadvantaged."

WEDNESDAY NIGHT JULY 14

Nominating Speech by Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr.

"My friends, my friends, let me talk to you for a moment about my faith in Jimmy Carter. I have watched him closely. I have watched him carefully. I have talked with him at length about his vision of America, its people, and its future, and I say to you, his heart is honest, and the people will follow him.

"His purpose is right and the people will believe him. And through him, we shall carry forward the great promise of our founding fathers.

"Through him we shall continue to advance the cause of justice, equality, and opportunity as the rightful heritage of every American and future generations."

Seconding Speech by the Hon. Margaret "Midge" Costanza

"Jimmy Carter says that together we can restore our faith in our government and our faith in ourselves and capture all the hope and the goodness in this country and turn it into progress and quality and the opportunity and the justice we need so badly, and I believe him."

Seconding Speech by Rep. Andrew Young

"(Jimmy Carter) is a man who, in his own time, was gifted with an independent, free-thinking mother, and who never had to grow up with the burden and the weight of racism in his family. He overcame that burden, and because he had worked side by side with people of all kinds, he can help these

Additional speeches continued from 15

United States lay down the burden of race and move on to a beloved community.

"But more than that, Jimmy Carter can help America deal with the problems of poverty, because there's nobody that has worked his way up from the grassroots out of the dirt, shaking peanuts, to the presidency of the United States."

Address by Rep. Morris K. Udall

"And when Jimmy says he'll beat you, he'll beat you, and he beat us fair and square, and I say to America and to all of the delegates here tonight, this is a good man, Jimmy Carter, and he will make a strong president, and I am behind him."

"Just a few more things, if I may, because what leads us is almost as important as who leads us. We are the oldest political party in the world ... and we survive despite our fights because of two things. In every generation we have to change our country to make it work, and Democrats have always led the change, and in that constant fight between the forces of wealth and privilege and the hopes and needs of our ordinary people, we have been with the people."

For more information**Watch**

President Carter's 1976 Acceptance Speech

["My Name Is Jimmy Carter, and I'm Running for President"](#)

Read

[Jimmy Carter Accepting the Presidential Nomination](#)

THURSDAY NIGHT JULY 15**Nominating Speech of Sen. Walter F. Mondale for Vice President by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey**

"The American people, dear friends, the American people are looking for leaders who will once again restore their faith in their government. Our country suffers from a sickness of distrust of government, brought about by the abuse of power, corruption, and deception. The nation needs healing, the nation needs cleansing, and this Convention will give to the American people two men who can and will heal and cleanse, who are decent, moral, and honest, but who are also qualified to govern in the public interest and the common good."

Acceptance Speech by Vice Presidential Nominee Walter F. Mondale

"Gov. Carter perceived the underlying intangible issue that is central to this year's campaign, and that is when he listened to the people, he heard what was really bothering them; and that is that they wanted a government that they could be proud of; a government that would restore honesty and decency and openness in American public life ...

"Over these last eight years the Republicans have made it abundantly clear where they want this country to go. They have said it with their vetoes, they have said it with their budgets, they have said it with their appointments, they have said it with what they honor, in what they criticize, and where they exert their influence.

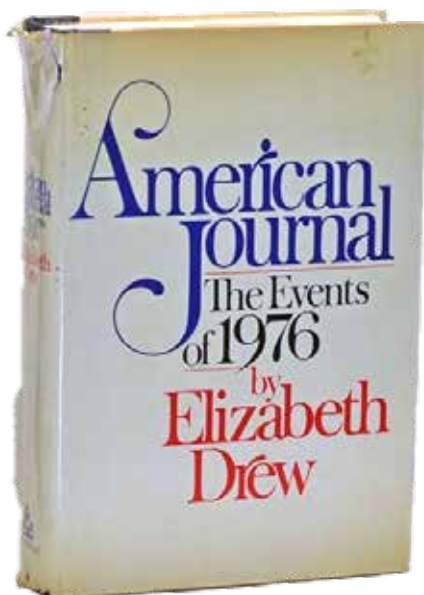
"Above all, they have tried to paralyze the momentum for human justice in America."

CONVENTION LOOKBACK

What the Books on the '76 Campaign Wrote about the Convention and the Mondale Selection

Campaign books generally have a unique dual trajectory. Their immediacy upon publication is undeniable. Who hasn't picked one up and turned first to the index to look for names, events, and issues? But they also are an invaluable and lasting diary of what was a frenzied, sleepless sojourn for so many, both on campaign staffs and in the press corps.

Here's a selection of quotes about the Convention and the Mondale selection from four of the '76 Campaign books:



American Journal: The Events of 1976

By Elizabeth Drew

"Press reaction to Carter's decision on his running mate is important to the Carter camp, which sees it as the first major 'executive' decision he will have to make—the biggest one of the campaign—and believes, too, that the vice-presidential candidate's reputation will be fixed firmly and quickly by the press. And Carter's aides know that Mondale is a favorite among the press. Carter's staff is surprisingly candid about its own preferences. (Hamilton) Jordan, Jody Powell, and Jerry Rafshoon tell people that they favor Mondale. They see him as a fresh face and as the candidate most likely to inspire labor unions and liberals."

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Books on the '76 Campaign continued from 17

Running for President 1976: The Carter Campaign

By Martin Schram

"Carter had always figured that Mondale was too liberal for him. Yet they hit it off very well during their three hours of discussion (in Plains on July 8). ... They seemed to mesh on a variety of domestic and foreign issues. Carter was also impressed that Mondale had apparently thought out what he was going to say so that he could present his positions in a crisp and straightforward way. Moreover, the two men found that they liked each other personally—a fact which perhaps surprised each of them. They emerged from the Carter house and conducted a press conference in a rarified atmosphere of easy banter and joviality and then strolled among the residents and tourists in downtown Plains."

Marathon: The Pursuit of the Presidency 1972–1976

By Jules Witcover

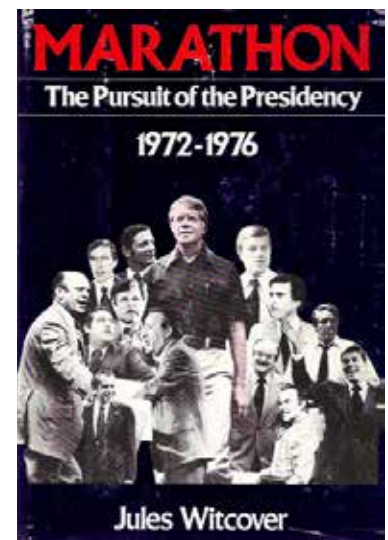
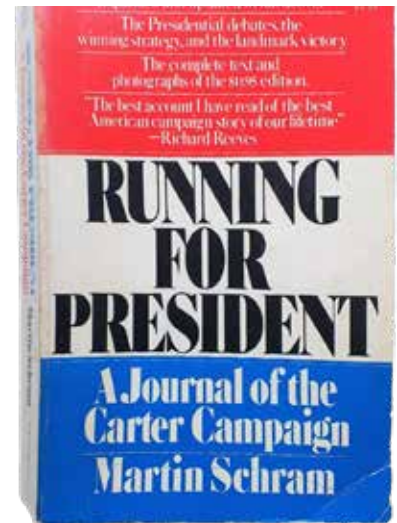
"The final night of the Convention was an unmitigated triumph. The conventioners, buoyed by their own display of party unity and by the overwhelming graciousness and good will of their host city, were in a celebrating mood. ... Carter's speech was a lifting and all-embracing one and, for him, straightforwardly liberal. First Mondale, and now this; perhaps the liberals had been too hasty to judge. In any event, loyalists who were sure they knew Jimmy, and others who were not so sure, could come together in this moment in a spirit of hope and purpose."

