

THE Carter Mondale *Letter*

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Carters Surprise with Inauguration Day Walk



This issue of the Carter-Mondale Letter features a look back at the inauguration of Jimmy Carter to the U.S. presidency from several perspectives.

By Rex Granum

On Jan. 20, 1977, the day of Jimmy Carter's presidential inauguration, it was bitterly cold—28 degrees at noon, at the Capitol ceremony. But the chill was blunted by bright sunshine and, for Carterites, the unrelenting excitement of their man becoming the 39th president of the United States.

Much was memorable about that day: the swearing-in by Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger; Carter's tribute to President Gerald Ford: "For myself and for our nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land"; the president's 1,229-word "new beginning" speech and its appeal to the American spirit; the sheer pageantry of the parade; the evening's balls; and the day's unbridled enthusiasm and optimism.

But the essence of the day was captured in the president's walk down Pennsylvania Avenue. No president had ever walked at all in an inaugural parade (newspaper accounts report that since then, all except President Reagan have walked small portions). Jimmy Carter remains the only president to walk the length of the parade route, and given ever-heightening security concerns, it's highly unlikely any other president ever will.

As Carter recalled in "Keeping Faith: Memoirs of a President," the idea of walking from the Capitol to the White House was first suggested by Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., as a way to set a good example of physical fitness. Carter wrote, "The idea seemed rather silly, and I discarded it

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On Inauguration Day, the Carters delight onlookers as they walk the 1.5 miles down Pennsylvania Ave. from the Capitol to the White House.

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immediately. Later, however, I began to realize that the symbolism of our leaving the armored car would be much more far-reaching than simply to promote exercise.”

Reflecting on the many angry demonstrations that confronted his predecessors in the Vietnam and Watergate years, Carter wrote: “I wanted to provide a vivid demonstration of my confidence in the people as far as security was concerned, and I felt a simple walk would be a tangible indication of some reduction in the imperial status of the president and his family.” His plan to walk was, for obvious security reasons, a closely held secret. Unlike so many Washington secrets, it’s one that was kept.

The Secret Service was informed; the Washington, D.C., police were not. President Carter later wrote that while he had told the Secret Service of his plan three weeks before the inauguration, and Rosalynn Carter and Chip Carter knew well ahead of time, only on the night before did he inform Vice President-elect Walter Mondale and a few staffers, including press secretary Jody Powell.

If word leaked that he’d be walking, the security risk would mean that he would not.

On Inauguration Day, I was leading the press pool—the very limited number of members of the news media who represent the much larger number of news organizations when space or circumstances can’t accommodate the larger group. The pool covered the president-elect’s arrival and walk to a Capitol holding room, and then we all went outside for the ceremony.

After the swearing-in, I had a press question I needed to clarify with the president and approached him in his holding room. After years of calling him “Governor,” I found myself saying, “Guv,” before quickly catching myself and correctly addressing him as “Mr. President.” He told reporters later in the day that he was still surprised to hear himself referred to by that title.

In inaugural parades, the pool rides in vehicles immediately preceding the president’s limousine, allowing the press to observe and photograph him as best they can. As the time grew near for the president’s motorcade to lead the parade



The Carters moved into their new home at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. on Jan. 20, 1977. They posed for this family portrait on a considerably warmer day later in the year.

to the White House, I told the pool off the record that the president might walk, so that they would not be caught totally by surprise and think something had gone awry, while maintaining the possibility that if anything looked wrong to the Secret Service, it would not happen.

In fact, the president later said that he had agreed with the Secret Service that if word leaked that he’d be walking, the security risk would mean that he would not. Plus, early word would have spoiled the drama of the egalitarian act. And it was dramatic.

The motorcade began conventionally, with President and Mrs. Carter in their armored limousine. In “Keeping Faith,” Carter recounted what happened next:

I leaned forward and told the Secret Service driver to stop the automobile, then touched Rosalynn’s hand and said, “Let’s go!” The security men looked all around, saw only friendly faces, and opened the doors of the long limousine.... It seemed that a shock wave went through the crowd. There were gasps of astonishment and cries of “They’re walking! They’re walking!”

The excitement flooded over us; we responded to the people with broad smiles and proud steps. We were surprised at the depth of feeling from our friends along the way. Some of them wept openly, and when I saw this, a few tears of joy ran down my cold cheeks. It was one of those few perfect moments in life when everything seems absolutely right.

President and Mrs. Carter's family had soon joined them in walking, and for a time, 9-year-old Amy Carter held hands between her parents. We had cleared with the Secret Service ahead of time that the pool could begin walking as soon as the Carters did, and I'd given the pool the OK and joined them on the street. Unlike the camera operators, who needed to virtually continuously photograph the president and his family, most of us did not have to travel the bulk of the 1.5-mile route walking backward.

In those pre-cellphone days, long before the words "social" and "media" were inextricably linked, the fact of the walk was a recurring surprise as the first family came into the view of those lining the parade route. It was fascinating to watch each new wave of recognition in the crowd as people saw the walking figures, processed who they were, and reacted with glee.

The street-level atmosphere was electric, and the symbolism powerful. The Washington Post characterized the walk as "shattering recent presidential practice and legend—the idea that a president must be remote and removed from the people." The New York Times described the "astonishment and delight of hundreds of thousands of jubilant Inauguration Day celebrants," saying the walk "dramatized in deed the tone of the new president's inaugural address, in which he proposed to help Americans to unite in regenerating a spirit of national comity and openness."

Later that day, after the first family had watched the entirety of the 170-marching-unit, 15,000-person parade from the reviewing stand constructed in front of the White House,

they made their way onto the White House grounds, gaining entry via an opening where a section of the White House fence had been removed to provide access for the day. Staff members straggled in and made their way to their offices, in many cases needing to ask for directions. The president had

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several appointments in the Oval Office, and there was a 4:30 p.m. senior staff meeting.

The Carter administration had begun.

A former Atlanta Constitution reporter, Rex Granum was deputy White House press secretary for the four years of the Carter administration. He then joined ABC News for 23 years, holding various management positions in Washington, D.C., New York, Atlanta, and London. Granum recently retired after a dozen years as a partner in a Washington, D.C., public relations agency.

