

THE Carter / Mondale *Letter*

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'77 Inauguration Took Campaign Worker on Harrowing Ride

By Lisa Suarez

In November 1975, in my early 20s, I volunteered for Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign and worked on buttons and bumper stickers. I was drafted as a Peanut Brigadier by Dot Padgett, an assistant to Barry Jagoda at the convention, then went on to become part of the advance staff for the general election. I never did work as part of the Carter administration, but I had the good fortune to work for the Smithsonian Institution in 1980.

During this year's inauguration of President Obama, I had the chance to tell the following story to several friends and acquaintances about why I will never need to go to another inauguration.

During the final week of the 1977 transition, I assisted Charles Rafshoon, who was responsible for compiling a commemorative book about the inauguration. On Inauguration Day, my job was to coordinate military drivers to deliver photographers to key spots during the parade. We had a little temporary office in some musty corner of the National Railway Terminal, which was not the fancy mall it is now. As I recall, there were five photographers, five cars, and four drivers. With Charles Rafshoon out photographing the president lunching at the Capitol, I began to dispatch the photo team, distributing keys, credentials, and parade passes. I was down to the last man and car, but without a driver.

I believe the original thinking was that he would just drive himself, because this photographer was assigned to go to the little island in the Potomac where the National Park Service police kept their helicopters. While he was in the helicopter taking photos of the parade with a fish-eye lens, the car could easily stay parked, because it was not on city streets. He could then drive himself back with the film.

The problem was that he was unfamiliar with the streets of D.C., and we were now running short on time. There



President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter walk along Pennsylvania Avenue on Inauguration Day 1977.

continues on p. 2

continued from p. 1

Campaign

were one or two other folks up in that dingy room, but no one willing to deliver the photographer. Well, it wasn't my job to worry about the film once it came back into the office, so I drove him. When we arrived at the landing pad, I began to explain where he could find the car when he disembarked. He interrupted, "Oh no—you're going up too. I'll be hanging out the door of the copter as you hand me the cameras."

Oh, my gosh! It was 20 degrees outside. The door of the two-person bubble helicopter had already been removed. The pilot handed me a headset as I climbed speechless onto a low bench squished behind the two seats. "You won't be able to hear us over the rotors without it," he said after plugging them in. The photographer shoved a bag with three cameras at me.

"I was a reconnaissance photographer in Vietnam," he said over the headset as he strapped himself into a harness, sitting on the floor of the helicopter with his legs dangling out, almost touching the skids.

Did I mention it was 20 degrees out? I had left my heavy coat back in the office, because it was too bulky for driving.



As the voice in the tower gave the pilot permission to take off, I held my breath against the cold.

I had actually been in a small helicopter similar to this once, when I was 10. My dad had paid \$5 each for us four kids to go for a

Today, Lisa Suarez is a marriage and family counselor in New Orleans.

ride that lasted about 30 seconds at a state fair. Good thing I'm not afraid of heights.

The photographer called for the various cameras while carrying on a continuous conversation with the pilot about Vietnam.

"Do you want to get a shot of the Washington Monument you'll never get again?" asked the pilot.

"Go for it," said the photographer. The pilot then maneuvered the helicopter sideways, suspending it with the open door over the point of the Washington Monument and the blades of the big rotor lower than the building.

I remember noticing that I felt almost relaxed and was not holding my breath anymore. I thought if I was going to die now, I'd be going out with a bang.

"Get that bird over 300 feet!" boomed a voice over the headset. "I'll have your license in a heartbeat," the voice continued, with other voices crackling in.

"Yes, sir!" the pilot replied, veering up and away.

"I'll take the heat," said the photographer.

"That was the Secret Service. They're not my boss," the pilot answered.

There was no conversation after that. When we landed, they hugged and patted each other on the back. The cold came over me, and I ran to get the car started. I doubt we had been in the air more than 15 minutes. The photographer asked to be let out near the parade route. I don't remember his name, but I'm pretty sure it's in the commemorative book, along with that fish-eye photo of the Washington Monument you'll never see again.

Send us your stories from the campaign or administration. It's time we shared them with the next generation.

Photos Wanted

The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum would like to catalog more visual records from the campaigns and administration. Please consider sending your photo prints, negatives, slides, or other images to the library to record them for posterity.

