

THE Carter Mondale Letter

Fall 2020

Vol. 15, Issue 2

There's More to Jimmy Carter Than Politics

This time of self-isolation during the coronavirus crisis has given many of us time to reflect on the years we have had the privilege of knowing each other through our association with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. For the past decade or more, we have read in this newsletter stories of our accomplishments as well as some anecdotes describing the humor and implausible circumstances that we often recall when we are together.

As we await the vaccine to liberate us all safely from this long but necessary period of seclusion, it might be useful to consider a summary of some of the highlights of President Carter's remarkable life.

While so many articles recently have featured success stories of the administration and fun stories of the campaign, this issue will take a look primarily at President Carter's life before and after the presidency. It covers areas of his life you may not be as familiar with as the time we spent together on the campaign and during the administration.

With gratitude to Rex Granum, who developed much of this text.

Growing Up in Plains

Growing up in the small Southern community of Plains, Ga., shaped the basic ethics and principles that Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter followed throughout their lives. They never forgot who they were or where they came from.

Jimmy Carter was born at Wise Sanitarium in Plains, where his mother worked as a registered nurse, on Oct. 1, 1924. He grew up from age 4 on the family farm in Archery,



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter greets a Nepalese boy in Kathmandu. President Carter was in the country to lead an election observation mission for The Carter Center.

three miles outside of Plains, during the Great Depression. Although he was the first U.S. president to be born in a hospital, his boyhood on the farm reflected an earlier era: There was no electricity or indoor plumbing until he was in his teens. The family took showers by dumping water into a suspended bucket with holes in the bottom, and they listened to a radio hooked up to an automobile battery.

While his work on the farm was hard and chores many, young Jimmy Carter also spent many hours hunting and fishing, enjoying the outdoors and collecting arrowheads. As a boy during the Great Depression, he frequently walked 3 miles along the railroad tracks into Plains to sell boiled peanuts for 5 cents a bag.

continues on p. 2

Continued from p. 1



Above: On Main Street in Plains, Georgia, circa 1925, J.E. Carter & Company, the store owned by Jimmy's father, Earl Carter, is on the corner.

Left: In 1928, the Carter family moved to a 350-acre farm near Plains in the tiny community of Archery, Georgia. The young Carter is pictured here atop his Shetland pony named Lady.

All of his playmates on the boyhood farm were Black. His frequent caretakers were an African American couple, Jack and Rachel Clark, who lived in a tenant house near the Carter home. When his parents were out of town, Jimmy often spent the night at the Clarks', sleeping in the front room on a narrow mattress filled with either corn shucks or wheat straw. Of the Clarks' home, he wrote, "Except in my own room in our house, this is where I felt most at home."

Jimmy Carter's mother, Miss Lillian, was often away caring for patients, and he described Rachel Clark as a second mother to him, as well as a frequent fishing companion. Jack Clark, the farm's informal foreman, was the one who taught him the most about farming—how to use tools and plant and harvest.

Carter's Southern roots were a major part of his identity. His ancestors had been in Georgia since the 1700s, and his father was the fourth generation—Jimmy Carter was to become the fifth—to own and farm land in Sumter County near Plains.

Throughout his career in public service, President Carter would repeatedly pay tribute to his beloved teacher, Miss Julia Coleman, who encouraged him to read widely, introduced 12-year-old Jimmy to "War and Peace," and exposed all students in the small, agriculture-based Plains community to literature, art, music, plays, and composition.

The first Carter on his side of the family to graduate from high school, Jimmy went on to attend Georgia Southwestern College and the Georgia Institute of Technology before proceeding to the United States Naval Academy in 1943. After graduating in 1946, he became a submariner and won assignment to the Navy's elite new nuclear submarine program.

When their White House years were over and Jimmy and Rosalynn could essentially move wherever they wanted, there was never any real question about whether they would choose to live in Plains.

They did—and they gave back, helping Plains become a "Better Hometown" in Georgia, raising funds for the Boys and Girls Club, and creating the Plains Historic Inn on Main Street. Over time, the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site expanded to include the Boyhood Farm in nearby Archery; the Plains High School; and the Plains train depot, site of the 1976 campaign headquarters.

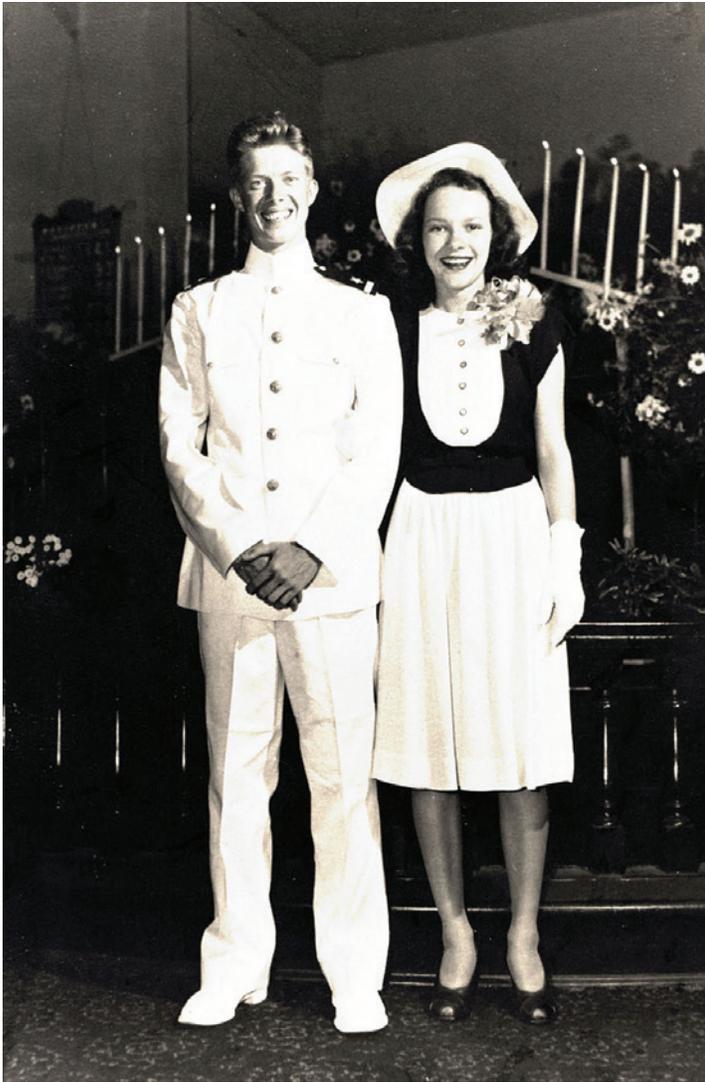
President Carter demonstrated his continuing commitment to the alternative energy movement by leasing part of his family farmland for a 10-acre solar farm to provide electric power to his hometown.