Inauguration Day Memory

From Mark Cohen

Inauguration Day is mostly a blur—a cold blur—but it was clearly the worst possible day to launch the first edition of the Carter administration's White House News Summary. On top of all the festivities that our small staff of six, under editor Claudia Townsend, wanted to attend, we hadn't had an opportunity to produce practice editions during the transition. So, on Jan. 20, it was a case of (semi) making it up as we went along.

These were, of course, the days of print newspapers (which we read personally), IBM Selectric typewriters, and room-size Xerox 9200 photocopiers and collators. Somehow, we managed to produce a single-spaced, multi-page news summary that greeted the president, Cabinet,

and senior staff on the morning of Jan. 21—even though as the afternoon progressed into evening, it seemed like almost everything that could happen to upset our anticipated production schedule did. And I still managed to make it to the Georgia campaign staff inaugural ball before President and Mrs. Carter arrived.

After that, we got the production system down to a near science. Over the coming weeks and months, joining the distribution list for the White House News Summary, which initially numbered only a couple dozen, became a minor status symbol for two-downs and three-downs in the White House and federal agencies.

Mark Cohen was a special assistant to Phil Wise in the office of the appointments secretary.

Carter Oath Signals New Era

By Robert Caughlan

Jan. 20, 1977... It was a crowd like Rio during the carnival. It was a throng like Woodstock with mittens. It was as American as apple pie and grits. The throngs actually did teem up Constitution Avenue. You could take your feet off the ground and be carried along by the surge. The primary reason that no one was trampled was because there wasn't room to fall down. The major problem with the "people's inaugural" is that there are too many people. It's a whole lot harder to be a champion of the people when you're just one of the crowd.

"Place your left hand on the Bible, and repeat after me..."

The air was crisp and clean. The snow on the grass was glazed with a sheet of ice. Some of your footsteps didn't even penetrate it. The trees were filled with people. Above the masses, the 7-ton, bronze-green goddess of freedom stood proudly atop the Capitol dome. How must she have felt when Richard Nixon stood down there just four years ago? Have we learned anything?

"Repeat after me..."

From where I stood, in the "preferred standing zone"

next to the media booth, I couldn't see Carter's eyes, but I'll bet they were blue lasers and that Justice Berger was impressed and perhaps surprised by the quiet strength of his sincerity.

"I solemnly swear..."

It is not my nature to be swept up by social fads. It was OK for me to be cynical when the majority of the country still believed Nixon when he said, "I am not a crook." However, after Sam Ervin exposed the vast scale of Nixon's evil deeds, after John Dean sang his song, and after the vast majority of the American populace finally saw his guilt, I figured that it was just getting to be too fashionable to be a cynic.

But the main reason my cynicism was gone was that Carter won! I was proud to be a friend of the man who was taking the oath. He told my kids that I was one of his first supporters in the country and one of his best friends in California. Even my kids were impressed by that... for about five minutes.

Jimmy Carter takes the oath of office on Inauguration Day 1977.



And one of my memories from later in the Carter tenure:

I noticed on the daily White House calendar that Muhammad Ali was going to have a meeting with President Carter. The president was coming in from Camp David on Marine One, his helicopter. I walked out to watch his arrival. The big chopper banked in front of the Washington Monument and landed softly on the south lawn. President Carter waved at me and a couple other staffers as he walked up to the house. Seeing sights like that was one of the main perks of working in that pressure-cooker place, in that humid, swampy town.

As the president walked through the Rose Garden, I realized that it was the only time I had ever seen him completely by himself. In all my meetings with him, there had always been someone else with us. I thought that if I could peek inside his brain at that moment, I would see that in spite of all the world's weight on his shoulders, right then, he wasn't thinking about the economy, or the hostages, or the campaign. I bet he was thinking, "Wow, I'm going to go meet Muhammad Ali!"

I was with a friend and fellow staffer, Jane von Kaenel. We were walking toward the Oval Office, and from the other end of the hall Ali moved toward us. I was surprised at how big he looked. He filled up the hall. He stopped and politely shook hands with Janie. Then he turned toward me. I stuck out my hand and said, "Hiya, champ." Instantly he blasted his famous scowl down at me and said, "Did you say tramp?" I stuttered, "Champ, champ..." He laughed and said, "Just checkin'."

We shook hands. His hand was as big as a baseball mitt. He didn't put any pressure on my bony little fingers, and I thought that getting punched by that fist would be like getting hit by the butt end of a telephone pole. Then he went into the Oval Office to meet with the president.

My second favorite memory of "the champ" was his appearance on the "Smothers Brothers Show." A member of the audience asked, "What would you do if you were walking down the street and someone came up and punched you?" Without missing a beat, Ali said, "I'd turn around and run, because anybody who punches me has got to be crazy!"

Rob Caughlan met Gov. Jimmy Carter in 1974 at an effort to stop an unneeded Army Corps of Engineers dam in California. He began to help with the campaign and was chairman of Conservationists for Carter in California. He was special assistant to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Barbara Blum. He also worked on the Global 2000 Report and the Domestic Policy Review on Solar Energy.

Inauguration Day Memory

From Sheila Fyfe

In January 1977 I was still at George Washington University, and like so many of my fellow students, I made the trip to Capitol Hill for the swearing-in—having no idea, naturally, that in a couple of short years I'd be working for the Carter-Mondale national field operation. Because President Carter is a better person than I am, I vividly remember the first words that he spoke after he took the oath of office, "I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land." That really irritated me at the time, because I'd been furious about the Nixon pardon. Now, I see how right the president was to say that, and how it seems like an era bathed in comity for which we should all yearn.

Inauguration Day Memory

From Henny Wright

My mother, Custis Wright, and I were both excited to be going to the White House on the Carters' first morning there. There was a party for people who had put up members of the Carter family in their homes, and I guess Lucie Langford (sister of Judy, then Mrs. Jack Carter) counted! She stayed at my parents' home in Austin during the campaign. My father, being a lifelong Republican, didn't go to the inauguration; so I, after a year-long full-time job as a Carter campaign staffer, got to accompany Mom.

Two years later, I would be working there for Sarah Weddington, after returning to Yale to graduate and a stint at the Democratic National Committee.



Henny Wright attends a party for people who hosted Carter family members during the campaign.