How Jimmy Won: The Victory Campaign from Plains to the White House

By Kandy Stroud

"Fun was the staff party downstairs in the Americana (on the Saturday night before the start of the Convention), where one was struck by the youthfulness of the Georgia mafia. Carter represented a new hope to many younger people in the U.S. who grew up during the Vietnam, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford years. They remembered Kennedy only as a blurred figure of their youth. The average age on the Carter staff was 26; the average voter is 43. Also, half the room was female, a major change from the Kennedy, Nixon, and McGovern staffs of the past."

"The atmosphere was jubilant. These people had been working hard, and much to their surprise, were prevailing."



CAMPAIGN LOOKBACK

Super Tuesday Is Born

by Mark Cohen, Co-Editor

Long before the presidential nominating primaries were front-loaded to March, the first “Super Tuesday” was crowned on June 8, 1976, when New Jersey, Ohio, and California held their presidential primaries with 560 of 3,008 pledged delegates up for grabs.

June 8 might not have been so super for former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, but what followed immediately thereafter certainly was.

Carter won Ohio with 52% of the popular vote, netting 126 of the 152 available delegates. Arizona Rep. Mo Udall won 21% of the vote and Idaho Sen. Frank Church won 14%.

In New Jersey, Carter won the nonbinding “beauty contest” with 58% of the vote. But in the direct election of delegates an Anybody-but-Carter (ABC) unpledged slate, backed by an odd coalition of the state’s old-line political machine and allies of “new-politics” California Gov. Jerry Brown, captured 83 of the 108 available delegate slots; Carter won only 25.

California, with favorite son Brown on the ballot, delivered more bad news for the Carter forces. Brown won 59% of the vote and 204 of the state’s 300 delegates; Carter won 20% of the vote and 67 delegates.

But despite going 2-for-3 on Super Tuesday, the ABC movement collapsed immediately following these last three primaries.

A front-page report in *The New York Times* by chief political correspondent R.W. Apple Jr. set the scene accurately: “Carter Beaten in Two of Three Major Primaries But Says Delegate Gains Assure Nomination.” *The Washington Post* echoed the *Times*, headlining “Carter Assures Nomination Despite Losses to Brown.”

The events on June 9 backed up those claims:

- Alabama Gov. George Wallace called Carter to concede, and urged his delegates to support Carter.
- Chicago Mayor Richard Daley recognized the delegate math after the Ohio win and publicly endorsed Carter, signaling other establishment Democratic leaders to get on board.
- Washington Sen. Henry “Scoop” Jackson endorsed Carter, freeing his delegates to support Carter while also sending a message to his allies in organized labor that it was time to unify the party.

As *The Plain Dealer* in Cleveland, Ohio, proudly noted, Ohio’s voters had acted as the ultimate national kingmakers.

The Democratic Party had reformed its nominating process and rules in the aftermath of 1972. Super Tuesday underscored just how much the nominating landscape had changed.

Historical Note: Super Tuesday grew even bigger in 1980. Five smaller states joined the New Jersey-Ohio-California trifecta—Montana, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and West Virginia. Super Tuesday, however, again proved to be less than super for Jimmy Carter (and Walter Mondale), as they prevailed in just three of the day’s eight primaries: Montana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

A Signature Carter Administration Achievement Is in Danger

By Sheila Fyfe
Co-Editor

President Carter signed into law the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in December 1980, just weeks before he left office. ANILCA permanently protected exceptional, wild national public lands and waters the size of the state of California, and it doubled the size of the U.S. National Park System.

"It was one of my most gratifying achievements in public life," President Carter later wrote in *An Outdoor Journal: Adventures and Reflections*. "I knew that for centuries to come, visitors to Alaska would be thrilled by some of the most beautiful scenery on earth, undisturbed by the ugly scars of an advancing industrial civilization."

"ANILCA protected more land than any other single piece of legislation," said Deborah Williams, who was attorney for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska. "President Carter had vowed to protect Alaskan lands if he got elected, so this was a huge priority for him."

With the entire Alaska congressional delegation at the time opposing the legislation, and with temporary legislative protections on the verge of expiring, President Carter forced opponents' hand by invoking the Antiquities Act to designate tens of millions of Alaskan acres as National Monuments in December 1978.

Energy-industry and congressional opponents realized they needed to come to the table and hammer out a compromise, which was finalized just after the 1980 general election. The vote to pass ANILCA was strongly bipartisan—78 to



In 2005, President and Mrs. Carter visited Alaska and Kenai Fjords National Park to celebrate the 25th anniversary of ANILCA. **Second row, from L to R:** Lowell Thomas Jr., Cynthia Wayburn, Ed Wayburn, the Carters, Tay Thomas, Wendy Rockefeller, Larry Rockefeller. **First row, L to R:** Deborah Williams, Dirk Dirksen, Kirk Hoessle.

14 in the Senate, and 360 to 65 in the House. Since then, while ANILCA was initially highly controversial among Alaskans, their support for protecting these lands has grown significantly.

But today, President Carter's achievement is in danger: The Trump Administration is attempting to execute a land exchange within an ANILCA-protected area with an Alaskan Native corporation—planning a one-lane commercial road through the heart of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge congressionally designated wilderness, and arguing that ANILCA allows secretaries of the Interior to barter away protected lands for disputed economic and social benefits.

"The bottom line is that they took this little provision and interpreted it in such a way

continued on page 21

ANILCA in Danger continued from page 20

that you could do a land exchange in any of the 150 million acres if it advanced the social and economic purposes of the state of Alaska or a corporation," Deborah explained. "That would put a dagger through the heart of ANILCA."

The Trump Administration's efforts during its first term went to court twice. In 2022, at age 97, President Carter submitted a remarkable amicus (friend of the court) brief, rejecting the administration's arguments. Only Congress, the President's brief said, could redraw the boundary lines of designated wilderness areas. Any other attempt by a subsequent administration would create a dangerous precedent and put millions of acres at risk of development. This brief, which was the President's last official act before his death, was instrumental at the time in stopping this existential attack on ANILCA.

In the second Trump Administration, however, the efforts to undermine ANILCA have resurfaced, with the question once again before the courts.

In response to ongoing attacks on ANILCA, concerned citizens, former Carter Administration officials and legal experts have re-established the nonprofit group Americans for Alaska (A4A). A4A is working to create broad coalitions of support to preserve Alaska's irreplaceable national-interest landscapes, with their exceptional conservation, Alaska Native cultural, recreation, and aesthetic and spiritual values.

Their goal is also to preserve one of most important parts of President Carter's legacy.

"ANILCA is such a huge component of our national public lands," Deborah said. "It protects 60 percent of National Park Service lands and 80 percent of National Wildlife Refuge lands. And Jimmy Carter is the ultimate hero in all this."