The library will make these photos available for public research use; alumni will be able to download them to supplement their personal histories of the Carter-Mondale campaigns and administration.

Please identify all, or as many as possible, people in the photos. List the names in left-to-right order or in such a way that the staff at the library will be able to understand who is in the photo. As much as possible, also identify the photographer, date, and location and provide any other relevant information.

For more information, contact Sara Saunders at sara.saunders@nara.gov.

Comings & Goings

Mike Blumenfeld, 74, is presently retired in Lawrence, Kan., where he is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Kansas, teaching an undergraduate honors section of the yearlong required course “Humanities and Western Civilization.” Blumenfeld was assistant secretary of the Army (civil works) and chairman of the Panama Canal Commission. He fondly recalls his time at the Pentagon, where he had to be at dawn meetings of the Defense Department and midnight meetings with Stu Eizenstat’s staff at the White House.

Judge U.W. Clemon, Democrat from Alabama and former civil rights lawyer, was appointed to the federal bench in 1979 by President Carter. He retired Jan. 20 and will enter private practice. Judge Clemon may be the first federal judge leaving his position so that President Obama can name his successor.

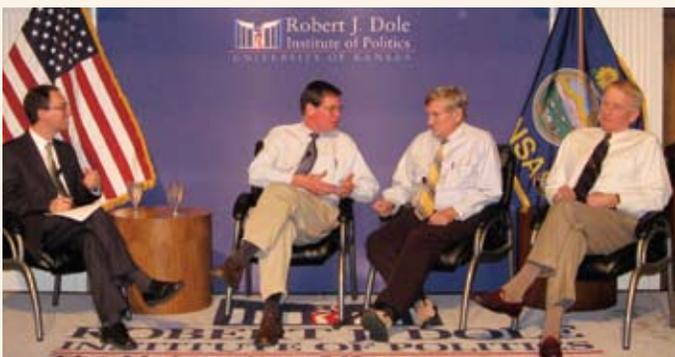
Dr. M. Rupert Cutler, assistant secretary for natural resources and environment in the Department of Agriculture in the Carter administration, was appointed by Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine to the board of trustees of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the state agency that holds conservation easements, and elected chairman of the board of the Western Virginia Water Authority, the regional agency that provides water and waste water services to the city of Roanoke, Roanoke County, and neighboring localities. He and his wife, Gladys, live in a condominium in a renovated historic building in downtown Roanoke. His e-mail address is mrcutler@aol.com.

Ruby Crawford, longtime supporter of President and Mrs. Carter, was recently named fellow of the American Bar Association, headquartered in Chicago, Ill. This recognition,

continues on p. 4

Scott Burnett, who is a fellow at the Dole Institute of Politics for spring 2009, presided over a discussion at the institute that included **Tim Kraft** and **Jody Powell**, titled “Spirit of 1976: Why the Presidential Campaign Is a Classic.” Past speakers have included Vice President Walter Mondale; Jim King, former White House

personnel director; Rick Hutcheson, White House staff secretary; and Pat Caddell, presidential pollster. Burnett is a partner in SGB Communications and a legislator for 1st District, Jackson County, Mo.



Dole Institute Associate Director Jonathan Earle (left) interviews Scott Burnett, Tim Kraft, and Jody Powell.



Attendees of the “Spirit of 1976” talk at the Dole Institute included (left to right): Jody Powell, Kevin Smith, Sam Burnett, Scott Burnett, Rhonda Burnett, Molly Kraft, and Tim Kraft.

Comings & Goings, cont.

given to only one-third of 1 percent of lawyers, is awarded to individuals whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession.

Crawford, who graduated from Atlanta Law School in 1948, is an LLB, and received her juris doctor at Georgia State. She and her twin sister, Ruth, were trailblazers



Ruby Crawford (right) with President and Mrs. Carter.

for women in business in Georgia in law and banking. Both Ruth and Ruby were past presidents of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, and the organization named a scholarship in honor of the Crawford sisters. She recently celebrated her birthday at The Carter Center surrounded by family and friends.

Dr. H. Brent De Land was elected as a 1976 Carter delegate from Springfield, Ill., and was a member of the Platform Committee. He is currently an administrator with the Illinois Department of Human Services and president of the Haitian Development Fund, a not-for-profit Illinois corporation. In talking about his work in Haiti, Dr. De Land said, “I have followed the Christian/humanitarian example of President Carter and have tried in a small way to address poverty and illness in the developing world. As an American, I know how blessed I am and wish to do something for the people in poverty.”