Campaign for White House Was Thrilling Journey

By Barry Jagoda

Several of us from the Carter campaign press staff grouped together in the chill just a few steps from the inaugural platform, waiting for the swearing-in of President-elect Carter and Vice President-elect Mondale. Most of us had worked together for the past year responding to reporters' questions, setting up candidate speaking locations, and being of general assistance as Carter and Mondale traveled the country. Now we could hardly contain our excitement in the final moments of our passionate work.

As the new officials took their oaths of office, our group—Kate King, Beth Lumpkin, Casey Cornell, Randy Lewis, and others—migrated toward the motorcades. In the last such candidate movement, some of us had come from Blair House with Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. Now we were ready to join up with the first official presidential journey.

Hitching a ride seemed like a normal procedure—a traveling process in which many of us had participated hundreds of times over the months of 1976. But of course, this was different: the first presidential motorcade! Most of us were surprised, as were the huge crowds, when Jimmy and Rosalynn exited their limo and walked nearly the whole way down Pennsylvania Ave.

For me it had begun in the weeks preceding the New Hampshire primary. What a momentous beginning to a year of campaign stops and media events. As Gov. Carter and I climbed into his car on the primary evening of Jan. 24, the generally recognized top reporter covering Carter's incredible effort, James Wooten of the New York Times, leaned his head into the backseat window to quietly announce, "Governor, I think you have just won the Democratic nomination." Wooten, normally quite restrained, uttered these unthinkable words. Gov. Carter looked up, flashed the now-famous smile, and said, "Thanks, Jim. Good deal." Months later, Wooten's prognostication turned into reality.

On that January night, the candidate and I were headed for interviews with CBS News' Walter Cronkite and other major broadcasters, to have the New Hampshire victory celebrated and made unofficially official. This was a pattern we were to follow for the next months: making it easy for the networks to give Carter the bounce that came from winning elections state by state all the way down through the primary nominating process.

Along with Jerry Rafshoon and Jody Powell, the three of us formed the Carter campaign debate negotiators, arguing out the details of those crucial events with representatives of our opponent, incumbent President Gerald Ford. Cool and collected, Carter outpointed Ford as did Mondale in his debate with Sen. Robert Dole.

And suddenly, it was election night, with the Carter team in Atlanta's World Congress Center. The thrill was deep and passionate.

Over the next three months, while the president-elect in Plains and Atlanta mulled over and selected officials for the government, hundreds of reporters and office seekers converged on our transition headquarters in Washington, hoping for access. The days and weeks flew by. Suddenly, it seemed, the new president's motorcade left the inaugural festivities at the Capitol, heading for the White House.

Deputy press secretary Rex Granum and I could hardly believe our circumstances. As the new president reviewed the inaugural parade, we stood on the White House lawn. Rex said, "Well, I guess we better get over to our offices and get on with it!" As always, Rex was serious, and his words gave me a dose of reality.

Having been named special assistant to the president, when I opened the top desk drawer of my new workplace, I found a note from the preceding occupant. "Here I wrote President Nixon's resignation speech," were the words from Raymond K. Price. "So, I wish you and your colleagues good luck," his short message concluded.

On the first full day of the Carter presidency, Deputy Special Assistant Rick Neustadt and I had hosted his father, the great scholar of the presidency, professor Richard Neustadt, for breakfast in the White House. We asked, "What is the secret to presidential power?" Quickly, professor Neustadt answered, "Keep your options open!"

A few days later, along with others, I received as a gift from Granum's father, Iver, one of the flags that had flown over the Capitol during the inauguration. It all seemed like a few moments in American history, the capstone of a brilliant political campaign and the beginning of the Carter years.

Barry Jagoda was special assistant to President Carter for media and public affairs. He recently retired as director of communications for the University of California, San Diego.



Carter Made Me Proud

By Lewis Grizzard

This article was published four years after Jimmy Carter took office.

Four years ago, on the morning after the national election, I awakened where I had fallen the night before, in an apartment on the 30th-some-odd floor of a high-rise apartment building in Chicago. The view was of Lincoln Park and Lake Michigan. The monthly rent was astounding.

I splashed some water on my then bearded face and opened the front door. At my feet were two of Chicago's daily newspapers.

The message screamed across the front of both:

"IT'S CARTER!"

"Thank the Lord I didn't dream it," I remember saying to myself. Carter. Jimmy Carter. Former governor of that backward outhouse of a state, Georgia. Peanut farmer. Imagine that. Peanut farmer from Georgia running for president of the United States.

They used to ask me about him, Carter, and about Georgia. Chicagoans used to ask, "What's it really like out there in the South?"

"Out there" in the South. The West is "out there." The East is "over there." The North is "up there." The South is "down there." We spend millions each year to educate the heathen. And we have such vast ignorance right here in our own country.

A girl in Chicago once asked me, "Do you have any nice restaurants 'out there' in the South?"

I took it all. I answered their questions. I assured them cotton wasn't growing in downtown Atlanta. I explained we do not say, "you all," we say, "y'all," and we never use it in the singular. I explained about grits. Unless you put some butter or cheese in them, they taste awful. And I hurt a lot. The South was, in fact, rising again. I could read about it every day, I could hear about it on the 7 o'clock news.

So why was I, a true son of the red clay whose granddaddy once owned the egg-suck-ingest dog in Coweta County (dog's name was Edna), stuck in Chicago?

Grizzard Buzzard luck, I supposed. Can't kill nothing. Can't find nothing dead.

I pulled as hard for him as I ever have pulled for anything, anybody. I prayed over it. "...And, Lord, if you can't help me, then at least please

help Jimmy."

The night he was nominated, I couldn't hold back the tears. I ran up \$400 worth of phone calls to Georgia.

I got Dorsey Hill on the phone. He said, "Don't it make you proud?"

But that was only half the battle. There was still Ford. This girl with the high-rise apartment gave an election party, and I told her I wouldn't come if any Ford people were going to be there, so we had just a small gathering (Carter lost Illinois in '76, too), but that made the victory just that much sweeter.

That morning four years ago, I read both Chicago papers from front to back, but filled with triumph as I was, I was also never so homesick in all my life.

I think you would have had to have been away from the South to see what Jimmy Carter getting elected president in 1976 really meant to the South, and to Southerners.