President Carter described his childhood in detail in his book "An Hour Before Daylight." The book's title refers to Jack Clark's ringing a large bell about an hour before dawn to start every workday. The farm is now part of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and open to visitors.

A Full Partner: Rosalynn Carter

On July 7, 1946, the summer after his graduation from Annapolis, naval officer Jimmy Carter married Rosalynn Smith, who was also the fifth generation of her family to live in the Plains area.

The future president later wrote in his book "Why Not the Best?" that after his first date with Rosalynn he "returned home later that night and told my mother that Rosalynn had



Jimmy Carter Library

Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Smith were married on July 7, 1946.

gone to the movies with me. Mother asked if I liked her, and I was already sure of my answer when I replied, ‘She’s the girl I want to marry.’”

President Carter refers frequently to Rosalynn as his “full partner” or “equal partner” and their work together to aid the world as projects “we did” rather than “I did.” In “Keeping Faith,” he wrote: “We had been ridiculed at times for allowing our love to be apparent to others. It was not an affectation but was as natural as breathing.”

In a live interview on Good Morning America in 2007, an anchor congratulated President Carter for having achieved 61 years of marriage. Carter beamed, quipping to great laughter: “And to the same woman, by the way.”

President Carter has said that his wife is “the foundation for my entire enjoyment of life,” along with his family. As he

faced a brain cancer diagnosis in 2015, he said that marrying Rosalynn was the pinnacle of his life. “The best thing I ever did was marrying Rosalynn,” he said.

A Foundation of Faith

President Carter has said, “To me faith is a verb, not a noun.” His religious faith has motivated his life of service and moral character. He has taught Sunday school more than 2,000 times and continued to teach at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains well into his 90s, drawing visitors from around the globe.

The deep religious faith Jimmy Carter initially gained in his youth—and maintained and nurtured throughout his life—shaped his belief in the equality and worth of all humans and drove his sense of duty to use his talents to advance the fundamental values common to all world religions: peace, social justice, equality, humility, and compassion.

“I have one life and one chance to make it count for something,” he said. “I’m free to choose what that something is, and the something I’ve chosen is my faith. Now, my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands—this is not optional—my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can, with whatever I have, to try to make a difference.”

While deeply religious, he is a strong advocate of the separation of church and state.

continues on p. 4



President Carter teaches Sunday School at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, on Sept. 23, 2018.

Continued from p. 3

In the Navy

An uncle serving in the Navy who sent him postcards and gifts from exotic ports around the world piqued the young Jimmy Carter's interest, and he decided in the fifth grade that he wanted to attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

He first attended Georgia Southwestern College and Georgia Tech, then was appointed in 1943 to the Naval Academy. He graduated on June 5, 1946, from a wartime three-year accelerated program, finishing in the top 10% of his class.

The next month, on July 7, he married Rosalynn Smith, and the young couple embarked on a series of military assignments that took them to Virginia, Hawaii, Connecticut, New York, and California as he served in the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. After two years of surface ship duty, serving on the battleships USS Wyoming and USS Mississippi, Ensign Carter applied and was accepted for submarine duty.

After graduating from the U.S. Navy Submarine School, he was assigned to the submarine USS Pomfret (SS-391) and soon was promoted to lieutenant, junior grade. Carter served as executive officer, engineering officer, and electronics repair officer aboard the submarine USS K-1 (SSK 1) and was promoted to lieutenant.

When Capt. Hyman G. Rickover, later promoted to admiral and known as the "Father of the Nuclear Navy," initiated the program to create nuclear-powered submarines, Carter wanted to join the program. He was interviewed

by Rickover; an exchange in that intense interview made a strong impression on Carter, and eventually led to the title of his first book, "Why Not the Best?"

Selected by Rickover, and after a stint assisting in the design and development of nuclear propulsion plants for naval vessels and graduate work in reactor technology and nuclear physics at Union College, Carter was preparing to become the engineering officer for USS Seawolf (SSN-575), one of the first submarines to operate on atomic power.

But when his father died in July 1953 and the family's business and farm were in jeopardy of being lost, Carter resigned from the Navy and returned to Georgia to manage the family interests. He was honorably discharged in October 1953 and at his request was transferred to the U.S. Navy Reserve and placed on inactive reserve until 1961.

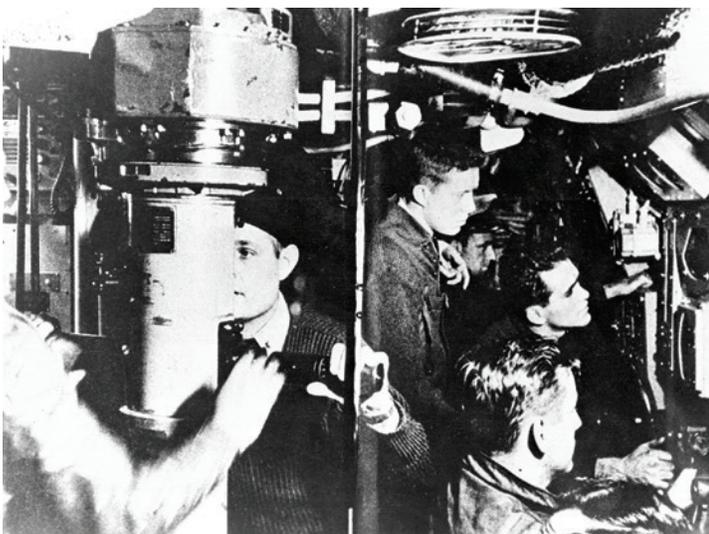
His ties to the Navy were always important to President Carter, and the Feb. 19, 2005, commissioning of the submarine USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23) was a very special day in the life of the former submariner.

The USS Jimmy Carter, the third and final U.S. Navy submarine in the Seawolf class, was commissioned in ceremonies at the Naval Submarine Base in New London, Conn. The Navy described the new submarine as a "swift and silent boat that can sail under the polar ice cap or through shallow water near shore, armed with cruise missiles, mines, torpedoes, unmanned undersea vehicles, surveillance sensors, and naval special warfare forces."

During a tour of the sub before the commissioning ceremony, Carter said, "We don't go to sea to go to war. We go to sea to preserve the peace." (The Feb. 19, 2005, USS Jimmy Carter commissioning ceremony can be viewed at <https://www.c-span.org/video/?185619-1/uss-jimmy-carter-commissioning>. Stansfield Turner's remarks begin at 36:27 and President Carter's at 54:10.)