*"I have
never been
happier, more
exhilarated, at
peace, rested,
inspired, and
aware of the
grandeur of the
universe and
the greatness of
God than when
I find myself in a
natural setting
not much
changed from
the way He
made it."*

—President Carter

Learn more about Alaska and how you can help:

[Support the Fight to Defend Our Wildest Public Lands with Americans for Alaska!](#)

[Read Jimmy Carter's Amicus Brief to the Ninth Circuit](#)

[The National Action Imperative to Achieve 30 by 30](#)

[President Jimmy Carter's Visionary Stand for Alaska](#)

[An Outdoor Journal: Adventures and Reflections, by Jimmy Carter](#)

THE UNTOLD STORIES PROJECT

Finding Forgotten Accomplishments

By John F. Leary

The story of the Carter-Mondale years is at last being told by the people who actually lived it—and there is real urgency to getting it on the record while the firsthand testimony can still be gathered in full. That's the mission of the Untold Stories project.

Since our last report in the April 2026 issue of *The Carter-Mondale Connection*, the work of Untold Stories has accelerated, and the picture coming into focus is richer than we expected.

Our outreach reflects that. It is deliberate and personal: We identify prospective interviewees by the chapter of the story only they can tell and then approach them individually. Before every session, we prepare a tailored research guide from the documentary record, so the conversation opens new ground instead of retracing what the person being interviewed has said before. The method is slower—but it's the difference between collecting reminiscences and recovering history.

And it's working. We now have completed 128 original, on-camera, high-definition interviews, with more on the calendar in the weeks ahead.

The interviews also keep surfacing material that was lost or never credited. Consider August 30, 1977, when Jimmy Carter became the first U.S. president to speak publicly on Northern Ireland, pledging American investment toward a peaceful settlement. The statement drew little notice then—but it helped lay the groundwork for the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement and, ultimately, the 1998 Good Friday Accords.

The episode has a telling coda. Welcoming the Anglo-Irish Agreement at the White House in November 1985, President Ronald Reagan did something rare—he credited Carter by name, quoting his 1977 pledge. That generous acknowledgement was the exception, not the rule. Far more often, Carter-era initiatives were quietly absorbed, rebranded, or simply forgotten. But they continue to resonate with an outsized impact.

John F. Leary is managing partner at Dotgov.com, which helps people more easily access and use essential government services through leading-edge digital technologies. He is principal researcher for the Carter-Mondale Untold Stories Project, gathering and preserving the recollections of former Carter-Mondale officials to capture a comprehensive historical record.

If you served in the Carter-Mondale Administration and would like to participate, we'd love to hear from you. It just takes a few minutes to complete our online interest form at carteradminuntoldstories.com/initial-survey. Your story matters—and there's never been a better time to tell it.

Don't Have a Story? You Can Still Help.

Untold Stories depends on private financial support, and to date, 21 contributors have generously helped sustain it. Their gifts fund interview production, the technical tools and hosting that make the material searchable, and the permanent digital archive we are building for deposit at the Carter Presidential Library.

If you'd like to become a donor, contact John Leary at john@dotgov.com or (703) 362-3737.

To everyone who has already provided support, thank you! With your help, we'll see that these stories are preserved—and, at last, properly credited.



Photo credit: Habitat for Humanity International



Habitat for Humanity Marks 50 Years with its 40th Carter Work Project

By Sheila Fyfe

Co-Editor

Of President and Mrs. Carter's many humanitarian pursuits since they left the White House in 1981, perhaps the one that's most familiar to Americans is the Carters' support of Habitat for Humanity—sawing wood beams, pounding nails, and doing all the other tasks that go into building homes for families that can use a helping hand.

This year, as Habitat celebrates its 50th year, the Carters' commitment to the organization lives on in the 40th Carter Work Project: In May, 1,000 Habitat volunteers gathered to build 24 units of affordable housing at Langston Park, creating a new community in the Sylvan Hills neighborhood of Atlanta. While Carter Work Projects have constructed 5,000 homes in 14 countries around the world, this was the first time in 38 years that Habitat returned to the Atlanta area to build homes.

Photo credit: Habitat of the Greater Teton Area





Photo credit: Habitat for Humanity Portland Region



Photo credit: Amy Davis/Baltimore Sun

The Langston Park project also reflects the harsh reality of today's affordability crisis, as fewer and fewer people are able to realize the American dream of homeownership. In response, Habitat has begun serving not just as a builder but also as the primary developer on more of its projects, since both the COVID pandemic and recent economic strains have put smaller developers out of business.

Langston Park also marks the first time Habitat has built a community of multifamily residences. Each home will cost about \$200,000, with the new homeowners paying an interest-free monthly mortgage amount based on their income.

For more information:

[The Carter Work Project Returns to Atlanta](#)

[The AP Reports: 40th Carter Work Project](#)

Co-Editor's Note: Any Carter-related Habitat for Humanity article brings to mind Assistant Press Secretary Jim Purks, a 1976 campaign veteran who went on to work in the White House Office of Media Liaison for both Walt Wurfel and then Pat Barrio. After the White House, Jim worked in Habitat's international headquarters in Americus, where his leadership in marketing and communications helped bring tremendous media attention to the annual Carter Work Projects.

THE
CARTER CENTER



The Carter Center Partners with the Ford Foundation to Monitor Michigan Elections

Tunisia. Colombia. Sierra Leone. The Democratic Republic of Congo. The United States of America?

Yes. This February, The Carter Center teamed up with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation to conduct nonpartisan election observation of Michigan's November 2026 midterms—monitoring important stages of the process and assessing the election's quality to help boost voters' trust.

The Ford-Carter Election Observation Network will train and support Michiganders to serve as impartial election observers and to assess whether laws and procedures are being accurately followed. The network will share their findings with the public.

This effort follows similar observations that The Carter Center has conducted in Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, and soon, Nevada. The two presidential centers also support Michiganders for Civic Resilience, a network of bipartisan political leaders in the state committed to defending democratic institutions.

Do you want to volunteer to help observe the elections in Michigan? [Fill out and submit a form of interest.](#)

"This November's elections will be pivotal to preserving and strengthening democracy and the rule of law in America," said Paige Alexander, chief executive officer of The Carter Center. "If you live in one of the states where we work, I hope you'll join our networks. But wherever you live, I encourage you to find a way to participate that is meaningful to you."

**For more information
and to volunteer, visit:**

["Democracy Needs Guardians"](#)

["Become an Election Observer in the U.S."](#)

Why Is The Carter Center Monitoring U.S. Elections? Jason Carter Explains.

The Carter Center's Democracy Program has monitored more than 120 elections in 40 countries—nearly all in developing or fragile democracies on other continents.

For the last six years, it also has monitored elections in Georgia, and has expanded those efforts to other states including Montana and New Mexico.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Jason Carter spoke with Indira Lakshmanan of WBUR in Boston about what The Carter Center hopes to accomplish by observing domestic elections. **Here are some highlights:**

Q: What concerns you about our system right now?

A: I think the fundamental thing we have learned ... is that you have to build trust in the system. We have this trust deficit: You've got people on both sides that are raising concerns, that are nervous about the way our system works.