I caught a cab to my office. Usually, I took a bus. I was celebrating. There was a pink memorandum slip awaiting me in my typewriter. It was from a colleague, local boy, who thought Indianapolis was the Deep South. But the man had some degree of class.

"Congratulations," began the note, "y'all ain't trash no more."

...Four years ago on a cold Chicago morning, Jimmy Carter made me as proud as if I had won the damn election myself. For that I will always be indebted to him.

Always.

Syndicated humorist Lewis Grizzard wrote this article in the early 1980s, but its sentiments remain fresh and poignant. We are grateful to his estate for permission to reprint it here.



Humorist Lewis Grizzard said that the Chicagoans he met during the election period had a few misconceptions about his and Jimmy Carter's home state. Plains, Georgia, is pictured here. (Photo: Thomas S. England)

First Lady Rosalynn Carter Took Role in Unprecedented Direction

A panel was held during the 2016 Carter Center Weekend in Annapolis, Maryland, to discuss former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and her role in the Carter-Mondale administration. Moderated by Judy Woodruff of PBS NewsHour, the panel included Kathy Cade, vice chair of the Carter Center Board of Trustees, and Dr. Steve Sharfstein, president and CEO of Sheppard Pratt Health System in Towson, Maryland. Carter Center intern Ellie Studdard wrote this article.

In “First Lady from Plains,” Rosalynn Smith Carter recalls a moment after walking into the Oval Office on her first afternoon in the White House and seeing her husband sitting behind the president’s desk for the first time. She remembers, “I had to catch my breath to believe I was really there, to absorb the reality that my husband was actually president of the United States and that I was first lady.”



Rosalynn Carter testifies before Congress, the first time a first lady had done so since Eleanor Roosevelt.

Moderator of the panel, co-anchor and co-editor for PBS NewsHour’s Judy Woodruff, acknowledged that, despite being a little-known fact to many reporters, from the time Jimmy Carter began his political career, President Carter has always considered Mrs. Carter one of his closest advisers. He discussed with her just about every important decision he had to make, and they maintained a working partnership. Having played an active role as an advocate for mental health reform during her time as first lady of Georgia, Mrs. Carter was determined to take advantage of the influence that came with the office she now occupied as first lady of the United States. She quickly set to work to fully realize the potential, taking on what Woodruff, who covered the ’76 campaign, described as a “nontraditional and more visible role than almost all of her predecessors.”

Mrs. Carter made history many times during her four years in the White House. Woodruff noted that Mrs. Carter set a new historic precedent as first lady early on by establishing her personal office in the East Wing, rather than keeping an office in the personal living quarters of the Executive Mansion. Not content with simply “pouring tea” and managing the social functions of the White House, Mrs. Carter kept regular working hours at the new office—officially named Office of the First Lady—and maintained a staff of about 22.

Changes to the Office of the First Lady did not end there. Kathy Cade, a close adviser and White House staff member for the first lady, observed that even during the campaigning of ’76 Mrs. Carter had already devised an ambitious list of issues that she intended to work on when her husband won the presidential election. Cade stressed that Mrs. Carter was “determined to play a substantive role,” and yet, upon review of the first lady’s staff, Mrs. Carter found no one to help with these projects. As a result, she created a new Office of Projects, Issues, and Research in the East Wing, placing Cade in charge as director of the office. Cade remembered discussing the new name extensively with Mrs. Carter, eventually settling on something that would indicate the broad scope and substantive nature of the work the first lady’s staff would take on.

Mrs. Carter’s work on important projects often required consulting the president. In the beginning, this

took place at the end of the day as President Carter was finishing official work. Mrs. Carter writes in her book “First Lady from Plains” that this led him “to dread getting off the elevator on the second floor to find me waiting there with my list of more things to decide.” Woodruff mentioned the unprecedented solution proposed by President Carter: Mrs. Carter would meet President Carter for a weekly luncheon on Wednesdays solely to discuss issues and matters of importance. Never before had a first lady been recognized as a political partner.

Mrs. Carter knew one of her biggest priorities in the White House was to continue her work on mental health. With the signing of President Carter’s first executive order less than a month after he took office, the President’s Commission on Mental Health (PCMH) was created to perform a comprehensive review of the state of mental health systems in America. Dr. Steven S. Sharfstein—former president and CEO of Sheppard Pratt Health System, who served as the lead staff member from the National Institute of Mental Health working with Mrs. Carter on her mental health policy efforts—recalled Mrs. Carter’s dedication to the PCMH: Originally, President Carter planned to appoint Mrs. Carter as chair of the commission. However, due to rules governing appointing family members, the first lady



Mrs. Carter enjoys a moment with staff member Madeline Edwards.

was not allowed to serve as the chair. Unwilling to let any obstacle stand in the way of important work to be done, Mrs. Carter instead served as honorary chair of the commission, alongside the appointed chair, Dr. Thomas Bryant. Sharfstein emphasized that Mrs. Carter, while acknowledging Bryant’s position on the board, still served as a very active honorary chair.

Sharfstein also noted that as honorary chair, Mrs. Carter personally led four public hearings, and over the course of two years, enlisted 450 experts from mental health fields across the board in order to assess the current state of mental health in the United States. A particularly notable achievement of the commission from the outset was the presence of the very first consumer of mental health services to serve as part of a national commission. Sharfstein credits this appointment as the jumpstart to the entire consumer advocacy movement in mental health today.

In just over a year,

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Mrs. Carter visits a Cambodian refugee camp in Thailand, after which she successfully lobbied for U.S. food and money to aid the refugees.

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greatly aided by Mrs. Carter's commitment to seeing the commission succeed, the PCMH completed a final report to President Carter. Not only covering a survey of the current state of mental health, but also providing more than 100 major recommendations, this report called for the largest federal reform of mental health policy in decades.

As a result of the PCMH's report, the Mental Health Systems Act was drafted and introduced to Congress in 1979. Mrs. Carter was called to testify in front of the Senate Subcommittee on Health on May 15, 1979. Sharfstein noted that this was the first time a first lady had presented testimony to the Senate since Eleanor Roosevelt, and he considered the testimony to be "critical" to the eventual passage of the act in both the Senate and the House.