Fighting Racial Discrimination

The public recognition of inequality has been the most pervasive moral and legal issue of our lifetime. Jimmy Carter's commitment to human rights grew from both living among African Americans as he grew up in South Georgia and later fighting racial discrimination there and elsewhere. He saw his mother, a nurse in the local hospital, treat African American families despite segregation norms in the South. All of his playmates on the boyhood farm in Archery were African American, as were his frequent caretakers on the farm, Jack and Rachel Clark. As a U.S. Naval Academy midshipman, he fought the racially motivated hazing of Wesley Brown, who went on to become the



Jimmy Carter Library

In the Navy, Jimmy Carter (center) was a submariner serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and was chosen for the nuclear submarine program. He rose to the rank of lieutenant.



Jimmy Carter Library

On January 14, 1979, President Carter accepted the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolence Peace Prize at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

first black graduate of the Naval Academy. (For more on this story, go to <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/25/us/wesley-brown-first-black-naval-graduate-dies-at-85.html>.)

Jimmy Carter risked his business in Plains to stand up against racial discrimination as he demonstrated an unflinching commitment to what he believed to be right despite personal or political costs.

In 1955, when he was 31, he was appointed to the local Sumter County School Board, where he advocated for quality educational facilities for all children. He won his first election in 1962, to the Georgia Senate, after successfully challenging election voter fraud. His policy platform was founded on equal educational opportunity for all Georgians.

He ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1966 but was elected to that office in 1970 on a platform of government reform and a focus on the economically disadvantaged citizens of Georgia. In his inaugural address, Gov. Carter declared: “I say to you quite frankly that the time for racial discrimination is over. Never again shall a Black child be deprived of equal rights to education, health, or social services.”

The new governor restructured state government for the first time in 40 years, greatly reducing the number of state agencies and departments. He instituted modern planning and budget processes and provided more transparency in government. His strong and successful efforts in the area

of environmental and conservation policies established a national reputation for progressive environmental activism, which he continued in the White House.

In 1974, he placed a portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the State Capitol, an act that had great symbolic significance in the context of the times. As governor, he created a diverse staff and hired the first African Americans in many state government agencies and in positions of responsibility. Later, he hired fully integrated staffs in his presidential political campaigns and in the White House.

As president he appointed more women, African Americans, and Hispanics to judgeships and senior positions than all of his 38 predecessors combined.

A Post-Presidency Like No Other

After leaving Washington in 1981, the former president and first lady wanted to continue working on issues important to them. First in offices in Atlanta's Richard B. Russell Federal Building and at Emory University and later on the grounds of the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum in Atlanta, they built a not-for-profit organization to do just that.

The Carter Center

Since 1982, The Carter Center has been the base from which Jimmy Carter has conducted a nonstop post-presidential career as a humanitarian, advancing human rights and working to alleviate suffering among the world's poorest people. For nearly four decades, both Carters have devoted themselves virtually full time to Carter Center projects.

The Carter Center, in partnership with Emory University, is a permanent nongovernmental, not-for-profit institution with a worldwide reputation for excellence. Some 3,000 international staff members, an independent board of trustees, and experienced executive management continue to lead the Center as it works to fulfill the former president's vision for human rights and peace into the distant future.

The Carter Center's guiding principles include the following:

- The Center believes that people can improve their own lives when provided with the necessary skills, knowledge, and access to resources.
- The Center emphasizes action and measurable results in the lives of the people it seeks to help.
- The Center values the courage to break new ground, fill vacuums, and address the most difficult problems in the most difficult situations.
- The Center recognizes that solving difficult problems

continues on p. 6

Continued from p. 5

requires careful analysis, relentless persistence, and the recognition that failure is an acceptable risk.

- The Center is nonpartisan and seeks to work collaboratively with other organizations from the highest levels of government to local communities.

The Center's work falls into the categories of peace and health, and its global achievements include the following:

- Pioneering the field of international election observation and observing more than 110 elections in 39 countries to help establish and strengthen democracies.
- Leading a coalition to eradicate Guinea worm disease, reducing human cases by more than 99.9 percent since 1986, from an estimated 3.5 million cases in 1986 to 54 in 2019.
- Teaching techniques that helped more than 8 million small-scale farmers in 15 African nations to double or triple grain production.
- Furthering avenues to peace in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, Sudan, Uganda, the Korean Peninsula, Haiti, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Andean Region, and the Middle East.
- Helping to establish a village-based health care delivery system in thousands of communities in Africa that now have trained health care personnel and volunteers to distribute drugs and provide health education.
- Advancing international standards for human rights and the voices of individuals defending those rights in their communities worldwide.
- Advancing efforts to improve mental health care and diminish the stigma against people with mental illnesses.

The Carter Center Board of Trustees was established in 1994, and it decides on and supports the Center's mission and manages its property and assets. Members of the board are appointed by both The Carter Center and Emory University, with the president of Emory serving as an ex-officio member. President Carter chaired the board and Rosalynn Carter was vice chair from 1994 to 2005. Jason Carter—grandson of President and Mrs. Carter, author, lawyer, and former Georgia state senator—is the current chair, and Paige Alexander is the CEO.

Through The Carter Center, President Carter has tirelessly spotlighted the growing gap between the rich and the poor as well as the abuse of women and girls as the world's greatest human rights violations.



At Savelugu Hospital in Northern Region, Ghana, President Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, watch as a Guinea worm health worker dresses a child's extremely painful Guinea worm wound. The Carter Center fights several neglected tropical diseases.

This work, along with his negotiation of the Camp David Accords during his presidency, was recognized with the awarding of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize to the former president. The citation noted “his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.”

Habitat for Humanity

Beginning in 1984 and until the COVID-19 crisis, the Carters spent one week each year participating in the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project for Habitat for Humanity—work that continued well into the Carters' 90s.

Habitat was founded in Americus, Ga., a short distance from the Carters' hometown of Plains. Its work closely aligns with the Carters' values of social justice and human rights.

Each year, the Carters donned hard hats and wielded hammers and other tools to help future homeowners and volunteers build or renovate homes throughout the United States and overseas. The Carters rallied thousands of volunteers, including celebrities, helping Habitat for Humanity become internationally recognized for its work to build decent and affordable housing.

By December 2019, through the Jimmy and Rosalynn Work Project, the Carters and those working with them had helped 4,390 families move into safe, affordable housing in 14 countries. Over the years, more than 104,000 volunteers from all over the world signed up to build alongside the Carters.