We realize we can bring to bear some of our expertise to help bolster the trust that the American people have in the system.

You can always have people say, "I don't trust that." The question is why. The question is what happens in our system when someone makes a claim that they don't trust an outcome.

All we can do is continue to bolster the idea that yes, people can come in and say what they want, but ultimately, it's a system of laws, and we rely on that rule of law in order to ... believe in and trust the election.

Q: Are there any similarities [in monitoring elections in other countries] to what's happening here at home?

A: My grandfather used to say that politics is an art sometimes of self-delusion. Everyone thinks they're going to win ... so there has to be some leadership out there from different political parties that have credibility on both sides of the aisle to say, after an election, hey—this is a fair outcome even though my party lost.

We have built a network of individuals, leaders, and influencers who are able to support the system and provide that type of trust after the fact.

Q: How do you think the recent Supreme Court decision on the Voting Rights Act will affect trust in our elections?

A: I think these types of Supreme Court cases, for example, tend to have unpredictable results ... I think gerrymandering is awful. It's antidemocratic when either side does it, but it also sometimes backfires ... I think it's a bad decision by the Supreme Court, but I also think we can't predict the outcome yet. We're going to have to wait and see what happens as new political alliances get driven by this collection of new maps.

Listen to the full podcast interview:

[Why The Carter Center is Monitoring U.S. Elections](#)

[Here and Now: Carter Center Elections](#)

Running for Something

Carter-Mondale Alums on the November Ballot

For some alums, life after Carter-Mondale has meant running for office themselves. The *Carter-Mondale Connection* checked in with three Carter-Mondale alums who are on the ballot in November.

We wanted to know how their experiences with the Carter Campaign and Administration informed their subsequent careers in politics and public service. (We've also included handy links if you'd like to donate to their campaigns.)

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.)

1. Where were you in life and how did you get involved with Carter-Mondale?

I was a college student when I got an internship in Vice President Mondale's office during the last year of the Carter-Mondale Administration. I took the train to Washington convinced I was going to write big briefings on big issues. Walter Mondale had even bigger plans for me.

2. What did you do in the campaign or administration (or both)?

I spent that summer crawling under every table and chair, and lifting every lamp, diligently checking every serial number as I was assigned the big job to inventory every piece of furniture in the office of the Vice President and his entire staff.

That project taught me two things: (1) True to his reputation, Vice President Mondale was a very honest man, and not a single piece of government-issued furniture was missing; and (2) Take every job seriously, because you never know where it will lead. That internship was my first job in Washington. My job in the U.S. Senate was my second.



Photo courtesy of Amy Klobuchar

3. What is your best personal memory of the Carter-Mondale experience?

A few years back, I visited the Carter Museum in Atlanta. Of course I wanted to learn about President Carter's early days in Plains, but I also wanted to see everything Mondale. The buttons, the videos of the speeches, the Grits and Fritz signs, and yes, I even asked if they had Joan's dress from the inauguration.

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But at the very end of the visit, I saw Walter Mondale's words inscribed on the wall. They were from right after they lost in 1980, when he looked back at their four years in the White House with clear-eyed reflection and said: "We told the truth. We obeyed the law. We kept the peace."

I wrote those words down on a piece of paper and tucked them in my purse, where I kept them as a touchstone.

"We told the truth. We obeyed the law. We kept the peace." That's Jimmy Carter. That's Walter Mondale. That's the standard that they held themselves to each and every day of their life.

4. How did the experience affect your life?

It was Walter Mondale who encouraged me to run for Senate. He believed in mentoring the next generation because he believed in democracy. As Minnesota Attorney General, Senator, Vice President, Ambassador, and presidential candidate, he set a high bar for himself and kept passing it and raising it, passing it and raising it. He was kind and dignified to the end. I know I was incredibly lucky to have had him as a friend, as countless others were too.

And President Carter showed me what it actually looks like to live your values, not just talk about them. I was lucky enough to share several wonderful memories with him and Rosalynn in Plains. We prayed together at Maranatha Baptist



Photo courtesy of Amy Klobuchar

Church, I watched him teach Sunday school, and we shared pimento cheese sandwiches. Throughout, his faith was profound and he shared it with young and old and always with joy.

For both President Carter and Vice President Mondale, public service was not about personal glory. It was about the people. It was about democracy. It was about our country. That has never left me.

Sen. Klobuchar is running for Minnesota Governor this year.

Here is a [link](#) to help her get there!

Tick Segerblom, Clark County, Nevada, Commissioner

1. Where were you in life, and how did you get involved with Carter-Mondale?

I was fresh out of law school, unemployed, and living in Washington, D.C.

2. What did you do in the Campaign or Administration (or both)?

I worked in Pennsylvania in the primary, and in Atlanta in the general. After the election, I worked briefly in the White House, returned to Nevada, served as Western Regional Director of the DNC, and then worked in the 1980 campaign on the West Coast, primarily California.

3. What is your best personal memory of the Carter-Mondale experience?

The 1976 primary in Pennsylvania, along with just being part of history, working alongside an amazing group of misfits.

4. How did the experience affect your life?

Seeing how power is transferred/taken gave me inspiration to never give up, but also never get cocky.

I was predisposed to politics, but the Carter experience infected me to the core—politics is my hobby and my life.



Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter and National Field Director Tim Kraft meet frequent office visitor Zibby Segerblom. "He was a great dog," said Zibby's dad, Tick Segerblom (right).

Tick is running for re-election this year.

Here is a [link](#) to help him get there!



Photo credit: Bowling Green State University

Marcy Kaptur, U.S. Representative, OH-09

Engaged in a typically tight re-election campaign, Marcy wasn't able to respond to our questions by our publication deadline, but we hope you visit her Act Blue page and lend her your support.

Donate to Marcy's Grassroots Campaign for Congress

Here is a [link](#) to help her get there!

About *The Carter-Mondale Connection*

The Carter-Mondale Connection is a work in progress. It's a volunteer-led effort by a handful of Campaign and Administration alumni who want to keep our community—and the incredible story of the 1976 Campaign and the wide-ranging accomplishments of the Carter Administration—alive.

While our numbers are dwindling with time, there are still thousands who contributed to the Campaigns and the Administration who want to safeguard the Carter legacy. We also hope to engage the children and grandchildren of Campaign and Administration alumni who feel a kinship with Jimmy Carter.

How you can help?

First: Spread the word.

If you're still in contact with friends and colleagues from the Campaign and/or Administration, share this newsletter with them. We're building our mailing list from scratch, so don't assume we have the same names and email addresses you have. And that includes the family and friends of those who served in the Campaign and the Administration.

Second: Share your memories and thoughts with us.

If you have some interesting/fun photos from the Campaign or Administration, or if you have an idea for an article for the newsletter, let us know.

Third: Participate.

We'll be posting questions and polls in the newsletter. Be sure to respond at connect@cartermondaleconnection.com.

Fourth: Volunteer.

We'd welcome some research help, and if you're interested in going through the publicly available archives to find editorial and photographic content that would be of interest to our readers, please let us know at connect@cartermondaleconnection.com.

Fifth: Enjoy *The Carter-Mondale Connection*!