President Carter signed the Mental Health Systems Act into law in 1980. Despite being repealed during the Reagan administration, parts of the bill have been incorporated in other bills enacted over the years. For this reason, Sharfstein believes this bill to be an example of "brilliant legislation" that predicted many of the changes to the mental health systems in America today, such as the Affordable Care Act. Mrs. Carter was instrumental in making this legislation a reality, due to her passion for finding solutions to the mental health system both then and now.

Testifying before a Senate subcommittee to describe findings of the Presidential Committee on Mental Health and urge a new national commitment to the proper care and treatment of people with mental illnesses was not Mrs. Carter's only time before Congress. Judy Woodruff recalled reporting on Mrs. Carter's historic trip to Latin America in June of 1977 to represent the president and his administration. On the trip, Mrs. Carter visited seven countries, where she had face-to-face meetings with heads of state. She even went so far as to take Spanish lessons before the trip in order to be able to better speak with these world leaders. After returning from the trip, Mrs. Carter was asked to



Mrs. Carter discusses substantive issues with the president during a weekly luncheon.

personally brief the Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Relations on everything she had seen and heard during her time in Latin America.

Never before had a first lady represented the presidential administration in business meetings about matters of substance with foreign leaders. Although focusing her foreign efforts more on humanitarian work after that first trip to Latin America, Mrs. Carter continued to travel throughout her time as first lady. Cade praised Mrs. Carter's particular talent for mobilizing volunteers and support, showcased by her push for aid from the United States during the Cambodian refugee crisis.

After spending 36 hours in refugee camps in Thailand,



Mrs. Carter holds a staff meeting with (from left) Jane Fenderson Cabot, Kathy Cade, Mary Hoit, Ann Anderson, and Madeline Edwards.



Rosalynn Carter joins a meeting with President Carter and his national security team, including Cyrus Vance, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Walter Mondale.

Mrs. Carter returned to the United States and immediately pushed to begin sending food to the refugee camps she had seen. Cade added that Mrs. Carter's efforts led to the creation of the National Cambodian Crisis Committee, which raised over \$70 million from the private sector alone.

The lasting impact Mrs. Carter had on mental health, the White House, and areas across the globe has withstood the test of time. Cade ended her reflections on the work Mrs. Carter completed during her career by stating that she believes "there are literally millions of people around this world who have benefited from Mrs. Carter's determination to use the influence of her position—as first lady of Georgia, as first lady of the United States, and as co-founder of The Carter Center."

According to Sharfstein, Mrs. Carter has been the champion of mental health in the 20th and 21st centuries, pointing not only to her advocacy during her time in the White House, but also to her tireless advocacy for legislation such as the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. Through her leadership at The Carter Center, Mrs. Carter has created a space where, for over

35 years, leaders in all areas of the mental health system can gather to come up with solutions and effect change.

Although Mrs. Carter believes each first lady should define her own priorities and projects, many subsequent first ladies have followed the standard she set and adopted signature projects of their own. In an introductory video played at the beginning of this panel, the current first lady, Michelle Obama, called Mrs. Carter "a good friend" and one of her "most important role models." She went on to say, "Having the chance to live in the White House and serve as first lady is an amazing honor, and it's also an unparalleled opportunity to participate in so many vital conversations and shine a big bright light on some of our most important issues. That more than anything else is the incredible legacy of Rosalynn Carter."

Perhaps the most succinct, yet incredibly accurate, summation of Mrs. Carter's political capability and legacy as first lady of the United States came from her husband in response to a final question from Judy Woodruff. When asked the secret to Mrs. Carter's success, President Carter responded, "Let her have her own way."

Alumni Gather at Carter Center Weekend

Over 60 alumni attended the June Carter Center Weekend event in Annapolis, Maryland. Many of the alumni took part in presentations to the group of over 350 Carter Center supporters. The highlight of the weekend was a high-spirited auction, which raised \$3.7 million for Carter Center programs around the world.



Walter Mondale and Jimmy Carter share a laugh while reviewing the steps they took that changed the office of the vice president, during a panel chaired by Landon Butler.



Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's national security adviser, reviews the 10 central objectives of the administration's foreign policy, including strategic arms limitation, normalization of U.S.-Chinese relations, a comprehensive Middle Eastern settlement, peaceful transformation of South Africa toward a biracial democracy, enhanced global sensitivity to human rights, and defense posture capable of deterring the Soviet Union, among other important achievements.



From left: Kathy Cade, Dr. Steven S. Sharfstein, and Judy Woodruff discuss Mrs. Carter's impact on the role of the first lady.



Congressional Relations staffers (from left) Frank Moore, Les Francis, Jim Copeland, Ronna Freiberg, Jim Free, and Dan Tate discuss how they achieved such a remarkable rate of legislative success.



Carter-Mondale alumni gather for breakfast during the Carter Center Weekend. Left to right: (back row) Dan Tate Sr., John Dalton, Tina Tate, Rex Granum, Susan Granum, Susan Alexander, Charles Graves, Jim Gammill, John Rendon, Ruth Berry Cogswell, Sandy Libby, Story Evans, Jane Simpson, Mary Dixon, Paul Sullivan, Karen Sullivan, Jessie Harris, Woody Cunningham, Ronna

Freiberg, Rita Thompson, Nancy Coggins Seymour, Kathy Cade, Joshua Carter, Fred Miller, Phil Wise, Gus Rusher, Frank Moore, (center row) Jerry Rafshoon, Landon Butler, Dot Padgett, Margaret Dalton, Nancy Moore, Herky Harris, Joan Harris, (from behind President Carter) Annie Hunt Burriss, Mary Beazley, Jeff Carter, C. Maury Devine, Annette Carter, William Wise, Sharon Metcalf, Les Francis, Al Rusher, Mary Hanley, (front row, floor) Nan Powell, Carol Butler, Alicia Smith, Terry Adamson, Walter Mondale, Mrs. Carter, President Carter, and Jay Beck.

At the event, but not pictured are Scott and Rhonda Burnette, Tim and Molly Kraft, Zbigniew and Muska Brzezinski, Jim and Ann Free, Jim and Debbie Copeland, Marthena Cowart, Bob McKinney, and Louise Dunlap.



Nancy Coggins Seymour and Mary Beazley share a table at an alumni breakfast during the Carter Center Weekend.