Professor Carter

President Carter joined the Emory University faculty in 1982 as University Distinguished Professor. Until the COVID-19 health crisis, each year he addressed Emory's freshman class and answered their questions. In those sessions and in lectures, he discusses myriad topics, addressing the important issues of today interspersed with his experiences in the White House and at The Carter Center.

Renaissance Man

Throughout his life, President Carter has enjoyed a wide range of interests.

He has been a prolific author, writing on widely varying subjects, including his White House years, faith, his boyhood, growing old, and the Middle East, as well as writing a children's book and a book of poetry. In all, he has written 32 books, including the first novel written by a U.S. president, "The Hornet's Nest."

The novel's book jacket was evidence of President



A University Distinguished Professor at Emory, President Carter lectures to a history class in November 2017.

Carter's wide range of talents: dissatisfied with the artwork his publisher proposed for the book cover, he painted his own. (See https://www.cartercenter.org/about/experts/jimmy_carter.html for a list of his books.)

President Carter has had a lifelong passion for music, with interest in a wide range of genres, including classical, rock, gospel, opera, bluegrass, country, and folk. A documentary film on the subject, "Jimmy Carter: Rock and Roll President," was recently released.

He scaled Mount Everest at age 60, Mount Kilimanjaro at age 64, and Mount Fuji at age 70.

He is also a skilled woodworker, accomplished painter, winemaking enthusiast, and an active outdoorsman, enjoying fishing, hunting, and birding throughout his life. For more, see the book "The Craftsmanship of Jimmy Carter."

At yearly auctions, the products of his woodworking, painting, and winemaking help raise money for the Carter Center's work. Eager to both support the Center and possess the signed works of President Carter, successful bidders have frequently paid hundreds of thousands of dollars, even \$1 million or more. One painting sold for \$750,000, and a handcrafted cedar chest brought \$1.25 million. Several bottles of his wine have brought in just shy of \$10,000 apiece.

continues on p. 8

Continued from p. 7

Always the Best

In his first book, “Why Not the Best?” published in 1975, President Carter described the time when he was well into what he expected to be a long career as a Navy officer. He had served tours of duty on two battleships and a submarine. It was time for his next assignment, and the fledgling nuclear submarine program appealed to his engineering skills and background. Intrigued, he applied to join it.

Entry required an interview with Adm. Hyman Rickover, a highly demanding taskmaster and, as it turned out, someone who Carter later wrote “had a profound effect on my life—perhaps more than anyone except my own parents.”

In a two-hour interview, Carter wrote later, Rickover “began to ask me a series of questions of increasing difficulty. In each instance, he soon proved that I knew relatively little about the subject I had chosen.

“He always looked right into my eyes, and he never smiled. I was saturated with cold sweat.

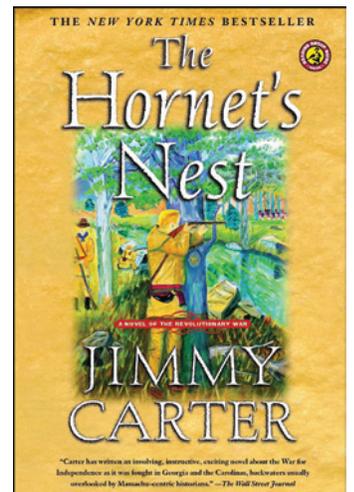
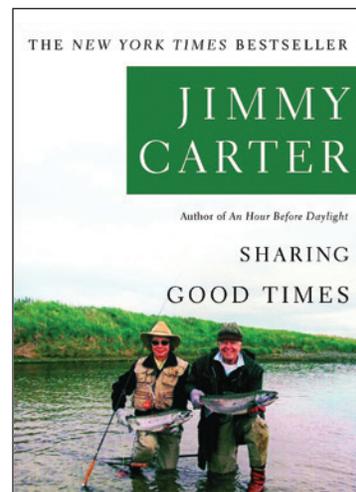
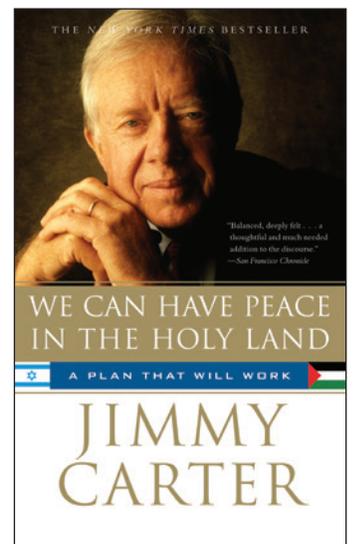
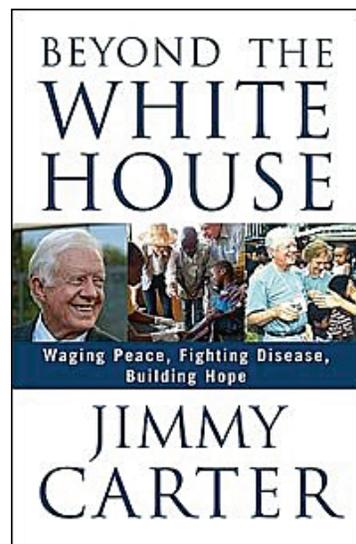
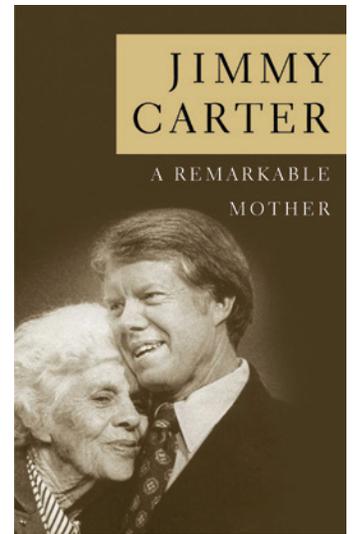
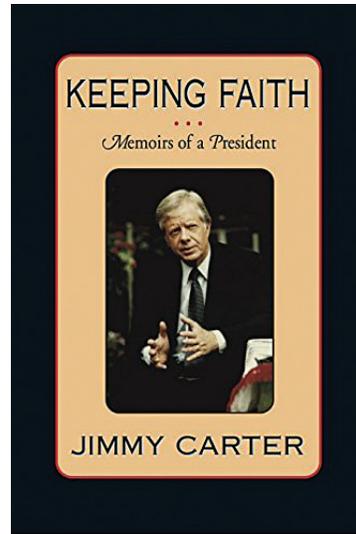
“Finally, he asked me a question, and I thought I could redeem myself. He said, ‘How did you stand in your class at the Naval Academy?’ Since I had completed my sophomore year at Georgia Tech before entering Annapolis as a plebe, I had done very well, and I swelled my chest with pride and answered: ‘Sir, I stood fifty-ninth in a class of 820!’ I sat back to wait for the congratulations—which never came.