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

This newsletter is called *The Carter-Mondale Connection* because we'd like to keep building a community of shared enthusiasm for what we accomplished starting 50 years ago—on the campaign trail, in the Georgia Governor's office, and in the Carter Administration.

We welcome your letters, so send us your thoughts. You may want to comment on an entry in *Passages*, or on a feature we ran in the previous issue. Or maybe share a memory spurred by something you've read here.

In other words, connect!

Write us at

connect@cartermondaleconnection.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jimmy Carter's hometown of Plains has some truly special events planned for summer and early fall 2026. So if you're planning a trip to southwest Georgia anytime soon, mark your calendars for:

Fifth Annual Butterfly Daze Celebrating Rosalynn Carter

Saturday, August 15

This not-to-be-missed annual event features a live butterfly release and educational programs honoring the life and legacy of First Lady Rosalynn Carter, who would have turned 99 on August 18.

Plains Peanut Festival

Saturday, September 26

Every year, Plains honors its agricultural heritage and peanut-growing families with the Plains Peanut Festival—arts and crafts, great food, live music, and, of course, the famous Peanut Parade. The fun kicks off on Main Street in downtown Plains.

Plains also hosts tours and special events throughout the year. Visitors can enjoy the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park and the Plains High School Visitor Center & Museum, attend services at Maranatha Baptist Church, and step back into time with a stay at the Plains Historic Inn & Antiques Mall.

For more information, visit:

[Friends of Jimmy Carter](#)

[The City of Plains Georgia – Official Site](#)

[Jimmy Carter National Historical Park](#)

TAKE A POLL

Results of Our April Poll

What state won the race among *Carter-Mondale Connection* readers for the biggest win after the 1976 Iowa-New Hampshire-Florida trifecta?

It was a bit of a split decision. In terms of first place votes, Wisconsin landed in the top spot with 50 percent of the votes cast, followed by Pennsylvania and Ohio, each with 25 percent of the vote. But when the ranked-choice, first-second-third place votes are tallied, Pennsylvania edged out Wisconsin and Ohio.

THE RESULTS:

Pennsylvania	39%
Wisconsin	30%
Ohio	24%
North Carolina	5%
Illinois	1%
Texas	1%

Thanks to everyone who responded to our inaugural poll!

New Question *(open-ended)*

What is your best memory of the 1976 Democratic National Convention?

PASSAGES



Photo credit: Matthew Pearson/WABE

The Carter-Mondale Connection is continuing The Carter-Mondale Letter’s legacy of remembering our former colleagues from the Campaign and the Administration. In Passages, we strive to focus on each decedent’s contributions and, in many cases, include relevant information or a quote from sources in the Carter-Mondale network. We also include links to newspaper obituaries and paid death notices, funeral home postings, and online tribute books when we have them.

While internet search engines and word of mouth can capture much of that news, we could use some additional assistance. When you hear of someone from the Carter-Mondale team who has died, please drop us a line, send us a link, so we can share the news with our readership: passages@cartermondaleconnection.com.

As always, we’re grateful for the thoughtful assistance.

Jim Gammill
Mark Cohen
Sheila Fyfe

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Photo credit: The Carter Center / Bettmann

Ted Turner

(November 19, 1938–May 6, 2026)

Media legend Ted Turner, who changed how broadcast news was delivered and how Americans and the world watched cable television, died on May 6 at age 87, bringing to a close an extraordinary and eventful life.

Ted was a longtime friend of The Carter Center—offering both his financial support and his strategic insight—and a favored fishing buddy and baseball pal of President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

“The Carters were often Ted Turner’s guests at Atlanta Braves games, sitting in front-row seats where the ‘Kiss Cam’ usually found them mugging for the camera,” said Jay Beck, who served as the longtime director of The Carter Center Weekend.

“Ted often contributed guest group packages to Braves games to be auctioned at The Carter Weekends,” Jay added. “In addition to being a significant financial supporter of The Carter Center, he would show up unexpected and unannounced on Jimmy’s north Georgia fishing trips, to see his old friend Jimmy and regale the guests who had won the trip at the auction with wild tales from his life.”

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Ted Turner continued from page 35

Carter Center Board Chair Jason Carter issued the following statement on learning of Ted's death:

"Ted Turner was larger than life, a visionary in the media world, a pioneer in philanthropy, an Atlanta legend, and a devoted friend of my grandfather, President Jimmy Carter.

"He led one of the most remarkable lives in American history, from growing up in Georgia to the America's Cup to the Superstation to creating CNN.

"He was one of our nation's greatest philanthropists and conservationists. His decision to give away a billion dollars set an example that paved the way for generations of philanthropy.

"He was a great citizen of Atlanta and a great friend to my grandparents. He served on The Carter Center Board of Councilors for nearly 40 years. They caught countless fish together, cheered for the Braves together, and combined forces to change many, many lives.

"Ted Turner was one of a kind. We will miss him as a person, but his impact will live on."

For more information on the life and career of Ted Turner, visit:

[CNN Founder Ted Turner, a Pioneer of Cable TV News, Dies](#)

[Ted Turner, American Entrepreneur](#)

[Ted Turner, Leader in Philanthropy](#)

[Statement from Jason Carter on the Passing of Ted Turner](#)

Arnold J. Miller

(December 18, 1940–April 15, 2026)

Arnold J. “Arnie” Miller died April 15 after living courageously with Parkinson’s disease for 18 years. He was 85.

Arnie served as Maryland State Coordinator in the 1976 campaign, and in 1978 was appointed by President Carter as Director of the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. Under his leadership, the Carter PPO appointed more women and people of color to senior federal roles than any previous presidential administration.

“Your hard work in the Presidential Personnel Office created an Administration of outstanding individuals of which we are proud,” President Carter wrote Arnie in a personal letter. “You not only recommended people of historic character and ability, but we greatly enhanced the roles for women and minorities throughout the federal government ... We made history together.”

Following his service in the Administration, Arnie co-founded the Boston-based Isaacson, Miller executive search firm, which for more than 40 years has helped place proven leaders in mission-driven civic organizations across the country—in higher education, arts and culture, health sciences and academic medicine, and philanthropy, to name a few.

Arnie’s life’s work was inspired and informed by his upbringing as the son of Jewish immigrants from Russia and Poland, who raised him in the tradition of *tikkun olam*—the belief in humanity’s shared responsibility to heal, fix, and improve the world through social activism, the pursuit of justice, and charitable work.

“Arnie never met a stranger,” his family said in his obituary. “He loved people: airline staff, taxi drivers, and the aides and nurses who helped care for him in his final years. They all received the same warmth and genuine curiosity he gave to CEOs and Cabinet officials.”

“‘Larger than life’—‘a force of nature’—‘filled the room.’ All of those apply to Arnie,” said his former wife Margaret McKenna, who served as Deputy White House Counsel for President Carter. “He never gave up trying to make things better for people or the community.”

“Arnie was a good man who cared deeply about people,” said Debra DeLee, his partner of 29 years. “He went out of his way to ensure that they had the



Photo credit: Isaacson Miller

continued on page 38

Arnie Miller continued from page 37

confidence, the skills, and the opportunities to pursue their dreams of making this world a better place. He will be deeply missed by many who will remember him with much love and gratitude."