Judge Betty Fletcher was in President Carter’s group of landmark women judicial appointments. She recently was honored in Seattle for her service on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, where she was appointed in 1979.

Judge Fletcher is one of the leading jurists in the United States and around the world on protecting and defending both human rights and the environment. She has been asked by other countries to lecture and help them with their constitutions to establish independent judiciaries, often referred to as the “rule of law,” and has been a judicial leader in preventing deportation of immigrants who face political persecution in their homelands. She turns 86 this year and continues to work full-time on these issues.

Her daughter, Kathy Fletcher, came to the White House from the transition group in Atlanta with Jack Watson. Kathy was on the domestic policy staff for environmental issues under Stu Eizenstat and staffed the president on one of his greatest legacies, the Alaska Lands Act.

Judge Fletcher can be contacted at the following address: Hon. Betty B. Fletcher, United States Senior Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, William Kenzo Nakamura U.S. Courthouse, 1010 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1000, Seattle, WA 98104.

Tim Kraft was treated recently at the Mayo Clinic for complications and an infection following knee surgery. He injured his knee in late 2008 and has undergone two operations and infections since. Though his recovery schedule has been longer than Tim and Molly would like, his long-term prognosis is good.

Former Democratic National Committee Chairman **Terry McAuliffe** has begun exploring a possible run for governor next year in Virginia. McAuliffe has set up a campaign committee and will tour Virginia before making his candidacy certain. McAuliffe set up his committee after a series of barnstorming campaign appearances across the state on behalf of Barack Obama’s presidential campaign.

McAuliffe would face two other Democrats already in the governor’s race. State Senator Creigh Deeds narrowly lost the attorney general’s race in 2005, and House Democratic Caucus Chairman Brian Moran is also in the race.

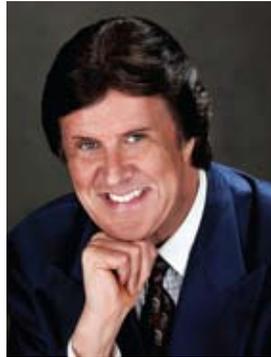
McAuliffe raised funds for the 1976 and 1980 Carter-Mondale campaigns.

Curt and Priscilla Wiley moved to Chicago in March where Curt is executive director for the Urban Land Institute, a group of 1,400 progressive developers in the city

of Chicago with a focus on large downtown construction.

The Wileys' new contact information is: 77 W. Huron 1803, Chicago, IL 60610, (317) 496-8559.

Garry South has been named "one of the top political strategists in the Democratic Party," receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater, the University of Montana, where he graduated with honors and served as student body president.



Garry South

South is a frequent guest commentator on NPR and a regular contributor of opinion pieces to many California news outlets. For the past 36 years, South has managed or played leading roles in political campaigns, from U.S. president to city council. In 1998, he was named Campaign Manager of the Year by the American Association of Political Consultants for directing the come-from-behind victory of California Gov. Gray Davis.

Garry lives in Santa Monica with his wife, Christine Wei-li Lee, and their 2-year-old son, James Ru-Shiao Lee-South. He can be reached through his Web site, www.TheGarrySouthGroup.com.

James H. "Jim" Quackenbush of Columbia, S.C., was chosen one of the five best governmental relations law attorneys for 2009 in South Carolina by the Best Lawyers publication. "Quack" worked in the 1976 and 1980 campaigns and ran the South for Walter Mondale in 1983–84. He is a principal in the Berry, Quackenbush & Stuart, P.A. firm in Columbia and specializes in environmental and land use law.

After the passing of Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Catherine Baker in late 2008, **Salvatore (Sal) M. Sirabella** has moved to a position with Gov. Edward Rendell in the Office of Public Liaison.

Sirabella's contact information is: Salvatore M. Sirabella, Director, Office of Public Liaison, Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 508E Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 787-5825.

Jan Wetstone, inventor of Mod Podge crafting glue, made a special visit to the corporate offices of Plaid, the company that now owns the Mod Podge product line.

Wetstone shared memories of Mod Podge's early days when she was a one-woman show — manufacturing, bottling,

selling, and demonstrating the product. She happily answered questions from guests, including those about her most famous project — a one-of-a-kind Volkswagen Beetle that she decouped in bed sheets.