“Instead, the question: ‘Did you do your best?’ I started to say, ‘Yes, sir,’ but I remembered who this was, and recalled several of the many times at the academy when I could have learned more about our allies, our enemies, weapons, strategy, and so forth. I was just human. I finally gulped and said, ‘No, sir, I didn’t always do my best.’

“He looked at me for a long time, and then turned his chair around to end the interview. He asked one final question, which I have never been able to forget—or to answer. He said, ‘Why not?’ I sat there for a while, shaken, and then slowly left the room.”

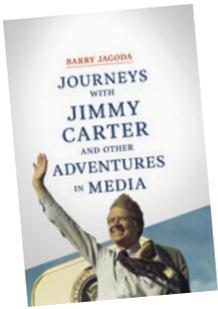
That question, posed to Jimmy Carter in his long-ago Navy years, has continued to resonate with him. It dramatically influenced his approach to life, feeding his relentless drive to do his best in whatever he undertook.

As old-fashioned as it might sound—and be—doing his best drove Jimmy Carter’s approach to public life: his work fighting racial discrimination and championing human rights; his public service as a school board member, state senator, governor and president; his many decades of distinguished service as a global humanitarian at the Carter Center. All this was done in the service of others, not himself.



President Carter is the author of 32 books, a few of which are shown here.

BOOK CLUB



“Journeys with Jimmy Carter and Other Adventures in Media” by Barry Jagoda reveals deep knowledge of elections, traditional and new media, and the importance of seeking new journeys throughout one’s life. Jagoda was a White House assistant to Jimmy Carter and an

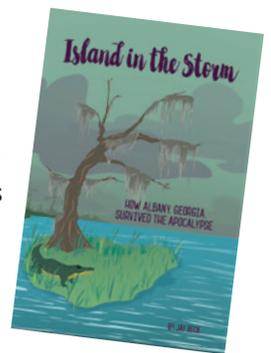
Emmy-winning producer for CBS’s coverage of the Watergate scandal and the Apollo 11 lunar mission broadcasts. As a public affairs authority, Jagoda writes of his roots in Texas and his rise to New York City and Washington, D.C., as he became a noted expert on the powerful use of new and legacy media. Theodore H. White called Jagoda the “secret weapon” for Jimmy Carter’s presidential campaign, as “understanding the process of television news coverage was essential for winning the White House.... Barry Jagoda brought that dimension to the Carter campaign.”

“Surfer in the White House: and Other Salty Yarns” by Rob Caughlan is a collection of funny and insightful experiences of a lifelong surfer, drawn into politics by his love for the ocean. His adventures include surfing with sharks, hopping freight trains, and using



unconventional media methods to promote environmental causes with celebrities like Robert Redford, Paul Newman, and William Shatner. There are vivid accounts of working with President Jimmy Carter. He used his pragmatic media savvy for a who’s who of American senators and congressional representatives—Dianne Feinstein, Jay Rockefeller, Jackie Speier, Pete McCloskey, and Leo Ryan. As president of the Surfrider Foundation, he brought surfer muscle to battles for coastal protection. This book shows that a life of activism can be both rewarding and fun.

Jay Beck’s new novel, “Island in the Storm,” is about surviving a post-COVID-19 apocalypse. Set in South Georgia, it tells the story of how citizens come together through the unlikely leadership of a young couple intent on saving their town from an encroaching international crisis. Although the novel shows the dynamics of handling a crisis, at its core it is the love story of an unlikely couple thrown together from morally and socially divergent backgrounds in an apocalypse caused by catastrophic political failure. All proceeds from the sales of this book will be donated to the United Way of Southwest Georgia to support survivors of the coronavirus.



The Carters Don Masks

Left: Randy Lewis captured this photo of a masked President Carter statue in Rapid City, South Dakota. The city has statues of presidents on street corners, and President Carter shares an intersection with Reagan, Washington, and Buchanan.

Right: From their home in Plains, Georgia, President and Mrs. Carter encourage people to wear masks to slow the spread of COVID-19.

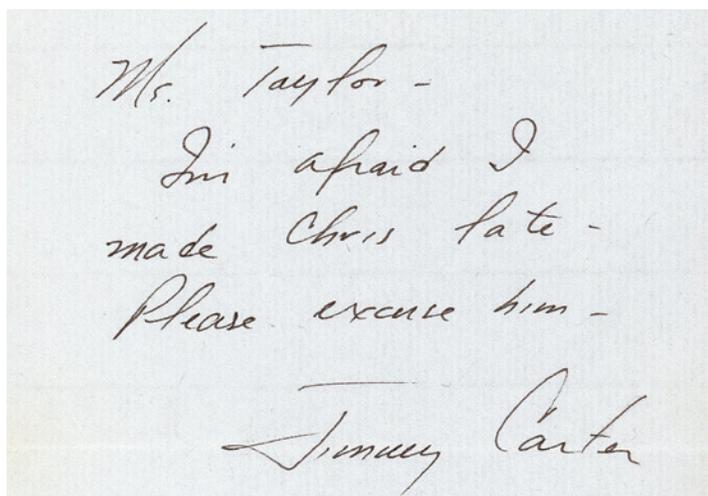
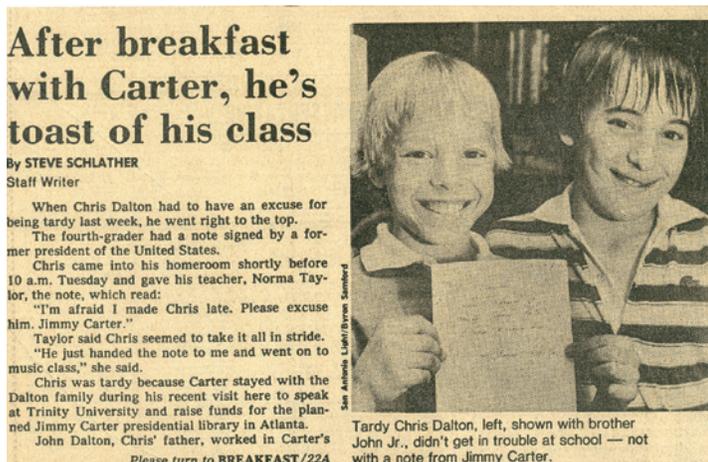
Close Encounters of the 39th Kind

In this story, campaign and administration staff share personal stories about Jimmy Carter.