Arnie is survived by Debra; Margaret and their two sons Michael and David; his twin sister, MaryAnn; his nephew, Jonathan Miller; his grandniece, Lucy; and four grandchildren.

Arnie donated his body to Tufts University for Medical Education. He requested that it be used to help train physicians from underrepresented communities and that those doctors return to serve their communities after their training. "It was his last chance to make a difference for young people and the communities they grew up in," Debra said.

A memorial service is planned for the fall. If you would like to honor Arnie with a donation in his memory, the family asks that you consider contributing to an organization dedicated to the ongoing fight for social and racial justice in America.

For further reading:

[Remembering Arnold J. "Arnie" Miller](#)

Isaacson, Miller

[Director of the Presidential Personnel Office Appointment of Arnold J. Miller](#)

The American Presidency Project, UC-Santa Barbara

[White House Interview Program—Arnie Miller—December 16, 1999](#)

National Archives

Robert Rockwell Bruce

(March 8, 1944–April 10, 2026)

Robert Rockwell Bruce, formerly of Washington, D.C., and Chevy Chase, Maryland, died at his home in Hanover, New Hampshire, on April 10. He was 82.

Early in his career, Bob served as General Counsel of the Federal Communications Commission during the Carter Administration.

"Bob's years serving at the Federal Communications Commission were among the most fulfilling of his long legal career," his wife, Kathryn Stearns, told *The Carter-Mondale Connection*. His work "coincided with revolutionary change in telephony and electronic services leading, of course, to the development of the internet. He and others at the FCC at the time were very instrumental in creating the regulatory environment and legal authority for that transformation."

From 1983 to 1993, Bob was a partner in the Washington office of the international law firm Debevoise & Plimpton, where he focused on telecommunications law, regulation, and policy, becoming a highly regarded expert in his field. In 1993 he moved with his family to London to chair the firm's international telecommunications practice, a role that required extensive travel throughout Europe and around the world. He was a lead player in establishing regulatory frameworks in the communications sector in Europe, Latin America, and Asia, and in privatizing numerous state-owned European telecommunications companies. He was a frequent adviser to national governments and to institutions such as the World Bank until his retirement in 2003.

He is survived by Kathryn and by three children, Dr. Benjamin Bruce of Hinsdale, Illinois; Hannah Bruce Huey of Washington, D.C.; and S. David Bruce of Seattle.

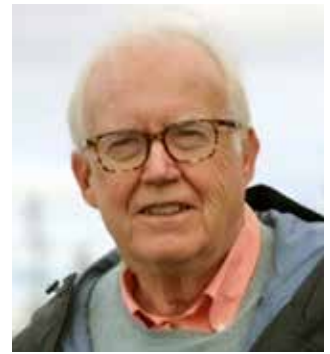


Photo credit: Rand-Wilson
Funeral Home

A memorial celebration is planned in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 26.

Contact kjstearns@mac.com for more information.

For further reading:
[Robert Bruce Obituary](#)

John Ellis

(Died May 26, 2026)

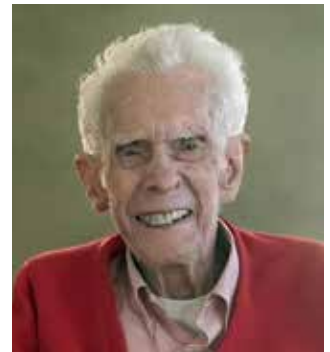
John Ellis died at his home in Sarasota, Florida, at the age of 96. A native of Amherst, Ohio, John was a distinguished educator—serving as superintendent of schools in Massillon, Lakewood, and Columbus, Ohio, in the 1960s and 1970s.

During the 1977 energy crisis, he founded the School Without Schools initiative, which allowed students to continue their education by meeting in public places like shopping malls, restaurants, and churches.

His leadership in school desegregation brought him to the attention of the Carter Administration and a position in the U.S. Department of Education, where he served as Executive Deputy Commissioner from 1977 to 1980. John's appointment in February 1977 by Secretary Joseph A. Califano was controversial within the Administration, as he was a Republican. But it confirmed President Carter's pledge to let his Cabinet select their leadership teams as they saw fit.

John later served for 10 years as superintendent of schools in Austin, Texas, and, in the 1990s, as State Commissioner of Education in New Jersey under Gov. James Florio.

John is survived by Carolyn, his wife of 74 years; his daughters Linda, Jeanine, and Jeanette; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held July 11 at Church of the Palms in Sarasota.



*Photo credit:
Sarasota Herald-Tribune*

For further reading:

[John Ellis Obituary/Columbus Dispatch](#)

[John Ellis Obituary/Austin American-Stateman](#)

Robert Joseph Hall

(October 31, 1951–April 12, 2026)

Bob Hall, a disabilities advocate who visited President Jimmy Carter in the White House, died in hospice care from complications from pneumonia in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on April 12. He was 74.

A childhood survivor of polio, Bob successfully lobbied the Boston Marathon to allow wheelchair participants in the 1975 competition, which he then won in a time of under three hours.



Photo credit: The Washington Post

On February 23, 1980, Bob and his friend Dave McGillivray teamed up for a 1,520-mile wheel and run up the East Coast from Florida to Boston. The six-week trek raised money for the Jimmy Fund, a renowned charitable organization that supports adult and pediatric cancer research and care at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. The institute is closely associated with the Boston Red Sox.

Wheeling and running every day, they took time out to visit avid jogger President Carter when they reached Washington, D.C. "We told the President we were doing it to benefit the Jimmy Fund, and his eyes lit up!" Dave said. The two also visited the Capitol for a meeting with House Speaker Tip O'Neill.

"Bob changed the sport," said Tatyana McFadden, a five-time winner of the women's wheelchair division at both the Boston and New York City marathons. "When you fight for one marathon, it opens the door for others." Today, professional wheelchair divisions are regularly included in the world's top marathons.

In 1978, Bob started Hall's Wheels, a business in Somerville, Massachusetts, that designed and built custom racing chairs.

Bob is survived by his wife and best friend of 38 years, Jane; his brother, John Hall; sisters Jeanne Galabos, Rosemary Rikeman, and Susanne Griffin; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held at the Nardone Funeral Home in Watertown, Massachusetts, on April 16. The family will hold a private funeral service and burial at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bob Hall Legacy Fund at REquipment, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the dignity, independence, and self-determination of individuals with disabilities: BobHallLegacyfund.org.

For further reading:

[Official Obituary of Robert Hall](#)

[The New York Times](#)

[The Washington Post](#)

Lawrence Hochendoner

(November 12, 1947–March 23, 2026)

Former Dauphin County (Pennsylvania) Commissioner Lawrence J. (Larry) Hochendoner died peacefully at his home in Dauphin, Middle Paxton Township, Pennsylvania, on March 23, 2026, surrounded by his family, following a battle with cancer.

During the Carter Administration, Larry served as Assistant Director of Emergency Services for the Small Business Administration. He subsequently was elected to the Dauphin County Commission, where he served from 1980 to 1987.