Come support The Carter Center and join your friends at our upcoming 25th Carter Center Weekend, June 21–25, 2017, at the Resort at Squaw Creek at Lake Tahoe, California. Last year, this event sold out early, and many Carter-Mondale alumni were disappointed because they could not attend. Invitations for the Lake Tahoe weekend will be mailed in the coming months. If you have not received your invitation by Feb. 1, 2017, and wish to attend, call Story Evans at (404) 420-3811 to make your reservation.

Carter Presidential Library Celebrates 30th Anniversary

By Tony Clark

The morning was foggy, and there was only a light breeze from the southwest to cut through the high humidity. Just east of downtown Atlanta, there was a bustle of activity. It was Oct. 1, 1986. Former President Jimmy Carter was marking his 62nd birthday and celebrating the opening of the Carter Presidential Center.

By the time the dedication ceremony began, the day had turned sunny. More than 5,000 spectators covered the hillside site. President and Mrs. Carter were center stage, along with a host of dignitaries including President and Mrs. Reagan and former Vice President and Mrs. Mondale. Even the Atlanta Symphony was there.

“I want the Jimmy Carter Library to be a great resource for the people of Georgia, the nation, and the world, and an expression of my gratitude for having been able to serve,” President Carter told the crowd.

It was President Franklin Roosevelt’s idea to create a library to house his presidential papers and open them to researchers. At the time, presidential papers were considered the property of the president and not the government, a precedent that was set when George Washington left office, taking his papers to Mount Vernon. As other presidents followed suit, the documents were scattered across the growing country. Many were damaged, destroyed, lost, sold, or altered.

President Roosevelt saw this and realized the importance of preserving his papers for future generations. He raised private funds to build his presidential library and authorized the National Archives to administer it. Every president since has followed Roosevelt’s example.

For President Carter, preparations for his library began just a month after the 1976 election, with the creation of the Carter Foundation for Governmental Affairs. Later, after the Carters moved into the White House, the National Archives set up shop in the Executive Office Building, and a system was developed for preserving Carter’s White House papers.

President Carter and his staff assumed there would be plenty of time to figure out where the presidential library would be located, what it would look like, and how to pay for it. But Carter’s 1980 re-election loss changed everything and even threatened the building of his presidential library.

At a news conference after the election, President Carter said he would simply donate his papers to an existing library in Georgia, rather than build a presidential library. Years later, Carter recalled how he felt at the time, writing, “Always a poor fundraiser and now a defeated candidate for re-election who had made no plans for this all-too-early eventuality, I dreaded the prospect of raising the necessary funds, which had to come from private contributions.”

President Carter said he would simply donate his papers to an existing library in Georgia, rather than build a presidential library.

Even after President Carter decided to build a library, a proposed design threatened to derail the project. Rosalynn Carter remembered, “One was like a temple, looming toward the sky, which, as the architect said, could be seen from anywhere in Atlanta. Jimmy was adamant in his opposition. I could see the vein in his temple throbbing.” She added, “That night on the way to our mountain cabin, Jimmy said, ‘I’m not going to have a library.’ At the time he meant it.”

At age 56, Jimmy Carter was the youngest former president since William Howard Taft, and he felt he had much more to contribute. That’s when the idea of creating The Carter Center, along with the presidential library, came to him. “For the first time since our return to Plains, I saw Jimmy really excited about possible plans for the future,” Mrs. Carter wrote.

The land that the Carters selected for their presidential center had a long and varied history and even ties to the former president. In the late 1850s, it was the Augustus Hurt plantation. Hurt built a two-story, white framed summer home there in 1858, but the family abandoned it in the 1860s with the coming of the Civil War. Since the Hurt house was located on one of the highest points in Atlanta, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman made it his headquarters during the Battle of Atlanta in the summer of 1864.

In the late 1880s, the land was sectioned off and lots

sold to create Atlanta's first streetcar suburb, a housing subdivision called Copenhill Park. The name "Copenhill" comes from the names of the three realtors—Coker, Pennington, and Hill.

In the 1930s, the area was rezoned for industrial use. Then, in the 1960s, the buildings were razed for a proposed highway interchange. The controversial highway project sparked protests and lawsuits by neighborhood and environmental groups. Ironically, it was then-Gov. Jimmy Carter who stopped the project, never envisioning that a decade later that vacant land would become the home of his presidential library and the adjoining Carter Center.

The groundbreaking for the Carter Presidential Center took place on Oct. 2, 1984. Over the next two years, construction of the buildings faced a number of challenges, from the rock formations that had to be blasted away to kudzu so dense that bulldozers became entangled and stuck trying to clear it. Later, inside the new museum, there were challenges as well, including cases for the artifacts that didn't fit the curved walls.

Even transferring the presidential papers from their temporary storage in downtown Atlanta to the new library wasn't easy. The elevator needed to move the White House papers into the library's document section wasn't finished, so a makeshift lift had to be created to get the job done.

Compounding the problem was Atlanta's weather. The city had record rainfall on six of the 13 moving days and record high temperatures on most of the others.

Despite the frustrations, when Oct. 1, 1986, rolled around, the Carter Presidential Center was ready to greet its guests.

The Center is unique, combining the National Archives' presidential library and museum and the nongovernmental Carter Center. While the library and museum preserve the history of the Carter administration and make it accessible to the public, The Carter Center looks to the future, tackling problems of disease, democracy, human rights, and mental illness.

In the 30 years since the dedication, The Carter Center and the Carter Presidential Library and Museum have both grown and matured, becoming respected, world-class centers of education and action.

People from around the world come to the presidential library to do research, using the archive's 30 million pages of presidential documents, 3,700 audiotapes, 1,550 videotapes, 600,000 photograph negatives, and



The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum was redesigned in 2009. A third of the exhibit space is dedicated to the post-presidency.

more than 1 million feet of film. Increasingly, documents are being scanned and digitized so they are available to researchers online.

The centerpiece of the library's collection is the staff secretary's file. It includes the presidential handwriting file,

Even transferring the presidential papers from their temporary storage in downtown Atlanta to the new library wasn't easy. The elevator needed to move the White House papers into the library's document section wasn't finished, so a makeshift lift had to be created.

which is essentially President Carter's outbox, complete with his personal annotations. It is the most accurate reflection of the president's daily paperwork.