From John and Margaret Dalton

As President Carter started to raise money for his library in 1984, he came to San Antonio and stayed with us. We arranged two fundraising events for him, a breakfast and a lunch. Our son Chris, who was in the fourth grade at the time, went with us to the breakfast. Before we left home, President Carter wrote his teacher a note saying, “Mrs. Taylor, I’m afraid I made Chris late this morning. Please excuse him. Jimmy Carter.”

Obviously, Mrs. Taylor thought it was noteworthy because several days later, the San Antonio Light newspaper contacted us and asked if they could do a story on it. They



President Carter wrote Chris Dalton a note to excuse his tardiness.

came out, took a picture of Chris with the note, and, soon after, there it was on the front page of the paper. Pretty impressive for a 9-year-old. Truth be told, it was probably more so for his parents!

John Dalton was the chair of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

From Earl Bender

My father, Robert A. Bender, was a regular blue-collar guy from the Greatest Generation. He was a World War II vet and 32-year career U.S. Postal Service employee. Upon my dad’s retirement from the Postal Service, I asked that President Carter autograph an official photo and send it to him. The president did this and sent it, along with a warm personal note thanking my father for all his service. This was far more than I had asked for.

My dad didn’t know about my request. When he received the note and photo, it blew him away. He was stunned that President Carter would take time out to pen a note to some ordinary guy like him. He was overwhelmed with gratitude for this kindness and spoke of it often. Naturally, he displayed the autographed picture prominently.

Simple, direct, and straight to the heart, this is our President Carter. Just as he touched my father and me, he reaches people and makes positive differences in their lives.

Earl Bender was co-manager of the White House Speakers Bureau.

From Phil Wise

Whenever I thank him for a letter, phone call, meeting, or some contact with a Carter Center donor, President Carter will explain that his role is to make my work easier and grin. And, of course, he is right.

Phil Wise was the presidential appointments secretary.

From J. Wade

President Carter told us after his 1970 victory for governor that instead of high-paying jobs, our reward would be that we could tell people we worked for him. We thought that was great, and turned out he was right—on both counts.

President Carter once told me these words of wisdom: “Fanatics of any religion are dangerous.” Always pinching a penny, for Pinky Masters’ birthday present during President Carter’s first year as governor, President Carter sent him a staff photo. Pinky, the Savannah politico and king maker, was thrilled.



Courtesy Bruce Kirschenbaum

Baby Jamie Kirschenbaum grabs President Carter's nose during an Oval Office visit in 1980.

Judith Wade was a special assistant to the secretary of the Department of the Interior.

From Bruce Kirschenbaum

In 1976 I helped to arrange New York Mayor Abe Beame's endorsement of then-candidate Jimmy Carter at Gracie Mansion. President Carter, meeting everyone, came to my wife, Judy. She said to him, "I am Bruce's wife." Looking deep into her eyes as he always does, he responded, "I know who you are." Judy said it was an amazing experience and she has been devoted to him from that moment on.

Our third child was born in 1979, and we named him Jamie after President Carter. The next January, in the midst of everything the president was going through, he met with us in the Oval Office. He took baby Jamie from Judy, and, as he held him, Jamie grabbed President Carter's nose, which made the president laugh. I reached to take him back, but he said, "No, that's all right." He told us that we should have more children and that Rosalynn and he waited too long to have Amy. It was very personal, and the two older boys remember it well. Jamie is extremely proud to be named after the president.

Bruce Kirschenbaum was deputy assistant to the president for intergovernmental affairs.

From Jay Beck

Early in the administration (when I think I was still wearing polyester), my parents came up for a visit and I had a chance to introduce them to President Carter. He smiled at them and said, "He's important to me. I don't know what I'd do without Jay." Now, at that time, I did not think he knew who I was or even would recognize me. He did know, however,

exactly what to say to my parents. Maybe he actually said the same thing to other parents, but it gave them the ultimate compliment to their child. It was a simple kindness that affirmed their parenting. What greater gift could anyone give to a parent?

Jay Beck was deputy to the assistant to the president for reorganization.

From Jerry Rafshoon

When I was starting out in advertising in the 1960s, I had a small firm in Atlanta.

After seeing a young Jimmy Carter debate several of the old segregationist candidates on television in the 1966 primary, I told my friend Hal Gulliver, former Atlanta Constitution editorial page editor, I planned to vote for Carter. Later, Gulliver called to say Carter had fired his ad agency and would I come to the campaign hotel office to meet Carter.

There, for the first time, I met with Jimmy Carter, who had with him a political science professor from Americus and someone from one of the big Atlanta law firms. They said they had \$60,000 for advertising and wanted to know what I would do with it.

I said I'd spend it all on 10- and 20-second spots and run them all in the last two weeks of the campaign on television. The spots would be Jimmy going all over the state meeting people and the voice of a narrator saying that "THEY" say Jimmy Carter could not win. The message was "THEY don't decide, YOU DO. Come see him at his campaign stops and tell him what you think."

The advisors in the room thought that was a terrible idea and were adamantly against hiring me.

Carter thought for a moment and told them he wanted to speak to me privately. He cautioned me not to argue with "those folks" because they were good people. "Now let's go do your campaign."

That was the day I fell in love with Jimmy Carter.

In a conversation many years after the administration, President Carter and I were reviewing life experiences. President Carter asked, "Jerry, you were in the Navy also, right?"

Knowing of President Carter's competitive nature, I



Jimmy Carter Library

Naval portrait of Jimmy Carter

continues on p. 12

Continued from p. 11

answered, “Yes, sir. We were both naval officers and we both achieved the rank of lieutenant.”

President Carter nodded. “So, you achieved the same rank as me?” he said.

I nodded and clarified: “Yes, but later in the Reserves, I was made a lieutenant commander, so I outranked you in the Navy.”

President Carter’s face dropped, and he looked down silently.

“Just kidding, Mr. President.”

Jerry Rafshoon was the White House communications director.

From Mary Dixon

After an event at the Azalea Court of the Norfolk Botanical Garden in Virginia, then-Gov. Carter told me he had given flowers to a disabled child and that Claire (my 4-year-old) was beautiful.



Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter carries Claire Trullinger, Mary Dixon’s 4-year-old daughter, during a Labor Day Campaign Kick Off Rally on Sept. 6, 1976, at the Norfolk Botanical Garden in Virginia.

Claire has always had a very keen sense of smell, even at that age.