While he was active in numerous political campaigns, his most rewarding work came later in life when he served as the Executive Director (and later as Senior Partner) of the Philadelphia AIDS Consortium, which he grew to include a global initiative, World Healthcare Infrastructures. It was for this pioneering work that he was named a Purpose Prize Fellow for “Americans over the age of 60 who make extraordinary impact in their encore career.” The Purpose Prize is a program of Civic Ventures funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies and the John Templeton Foundation.

Larry was born in Pittsburgh. He received his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Dayton and his Masters in Governmental Affairs from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Braband Hochendoner; children Christopher and Kiri; his sister, Diane Hochendoner Larian; his brother, Mark Hochendoner; and many nephews and nieces.



*Photo credit: Legacy.com/
Harrisburg Patriot-News*

**Larry's favorite
quote was**

*"Imagine
peace."*

For further reading:

[Official Obituary of Larry Hochendoner](#)

Penn Live/Patriot News (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania)

Paula C. Hollinger

(December 30, 1940–March 25, 2026)

Former Maryland State Sen. Paula C. Hollinger died from leukemia on Wednesday, March 25, at her home in Sarasota, Florida. She was 85.

Sen. Hollinger was a delegate for Jimmy Carter at the 1976 Democratic National Convention. She later served as a member of the Maryland legislature for nearly 30 years, representing the 11th and 12th districts in the House of Delegates from 1979 to 1987 and the 11th State Senate district from 1987 to 2007.

A Washington, D.C., native, Sen. Hollinger graduated from New York's Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing in 1961. Her nursing background heavily informed her career in politics. She served on the State Senate's Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee—which she also chaired from 2003 to 2007—and championed effective health care policy, women's reproductive care, and support for health care providers.

Following her career in the legislature, Sen. Hollinger was associate director of the health work force at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene until she retired in 2015.

Former Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh served with Sen. Hollinger in the state legislature. "Sen. Paula Hollinger was the living embodiment of Shakespeare's line, 'Though she be but little, she is fierce,'" he told *The Carter-Mondale Connection*. "Paula fought harder than anyone for women's equality. She was an expert and a champion when it came to public health. She was effective. She was passionate. She was loving, and she was loved."

Services were held on Sunday, March 29, at Sol Levinson's Chapel in Pikesville, Maryland. The family requests that contributions in Sen. Hollinger's memory go to the SEED School of Maryland in Baltimore.



Photo credit: Sol Levinson & Bros.

For further reading:

[Paula Hollinger Obituary](#)

Baltimore Jewish Living

[Donate to The SEED School of Maryland](#)

Robert D. Kelley

(Died May 10, 2026)

Former presidential advance man Robert D. Kelley died May 10 at the age of 82.

A native of Boston, Bob began his career in advance as a summer-season police officer in Barnstable, Massachusetts. He went on to work with the campaigns of Sen. Ted Kennedy, Sen. George McGovern, Speaker Tip O'Neill, and Boston Mayor Kevin White. He served as a contracted member of President Carter's advance team from 1977 to 1981.

As part of that team, he was responsible for assisting in planning presidential events and meetings with national and world leaders, joining President Carter on trips that included South Korea, Spain, Yugoslavia, and Poland. He also assisted in the opening of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum.

Bob is survived by Pat, his wife of 62 years, his daughters Karen and Jennifer, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. The family asks that contributions in his memory be made to Rosie's Place, a women's shelter in Boston.



Photo credit: Cape Cod Times

For further reading:

[Robert D. Kelley Obituary](#)

["He Never Lied." Cape Codder Recalls his Job with President Jimmy Carter](#)

[Rosie's Place: More Than a Shelter ... A Second Chance](#)

Susanne Gyldenvand Martin

(August 13, 1951–April 8, 2026)

Susanne Gyldenvand Martin died suddenly of hypertensive heart disease at her home in The Villages, Florida, on April 8. She was 74.

After graduating from North Dakota State College of Science with an associate's degree, Susanne headed to Washington, D.C., where she worked for the Veterans Administration as a legal secretary. During the Carter Administration, Susanne was assigned to the White House to work on the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Susanne was born on August 13, 1951, in Valley City, North Dakota, to John and Delores Gyldenvand. She is survived by her husband, Ronald Martin; her four sons, Adam, Aaron, Paul, and Luke; her sister, Betty Selders; and her brother, John Gyldenvand. Susanne was a dog lover all her life and is survived by her rescued poodles Teddy and Rusty.

Susanne grew up on a potato farm with her family in Verona, North Dakota. During her 26-year marriage, she and her husband traveled to many places in the world. She also worked hard on her hobby: She was a "Noonatic"—a member of the fan club of Herman's Hermit Peter Noone—attending hundreds of concerts.

Susanne's remains will rest in an urn in North Dakota, near her mother, after a small ceremony at the cemetery.



Photo credit: The Villages Daily Sun

For further reading:

[Susanne Martin Obituary](#)

Maureen Moriarty

(August 13, 1950–May 13, 2026)

Maureen Theresa Moriarty died at home in Hartford, Connecticut, after a battle with cancer. She was 75.

Maureen's career in Democratic politics began when she volunteered for local campaigns in East Hartford, where she grew up. She later worked for leadership in the Connecticut General Assembly, for Connecticut Gov. William A. O'Neill, and for the 1980 Carter-Mondale Campaign, as well as for the presidential campaigns of Sen. Al Gore and Sen. John Glenn.

Maureen was most closely associated with Connecticut U.S. Rep. John B. Larson, serving as chief of staff in his district office, from which she retired.

Maureen is survived by her daughter, Moriah; her stepson, Jeremy Baver; her sisters Christine and Regina; her brother, Stephan; and three grandchildren.



Photo credit: Dignity Memorial

For further reading:

[Maureen Moriarty Obituary](#)

Inger Rice

(February 28, 1930–May 10, 2026)

Philanthropist and former ambassadorial spouse Inger Rice died on May 10 at the age of 96. Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, Inger was married for nearly 40 years to Walter Rice, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Australia from 1969 to 1973. In Australia, she founded the Inger Rice Foundation for Mother and Child. She also performed volunteer work in Haiti, British Guiana, and Jamaica.

For more than 20 years, Inger served as international and Virginia state director of Friendship Force International, an Atlanta-based cultural exchange organization founded by the Rev. Wayne Smith and introduced by President Jimmy Carter on March 1, 1977.

The family requests that donations in Inger's memory be made to Virginia Commonwealth University's Rice Rivers Center or to the Science Museum of Virginia.



*Photo credit: Legacy.com via
The Richmond Times-Dispatch*

For further reading:

[Inger Rice Obituary](#)

[Friendship Force: "Building Global Unity One Friendship at a Time"](#)

[VCU Rice Rivers Center](#)

[Science Museum of Virginia](#)

Rep. David Albert Scott

(June 27, 1945–April 22, 2026)

U.S. Rep. David Scott, a Georgia Democrat and the first Black chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, has died. He was 80.

Rep. Scott, who was seeking his 13th term in Congress despite challenges from within his party, was once a leading voice for Democrats on issues related to farm aid policy and food aid for consumers.

He was born in rural Aynor, South Carolina, on June 27, 1945, in the era of Jim Crow segregation. He spent part of his childhood in Scranton, Pennsylvania, along with stints in New York and Florida. Rep. Scott graduated from Florida A&M University, one of the nation's largest historically Black college campuses—and in office he was an outspoken advocate for federal support of HBCUs. He also earned an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1969.