In 2009, the Carter Presidential Museum was redesigned to make it interactive and to provide visitors with a more complete depiction of the life and career of the 39th president. The museum takes visitors from President Carter's childhood on the family farm in segregated South Georgia, through his education and naval career, and then into a life in politics.

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President Carter addresses the crowd during the dedication of the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum in 1986.

“You really get to know who Jimmy Carter is and why he feels so passionately about certain causes,” said museum curator Sylvia Naguib.

In addition, visitors can gain insight into the American presidency. They can step into an exact replica of the Oval Office, experience the “Day in the Life of the President” presented on multiple 13-foot-tall screens, and see the complex issues faced by the president as well as the unique gifts given to him by foreign leaders and the public.

The presidential museum is also unique in that it devotes about a third of its space to the Carters’ work after leaving the White House. “We want visitors to see the whole story of President and Mrs. Carter,” said Dr. Meredith Evans, the library’s third director and the first female, African-American director of a presidential library. “The story of a rural Georgia farm boy who becomes president and goes on to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his post-presidency work is truly inspiring.”

In addition, the library regularly hosts special temporary exhibitions as well as public events featuring best-selling authors. There are film screenings, panel discussions on important issues, concerts, and educational programs.

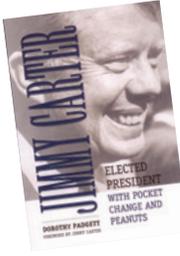
The library holds teacher workshops to help train educators and provides “bus scholarships” to enable school groups to visit the museum. From the beginning, President Carter made it clear that he wants the library to be an educational experience, even to the point of having free admission for children 16 years of age and younger.

Outside, visitors can stroll the beautifully landscaped grounds of the Carter Presidential Center with its two small lakes, waterfalls, and a Japanese garden. The grounds offer a peaceful mix of open vistas as well as wooded areas. There are a rose garden, a cherry tree orchard, and a grove of chestnut trees, along with a pollinator garden and an abundance of wildlife.

When he left the White House, President Carter said he wanted to find a way to say thank you to the American people for all of the opportunities he’d received over the years. As it celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, the Carter Presidential Center continues to be President Carter’s way of saying thank you.

Tony Clark is the public affairs specialist at the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum.

BOOK CLUB



Jimmy Carter: Elected President with Pocket Change and Peanuts

By Dorothy Padgett

The book begins in Plains, Georgia, a small town in the rural South, and the reader follows a once little-known peanut farmer down the road to the White House. Getting there was not originally in the plans—nor was it easy. As a young man, Jimmy Carter set his sights on a career in the Navy. He eventually returned to his hometown with his wife and family and began working as a peanut farmer. Fueled by the injustices he witnessed in his daily life, he left farming and embarked on a career in politics.

Jimmy Carter quickly rose through the ranks of local and state-level politics in Georgia. In 1976, the peanut farmer from the rural South launched his bid to become the 39th president of the United States. Family, friends, and a handful of elected officials joined the campaign. This group of fierce grassroots supporters became known as the Peanut Brigade.

The group, organized by Dorothy “Dot” Padgett, proved to be an innovative path to victory, according to President Carter. However, not much was known about the “soldiers” in the Peanut Brigade or the remarkable series of events that secured Jimmy Carter’s presidency, until now. Having a front-row seat on the campaign trail, Padgett, a top-ranking soldier in the Peanut Brigade, shares the unfiltered story of how an unassuming peanut farmer became a world leader.

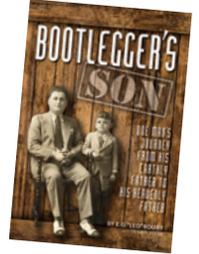
Laced with humor, Southern flair, and direct honesty, Padgett’s book reveals fascinating stories about President Carter and the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the campaign a success.

Bootlegger’s Son

By Leo Koury

This is the story of one man’s journey from his earthly father to his heavenly father. In “Bootlegger’s Son,” attorney E.G. “Leo” Koury shares his amazing journey, including an often tenuous relationship with his father, a tumultuous youth, overcoming challenges to build a successful law practice, and a roller coaster ride in politics that culminated with delivering Lorain County, Ohio, for Jimmy Carter’s presidency. The 13,000 votes that gave Carter Ohio can be traced to the more than 10,000 votes that Koury helped get from Lorain County. Additionally, he tells about working with figures in the Carter administration.

Koury also explores his struggles coming to Christianity and accepting salvation. He talks about humility and the decades he spent fighting against the pull of his old, survival-of-the-fittest ways that were a result of his domineering father—a onetime bootlegger and tavern owner. His personal testimonial is one that others can relate to, with life lessons of how one’s relationship with the heavenly father can help create a greater appreciation and understanding of one’s earthly father.



Comings & Goings



Stuart Brotman

Stuart N. Brotman has been appointed, with tenure, as the inaugural Howard Distinguished Endowed Professor of Media Management and Law and Beaman Professor of Communication and Information at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The 40th edition of his treatise

“Communications Law and Practice,” the leading reference volume on domestic and international telecommunications and electronic mass media regulation, has been published by American Lawyer Media. Brotman served in the Carter-Mondale administration as special assistant to the assistant secretary of commerce for communications and information and chief of staff at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Passages



Chip Bishop

Charles O. “Chip” Bishop served the Carter administration as a congressional liaison officer for the Amtrak Northeast Corridor project at U.S. Department of Transportation for four years. He returned to the campaign trail as Maine state coordinator for the Carter re-election committee and met

Jane and her son Joseph; Chip and Jane married in 1981 in Washington, D.C. Bishop worked on Capitol Hill as a scheduler for Sen. Christopher Dodd before going to American Public Transit Association as a lobbyist and communications director for 15 years.

Bishop and his family moved to Cape Cod where he created a successful public relations company.

Earlier, he was director of hospital information at Rhode Island’s Woonsocket Hospital (now Landmark Hospital) and was the youngest elected member of the Woonsocket City Council. He chose not to seek re-election with the council and instead joined the Jimmy Carter presidential campaign as an advance man for the East Coast.

A writer and researcher, Bishop penned three books chronicling various members of the Roosevelt family.