When I asked her after the reception what she thought of Gov. Carter, she said, “His breath smelled good.”

I was very thankful about that because I can assure you, if it had not smelled good, we would have heard that loud and clear also!

Mary Dixon was a special assistant in the Department of Transportation.

From Dot Padgett

One spring morning in 1970 as I was working in my front yard, a young man stopped by the curb. He walked up the path to my house and spoke to me in a direct, soft voice about the changes he would like to make in Georgia’s government. I remember that conversation and the many plainspoken, candid comments of Jimmy Carter that later gained him the most attention.

In his inaugural address as governor, he said: “I say to you quite frankly that the time for racial discrimination is over.... The test of a government is not how popular it is with the powerful and privileged few, but how honestly and fairly it deals with the many who must depend on it.”

President Carter has always had understanding and compassion for those who are underprivileged and unprotected. I attended a speech he made at the University of Georgia for Law Day in 1974. Speaking off the cuff from notes he made while sitting at the table, the speech defined Gov. Carter’s empathy for those often unprotected by the law.

He admonished lawyers about their role in writing laws: “When the laws are written and administered by the most powerful leaders in a society, it is human nature for them to understand, justify and protect the interests of themselves and others like them.”

He described an illegal consent search warrant: “When two policemen go to a house, one goes to the front door and knocks on it, and the other goes to the back door and yells, ‘Come in.’”

In his conclusion he said: “I think everyone in this room who is in a position of responsibility as a preserver of the law in its purest form ought to remember the oath that Thomas Jefferson and others took when they practically signed their own death warrant, writing the Declaration of Independence. To preserve justice, equality, freedom, and fairness, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.”

In the room that day to cover another speech, to be given by Ted Kennedy, gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson



heard Carter for the first time and was awestruck. From that day on, Thompson began to write and speak about him in glowing terms that attracted the attention of many others in politics and journalism, despite Thompson's bad-boy reputation. Thompson wrote of Carter's speech in Rolling Stone magazine:

"... [I]t was a king hell bastard of a speech, and by the time it was over he had rung every bell in the room. Nobody seemed to know exactly what to make of it, but they knew it was sure as hell not what they'd come there to hear. I have heard hundreds of speeches by all kinds of candidates and politicians—usually against my will and for generally the same reasons I got trapped into hearing this one—but I have never heard a sustained piece of political oratory that impressed me any more than the speech Jimmy Carter made on that Saturday afternoon in May 1974.

"Viewed purely in the context of rhetorical drama and political theater, it ranks with General Douglas MacArthur's 'old soldiers never die' address to the Congress in 1951...

"[The audience] had not come there to hear lawyers denounced as running dogs of the status quo, and there is still some question in my own mind—and in Carter's too, I suspect—about what he came there to say. There was no written text of the speech, no press to report it, no audience hungry to hear it, and no real reason for giving it—except that Jimmy Carter had a few serious things on his mind that day, and he figured it was about time to unload them, whether the audience liked it or not....

"It was not until I showed up in New Hampshire and Massachusetts for the '76 primaries and started playing

my tape of the Law Day speech for a few friends, journalists and even some of Carter's top staff people ... [that I] noticed that almost everybody who heard the speech was as impressed by it as I was."

Hunter Thompson and I and many of us who have had direct interaction with him will always remember Jimmy Carter for his directness and candor. We also remember him for his commitment to those in need and his determination to find practical ways to help solve their problems.

Dot Padgett was a special assistant in the Department of State.

From Jim Copeland

Jim Copeland remembered several incidents of President Carter's personal interactions beginning from Copeland's days in the White House Congressional Liaison office.

Late in the administration, Sen. S.I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.), who was not a consistent supporter, brought his mother, Tora Isono Hayakawa, in her mid-90s, to meet President Carter as the senator said she wanted very much to visit the Oval Office. The meeting was brief and warm. As they were preparing to leave, Sen. Hayakawa asked if his mother could see the Rose Garden. President Carter flashed a warm smile and said, "Of course." I drew the assignment and had the pleasure of guiding a U.S. senator and his mother—attired in a traditional kimono—through one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. President Carter's gesture was an act of kindness appreciated by a senator and his mother, a gesture where nothing was asked or could be gained in return. It was simply a nice thing to do.

A few years ago, I spent time at the Carter Library reviewing the Weekly Legislative Reports prepared for President Carter on congressional activities for a piece about them in the Carter-Mondale Letter. In going through the reports, I was struck over and over by the supportive nature of President Carter's comments. I said in the article, "White House staffs have frequently experienced much dissension and high levels of personnel turnover. Neither was the case with the Carter White House." Indications of President Carter's support came as Weekly Legislative Reports often were returned with the president's note: "Good report" or simply "Good."—words that inspired and motivated White House staff. An example of his subtle partnership was that occasionally we'd report a complaint from a Republican House member about grant announcements going to Democrats ahead of Republicans; the president responded, "Good."

continues on p. 14

Continued from p. 13

My spouse, Debbie McFarland, and I have been privileged to participate in a number of Habitat for Humanity Carter Work Projects. Yearly since 1984, President and Mrs. Carter have dedicated a week to building durable houses with people who otherwise could not afford to buy a home. The Carters' work with Habitat, some of it public and much of it behind the scenes, has continued for nearly four decades.

In 2004, Debbie and I traveled to the Carter Work Project in Puebla, Mexico, to work on one of over 100

houses to be completed in a week. One day, we were invited to have lunch with the Carters and another couple. We sat at a picnic table enjoying chicken, beans and rice, and tortillas. Dessert appeared in the form of a tropical fruit unfamiliar to us. President Carter, noticing our puzzled expressions and said the dull green fruit was called cherimoya. He retrieved his pocketknife, picked up Debbie's cherimoya, deftly cut it in half, removed the seeds, and returned it to a grateful Debbie.

Jim Copeland was the deputy assistant to the president for congressional relations.

New Film Features Music's Large Role in Carter's Life, Career

A new feature film, "Jimmy Carter: Rock & Roll President" directed by Mary Wharton, chronicles President Carter's love of music and the role it played in his political career.

In addition to footage of many musical celebrities speaking of their affection for President Carter, the film includes current and archival interviews with Carter-Mondale alumni such as Madeleine Albright, Tom Beard, Chip Carter, Peter Conlon, John Dalton, Jim Free, Frank Moore, and

Andrew Young. The former president himself is interviewed as well.