Several of Wetstone's friends and family members enjoyed the day's festivities, admiring a colorful room that was decorated corner-to-corner with Mod Podge projects. "It's a shrine to Grandma!" noted Wetstone's granddaughter.



Jan Wetstone

Alan Wolff is now a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of the merged Dewey Ballantine and LeBoeuf Lamb law firms and is still chair of the International Trade Group.

Wolff also has been named chair of the Comparative Innovation Committee of the Science, Technology, and Economic Policy Board of the National Academies and will serve another term on the board.

Wolff's contact information is: Alan Wm. Wolff, Partner, Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, 1101 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 346-7800, awolff@dl.com.

Passages

Griffin B. Bell, the shrewd Southern lawyer who grew up with Jimmy Carter and later became U.S. attorney general after Carter was elected president, died in January at the age of 90 from complications due to pancreatic cancer and kidney disease, which he had fought for years.

President Carter said he was "deeply saddened" by Bell's death and called him a "trusted and enduring public figure. As a World War II veteran, federal appeals court judge, civil rights advocate, and U.S. attorney general in my administration, Griffin made many lasting contributions to his native Georgia and country."

Bell served just 2 1/2 years at the Justice Department, leaving in mid-1979 — at his own request — to return to his Atlanta law firm, King & Spalding. But he called his tenure as attorney general "the best job I ever had," and he remained close to the action in government by

continues on p. 6

Passages, cont.

maintaining a law office in Washington. He also remained a key adviser to Carter.

Bell's latest book, "Footnotes to History: A Primer on the American Political Character," a collection of speeches he gave during his career, recently was published by Mercer University Press.

Tim Bentley, 55, former Peanut Brigadier and staff assistant to Max Cleland, Zell Miller, and Maynard Jackson, died on Jan. 11 at his mother's home in Decatur, Ga., following an extended illness with a pulmonary disease. He was a former president of the Young Democrats of Georgia and tramped through the snows of New Hampshire with the Peanut Brigade in 1976.

Cleland gives Bentley great credit for his assistance in Cleland's campaign for secretary of state in Georgia. Bentley also will be remembered for his writing; he was published in many reports and magazines in Georgia.

Robert T. Connor, assistant deputy secretary of the Navy in the Carter-Mondale administration, passed away in January 2009. He was buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Dr. Emmet Fewell Ferguson Jr., a longtime Jacksonville, Fla., physician and community leader and a friend of President Carter since childhood, died in late 2008.

When President Carter became involved in politics in Georgia, Dr. Ferguson became an enthusiastic supporter. After Carter was elected president in 1976, he appointed Dr. Ferguson to the board of regents of the National Library of Medicine.

Dr. Julius Richmond, who served as U.S. surgeon general under President Jimmy Carter, died in summer 2008 at the age of 91.

"Jimmy and I are saddened to learn of the loss of our dear friend and colleague Dr. Julius Richmond," said former First Lady Rosalynn Carter. "Julie was a wonderful and compassionate champion in the fight to improve health, mental health, and educational opportunities for our nation's children."

Poverty undercuts the ability of the young to learn, Richmond realized during research half a century ago, and

he drew from his findings to launch Project Head Start, a federal program that has helped millions of children since its inception in 1965.

In a career that ranged from serving as a flight surgeon in the Army Air Corps during World War II to serving as surgeon general from 1977 to 1981, Dr. Richmond left few areas of medicine untouched.

Howard Messner died in December 2008 at his home in Gambrills, Md., after a yearlong struggle with esophageal cancer.

From his position in the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, he helped Administrator William Ruckelshaus establish the Environmental Protection Agency in 1971 and then served as administrative director at the EPA.

He also served as a senior executive in the Congressional Budget Office and the Department of Energy and later served as assistant director of the Office of Management and Budget. In 1985, he received a presidential/Senate-confirmed appointment and served as assistant administrator of the EPA for three years.

After leaving the federal government, he was executive vice president of the American Consulting Engineers Council for more than 12 years. He served as the president of the National Academy of Public Administration during 2003 and 2006.

S. Lee Kling, a prominent St. Louis financier involved in insurance, consulting, and investments, and a Democratic Party fundraiser whose influence extended into presidential campaigns and international peace negotiations, died in late 2008.