As the founder of an Atlanta-based advertising agency, the up-and-coming entrepreneur soon found work as a consultant for then-Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter regarding revenue policy. He worked in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and would later credit Jimmy Carter for having "a tremendous impact" on his life and political career.

His experience with Jimmy Carter soon opened the door for Rep. Scott to work on Andrew Young's congressional campaign in 1972. Two years later, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, where he served from 1975 to 1982. He was first elected to Congress in 2002.

"The state of Georgia is a better place thanks to the service of Congressman Scott," said U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff in a statement. "May his memory be a blessing."

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries said, "He cared about the people that he represented. He was fiercely committed to getting things done for the people of the great state of Georgia, and he'll be deeply missed."

Rep. Scott is survived by his wife, Alfredia Scott (the sister of baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron), the couple's two adult daughters, and grandchildren.



Photo credit: U.S. House of Representatives

For further reading:

[The New York Times](#)

[WABE \(Atlanta, Georgia\)](#)

[AP News](#)

[USA Today](#)

Rev. Dr. Jeremy Shoulta

(October 11, 1983–April 12, 2026)

The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Shoulta, the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Georgia—who previously served as pastor of the Plains church attended by President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter—has died after a yearlong battle with cancer. He was 42.



Photo credit: First Baptist Church Gainesville

Rev. Shoulta died April 12 at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, surrounded by his family, according to a statement released by First Baptist Church of Gainesville. A celebration of life service was held at the church on Sunday, April 19.

Before arriving in Gainesville, Rev. Shoulta served from 2014 to 2016 as pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains.

“It was a joy to walk with [President Carter] on this Christian journey and to experience his teachings up close,” Rev. Shoulta told [The Gainesville Times](#) in 2020. “Also, to see him live out his faith locally and with his neighbors in Plains was inspiring as well. That’s something I’ll never forget.”

In January, Rev. Shoulta spoke with BBC News about his years in Plains, describing how President Carter once noticed a broken stair rail at the church, carried it to his home workshop, repaired it, and returned to reinstall it. “And that’s just one example of the way that he served his church,” he said. “When the cameras were not on, he took joy and found meaning and purpose in even doing those seemingly small tasks.”

Raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Rev. Shoulta received a Bachelor of Arts in religion from Georgetown College and a Master of Divinity from the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. He also completed the Doctor of Ministry program at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina.

In honor of his life and ministry, Rev. Shoulta’s family requests considering memorial contributions to the following organizations:

- The Carter Center, The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Enduring Hope Fund
- First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Georgia, Ministry of Caring
- Elachee Nature Science Center, Gainesville, Georgia

For further reading:

[“Jeremy Shoulta Dies at 42” \(The Christian Post\)](#)

[Jeremy Shoulta Obituary](#)

Judith Glisson Snowden

(November 17, 1939–May 17, 2026)

Judith Snowden died in Little Rock, Arkansas, on May 17 at the age of 86. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Judith moved with her husband, David, to Arkansas, where she raised her family and started Wonderful Things, an interior design business.

Judith was deeply committed to community service in her adopted state, serving in a leadership role on the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Foundation Board. She was a member of the boards of the Arkansas Museum of Natural History, the Arkansas Arts Center, and the Arkansas State Arts and Humanities Council, and was founder and president of the Guild of Arkansas Orchestra Society.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter appointed Judith to the Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She was one of the first Arkansans to serve on that body.

Judith is survived by her husband; her son, David Jr.; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. The family requests that memorials in her honor be made to the UAMS Health Foundation in Little Rock.



Photo credit: Ruebel Funeral Home

For further reading:

[Judith Snowden Obituary](#)

[President Carter Appoints 89 Members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts](#)

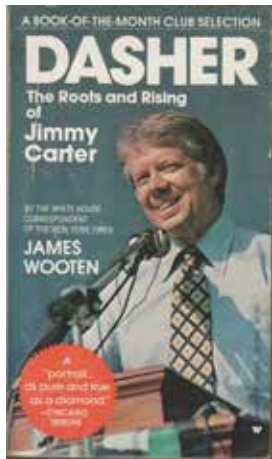
[UAMS Institutional Advancement](#)

James T. Wooten

(July 13, 1937–June 4, 2026)

Jim Wooten, a former *New York Times* political reporter and ABC News senior correspondent, died on Thursday, June 4. He was 88.

As Atlanta bureau chief, and, later, national political correspondent and White House correspondent for *The Times*, Jim was one of the “boys on the bus” during the 1976 Carter Campaign and then the Carter White House. He wrote the 1978 book *Dasher: The Roots and the Rising of Jimmy Carter*. *Dasher* was the Secret Service code name for Carter during the 1976 Campaign.



A book review in the March 26, 1987, *New York Times* observed: “*Dasher* by James Wooten is the most complete exposition yet put down of the complex, enigmatic, elusive personality who has come from the relative obscurity of a Georgia governorship to lead the free world.”

Jim was born in Detroit, Michigan, on July 13, 1937, to J.R. Wooten, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, and Clara (née Richmond), a homemaker.



Photo credit: Getty Images

Jim began his long career at *The Huntsville Times*, in Alabama.

From there, he joined the *Times*. He wrote a column for *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and for *Esquire Magazine*. In 1979, he began his work for ABC News as a senior correspondent.

He covered seven presidential campaigns and reported from 14 political conventions. He was a war correspondent as well, reporting from 40 countries across five continents.

In addition to *Dasher*, Jim also wrote *Soldier and We Are All Same: A Story of a Boy's Courage and a Mother's Love*.

He won many awards, including the Ernie Pyle Memorial Medal for his combat reporting on the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Jim is survived by his wife, Patience O'Connor, his five daughters, 10 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and sisters Judy Parker and Sandi Goad.

The funeral will be private for family and close friends. An additional celebration of Jim's life and legacy is being planned for September in Washington, D.C.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Jim's memory may be made to [The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS](#) and/or to the [Thorncroft Equestrian Center's Program for Veterans](#).

For further reading:

New York Times Review of *Dasher* (March 26, 1978) [“Behind the Sayisms and Smilisms”](#)

Northampton (MA) Daily Voice (June 13, 2026) [“Jim Wooten Dies: ABC News Remembers Senior Correspondent”](#)

James T. Wooten Obituary [Donohue Funeral Homes](#)



Photos courtesy of Jay Beck

Wanted: Your Photographs

We hope you enjoy *The Carter-Mondale Connection's* second-issue look back at the 1976 Democratic National Convention.

It wouldn't have been possible without the help of Campaign alums who went digging through their basements, garages, and closets looking for boxes of photos and souvenirs marked "CARTER 1976."

We still need help like that going forward. If you have any fun photos from your Carter-Mondale days, please share them with us.

We'd especially appreciate images from the **1976 General Election**, since our next issue will focus on the 50th anniversary of the fall Campaign.

Please send photos and any IDs of those pictured to connect@cartermondaleconnection.com. We'll give you a photo credit!

Thanks for reading,

Mark Cohen	Sheila Fyfe	Jim Gammill
Co-Editor	Co-Editor	Publisher