Robert Carswell was a Treasury Department official who was instrumental in choreographing the delicate financial negotiations that coaxed Iran into releasing 52 American hostages in 1981. He served three presidents and was also involved in the negotiations that led to federal loan guarantees to New York City during the fiscal crisis of the 1970s and to the bankrupt Chrysler Corporation.



Robert Carswell

The final agreement for the release of the hostages hinged on brokering a compromise between American banks, which sought guarantees that they would be repaid for outstanding loans to pre-revolutionary Iran. The Iranian government wanted Washington to release frozen Iranian assets and return the private fortune of the shah. “This is probably the most complex financial transaction in history,” Carswell, a deputy Treasury secretary at the time, said in 1981.

Peanut Brigadier **Agnes Cowan** owned Cowan’s Florist and Catering in Decatur, Georgia, for 20 years, providing wedding consulting, flowers, and food for hundreds of brides including a governor’s daughter. She was active in Jimmy Carter’s presidential campaigns and provided catering for several Carter campaign events. When she retired from her business, she discovered technology, taught herself computer skills at the age of 70, and then began writing. She had four books published and was a Georgia Author of the Year nominee. She was still writing poetry in her final days.

Throughout her adult life, Cowan was a community activist, working with federal, state, and local officials on a regular basis to improve policies and the community. Local politicians knew that they got elected by asking Cowan to make calls on their behalf.



Chris Delaporte

Chris T. Delaporte was appointed by President Carter as director of the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, later reorganized as the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. He administered the National Historic Preservation Fund, the National Trails System, and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System during the Carter administration, writing legislation on urban parks as part of his duties.

In the 1980s, Delaporte became the director of Baltimore’s recreation and parks program and later was executive director of the Maryland Stadium Authority. City Council member Carl Stokes called him “a visionary who believed that parks could be an equalizer and a unifier [who] cared about children and wanted them to get to know the open spaces.”

Patricia “Pat” Derian was a civil rights veteran who tangled with repressive dictators as President Carter’s chief advocate on behalf of human rights abroad. Her husband, Hodding Carter III, was assistant secretary of state for public affairs during the Carter administration.

Early in her career, Derian was active in civil rights efforts, leading to her involvement in local and national Democratic politics and becoming a deputy director of President Carter’s 1976 campaign. In 1977, he appointed



Pat Derian

her to coordinate what was then a small State Department bureau that had been created by Congress the year before.

By most accounts, thousands of lives may have been spared because of Derian's work. She had frank confrontations with a number of heads of state, warning them that American aid would end unless they granted due process to political prisoners and stopped killing political rivals. President Carter called Derian "a champion of oppressed people around the world. Because of her determination and effective advocacy," he said, "countless human rights and democracy activists survived that period, going on to plant the seeds of freedom in Latin America, Asia, and beyond."

Alan A. Parker served as assistant attorney general for legislative affairs under Attorney General Griffin Bell. Earlier he had a distinguished career with U.S. Rep. Don Edwards, becoming general counsel for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee and playing a central role in the impeachment effort against Richard Nixon.

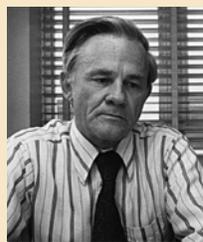
His passion, however, was politics. Along with Alan Cranston, Parker was instrumental in forming the California Democratic Council, a network of Democratic clubs that became the organizational backbone of the party.

Parker helped to draft the articles of impeachment against Nixon that were approved by the Judiciary Committee in 1974. The former San Jose lawyer also participated in an expansion of the Voting Rights Act, the defeat of a proposed constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion, and the investigation into the Kent State shootings.

Dr. Terry James Reynolds of Atlanta, Georgia, was a Carter Center supporter and former Peanut Brigader. He was the first African-American president of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry and was dedicated to providing the best for both his family and his patients.

Charles Harold Schroder IV, a widely respected political strategist in Georgia, was married to Hamilton Jordan's sister, Helen. Schroder moved to Atlanta in 1974 and taught at Georgia State University. He became involved in politics and worked in the campaigns of President Jimmy Carter, Gov. Joe Frank Harris, and

Hamilton Jordan. He became executive director of the Democratic Party of Georgia in 1989 and served until 1990. He held several positions in state agencies, including the Georgia Corrections Department and the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority. In 1997, he ran the campaign of Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond. When Thurmond won his election, Schroder went to work at the Georgia Department of Labor and continued until he retired in 2010.



Charles L. Schultze

Charles L. Schultze was an economist who was President Lyndon B. Johnson's budget director and President Jimmy Carter's chief economic adviser. He was also a research scholar at Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., for 45 years.

President Carter said, "His practical, honest, and direct advice helped the nation and me get through very difficult economic times, when we experienced both inflation and recession. Charlie constantly used his extensive knowledge of the federal budget to find ways to fix problems and meet our nation's needs, while still maintaining budget discipline."

Schultze spent nearly his whole career working on national economic and fiscal policy, either from the inside as a government economic adviser or from the outside as a university professor and research fellow. He was known as a leading expert on the workings of the federal government and its budget. He is credited with devising a powerful new way of analyzing the effects of the federal deficit on the larger economy.

Judge Harold "Hal" D. Viotor served as chief judge of the 6th Judicial District from 1970 to 1979, when President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the federal bench as a district court judge for the Southern District of Iowa. He assumed senior status in 1996 but continued handling cases until recently, after celebrating over 50 years of service on the bench.

Early in his career, as a candidate for the Democratic Party county chairman in 1960, his political campaign path crossed briefly with that of then-Sen. John F. Kennedy, when Viotor chauffeured Kennedy around Linn County. In 1965, he was appointed Iowa district judge by Gov. Harold Hughes.

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THE
CARTER CENTER



This issue features a special section of Carter-Mondale alumni reminiscing about Jan. 20, 1977, the day Jimmy Carter took office. See page 1.



The new President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter dance at an inauguration party.



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. Contact Jay Beck, The Carter Center,

One Copenhill, 453 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307;
Fax (404) 420-3816; Email jay.beck@cartercenter.org.

Receive this newsletter via email: The Carter/Mondale Letter can be sent to you electronically rather than in the mail. Let us know if this is your preference.