Kling, who got his professional start in the insurance business in the 1950s, had a long list of professional and political posts and accomplishments, including a stint as finance chairman for the Democratic National Committee in the 1970s. Kling was involved in the peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Steven Dana Shoob, 58, of Savannah, Ga., died in an early-morning traffic accident while covering a news story in late 2008. He was a longtime anchor and managing editor for CBS-affiliate WTOG and won three Associated



Press awards and the first Emmy award for Savannah and his station. During the Carter-Mondale administration, Shoob was a White House deputy mail clerk.

Jerome Waldie, the California assemblyman credited with bringing higher pay and full-time work standards to the Legislature in 1966, and who later served in Congress, died in his Placerville, Calif., home in early April at age 84.

When Jimmy Carter was elected president in 1976, he appointed Waldie chairman of the newly created Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. In 1979, President Carter appointed Waldie executive director of the White House Conference on Aging.

As a U.S. congressman, Waldie became a member of the House Judiciary Committee, where he was best

known for introducing the articles of impeachment against Nixon in July 1974. The Democrat led the vote to impeach Nixon on charges of obstructing justice and violating the oath of office, among other allegations.

In 1967, after initially supporting the Vietnam War, he became one of the first politicians to openly speak against it in a letter to his constituents.

When Ronald Reagan became president, Waldie returned to California, where then-Gov. Brown appointed him to the state Agricultural Labor Relations Board. He worked to improve working conditions for farm workers and consulted regularly with labor leader Cesar Chavez. Waldie served until 1985, when he was ready to retire.



Hutcheson Supports Center with Planned Gift

Rick Hutcheson, who was staff secretary for the White House in the Carter-Mondale administration, is now on the City Council and a businessman in Palm Springs, Calif. Rick and his partner, Rob Kincaid, own and manage a successful real estate company, Vacation Palm Springs (www.vacationpalmsprings.com).

Hutcheson is supporting the work of The Carter Center through charitable gift annuities, a popular type of planned gift. A charitable gift annuity allows a person and his or her



Rick Hutcheson (left) and Rob Kincaid

loved one to receive guaranteed income for life while at the same time helping The Carter Center carry out its work. Gift annuities can be especially appealing in the current economic climate because they offer an attractive, fixed rate of return, based on the age of the donor or donors. Annuities are simple gift arrangements that are easy to understand. They provide a charitable deduction

in the year the gift is made, and a portion of the income received from the annuity will be tax-free.

“A charitable gift annuity seems like a triple win to me,” Hutcheson said. “First, there is an up-front tax deduction in the year you make the gift. Second, the fixed income stream can be an appealing part of one’s retirement planning, with an impressive rate of return if payments are deferred for a few years. Third, and most important, these annuities help support the Carter Center’s work around the world. Rob and I are so impressed with the efforts of The Carter Center on behalf of public health and in supporting democratic elections. Helping The Carter Center is a way we can truly make a difference,” he said.

A gift annuity can be established with either cash or appreciated securities valued at \$5,000 or more. Income from the annuity can begin immediately, or it can be deferred for a minimum of one year. Deferred annuity payments increase the rate of return. All donors age 50 and older may begin receiving annuity payments. Both Hutcheson and Kincaid are supporting the work of the Center through several separate gift annuities.

For more information about charitable gift annuities that benefit The Carter Center, contact Karen Price at (404) 420-3860 or send an e-mail to karen.price@emory.edu. Find more information online at www.cartercenter.org/annuity.

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Center Staff Honor Mrs. Carter

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter was honored by Carter Center staff for her tireless work and critical role in the passage of the mental health parity bill during a surprise gathering on Oct. 15, 2008.

Mrs. Carter, who spoke briefly to a crowd gathered in the Lower Commons, was presented with a giant congratulatory poster created by interns in the Mental Health Program and signed by Center staff.

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter addresses Center staff who gathered to recognize her efforts to push for mental health parity legislation.

The legislation, called the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, is a milestone in mental health insurance coverage and stigma reduction.



About This Newsletter

The Carter/Mondale Letter is sent to individuals who were associated with the campaign and administration of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale. Please send us news, photos, and other items that will interest your fellow alumni and let us know of others who need to be added to the mailing list: Jay Beck, The Carter Center, One Copenhill, 453 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307; Fax (404) 420-3816; E-mail jbeck4@emory.edu.

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