The film chronicles the role of popular music in propelling the relatively unknown candidate from Georgia to the White House and the significant role music has played in Carter's life and work. Luminaries featured in interviews and performances include Willie Nelson, Bono, Bob Dylan, Nile Rodgers, Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Jimmy Buffett, Roseanne Cash, Gregg Allman, Chuck Leavell, Paul Simon, Aretha Franklin, and Dizzy Gillespie.

"When my family and I saw the film, we found it entertaining and emotional for all of us," President Carter said. "The film exceeded my expectations in every way. I'm thrilled that 'Rock & Roll President' will reach a broad audience. Despite the difficult times we are in, the film highlights my personal belief that we should remain hopeful and that music is a powerful source of hope in trying times."

"Jimmy Carter: Rock & Roll President" was set to premiere as the opening night film of the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival before the coronavirus pandemic forced the festival to go virtual.

The film played in select theaters and is available through iTunes and Amazon and on demand through local cable. CNN plans to broadcast the film on Jan. 3. Visit <http://jimmycartermovie.com> to learn more.



President Carter shares the stage with his friend Willie Nelson at a concert. A new documentary examines the role of music in President Carter's political life.

Passages Fall 2020



Dr. Eula Bingham

Dr. Eula Bingham was a toxicologist who energized the Occupational Safety and Health Administration as its director and set stringent standards to protect workers from hazardous materials. President Carter appointed her director of OSHA in 1977; she was the first woman to hold that post. During her tenure, the

agency adopted more regulatory standards on harmful materials—including benzene, cotton dust, and lead—than any previous administration had and more than most have since, the *New York Times* reported. President Carter said of Bingham, “I could always count on her for sound and direct advice, with the well-being of the American worker foremost in her mind.”

Under right-to-know regulations, employers had to inform workers about any hazardous materials they were working with, and manufacturers had to list those materials on containers. Bingham fended off lawsuits by companies that did not want to disclose such information. “Workers have a right to expect they won’t be killed on their jobs,” Bingham told *The Washington Post* in 1977.

When she took over OSHA, the agency was something of a laughingstock for having promulgated thousands of rules that had little to do with making workplaces safer. They required that toilet seats have open fronts, for example, and that telephone linemen use tool belts with no more than four tool loops. In an effort to pursue what President Carter called “common sense priorities,” Bingham eliminated more than 1,000 regulations that she considered “nit-picking” and that industry regarded as a nuisance. This freed the agency’s inspectors to focus on serious threats—to go after whales, not minnows, in the parlance of the day.

“She put OSHA on the map,” Dr. Philip Landrigan, a friend who worked with her in government starting in 1979, said in an interview with the *Times*. “She was a strong-willed woman who understood the levers of government.” In her campaign for workplace safety, Bingham clashed with business, Congress, and even fellow members of the Carter administration, though she usually had the backing of the president. Perhaps her hardest-fought battle was over cotton dust, which threatened the health of

Southern textile workers, many of them poor, Black and nonunion.

Bingham wanted to lower the acceptable levels of cotton dust, but mill owners opposed her. “There was a pitched battle fought in the Oval Office in front of Jimmy Carter,” Landrigan told the *Times*. Bingham and Ray Marshall, the labor secretary, pushed for the new standard while Carter’s economic advisers argued against it, saying it would hurt business.

Finally, Landrigan said, President Carter walked over, grinned, put his arm around Bingham and said, “I am with Eula on this one.”



Charlie Daniels

Charlie Daniels, singer, songwriter, and bandleader, was active in the 1976 campaign raising funds and using his concerts to draw attention to a relatively unknown Georgia governor. In the 1980 campaign, Daniels flew to Tuscumbia, Ala., with President Carter to announce the reelection campaign kickoff.

Daniels was a major force in country and rock music for more than 50 years with hits like “The Devil Went Down to Georgia.” But his greatest commendation came as the leader of the Charlie Daniels Band, formed in 1971. The group earned a reputation for recording outspoken songs with a countercultural bent usually championing the underdog. President Carter invited the Charlie Daniels Band to perform at his 1977 inaugural ball. Many of the band’s songs grew more patriotic in the ’80s and also more political, with hits like “In America,” “Simple Man,” and “What the World Needs Is a Few More Rednecks.”

Charlie Daniels was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2016.

Robert Sherard Edington of Mobile, Ala., and his wife, Pat, were active supporters of Jimmy Carter in the 1976 and 1980 campaigns.

Robert Edington joined the U.S. Navy in 1951 and served as a decorated air intelligence officer for a fighter squadron during the Korean War; he retired from the Navy Reserve with the rank of commander. He was a member of the board of directors of the Mobile Council of the Navy

continues on p. 16

Continued from p. 15

League as well as state president and a national director of the Navy League of the United States. For 60 years, Edington coordinated the U.S. Navy ships that docked at Mobile for Mardi Gras. In 2012, he was named the Mobile Area Veteran of the Year.



Robert Sherard Edington

As an attorney, Edington was a member of the Mobile and Alabama Bar Associations while practicing law for over 60 years. He served as director of the Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Edington served for eight years in the Alabama House of Representatives and then four years as a state senator representing Mobile County. As a legislator, he helped create the USS Alabama Battleship Commission, which brought the USS Alabama to Mobile in the 1960s. He was a longtime member of the commission and served two terms as chair.

As a legislator, Edington was instrumental in the creation of the University of South Alabama and that school's College of Medicine, as well as the development of Bishop State Community College. He played a lead role in establishing the Alabama Historical Commission, and in recognition of his efforts the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C., presented him its national award.

Edington was Mobile's consul to Guatemala for 20 years. In this capacity, he organized Mobile's first trade mission to Central America. In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce's Achievement Award. He served on the National Advisory Board for the U.S. Small Business Administration. In 2008, he was named Rhodes College's Alumnus of the Year.

Warren Fortson was a progressive Americus, Ga., attorney who helped President Carter fight election fraud in his 1962 run for state senator.

Fortson was the attorney for Sumter County, Georgia, and the county school board. His private law practice included criminal, real estate and corporate cases.

He befriended a peanut farmer and school board member from nearby Plains named Jimmy Carter. In 1962, Carter appeared to lose his first run for a state

Senate seat because of ballot-stuffing by a local political boss in a nearby county. Warren and his fellow lawyer for Carter, Charles Kirbo, exposed that the ballot box at the Georgetown precinct was stuffed with 104 ballots in favor of his opponent, resulting in Carter's apparent defeat. Carter's eventual successful outcome led to the complete revision of the election laws of Georgia and, eventually, the election of the first Georgian to become president of the United States.

Upon receiving word of Fortson's death this summer, President Carter wrote in a statement: "Rosalynn and I are saddened at the passing of our friend Warren Fortson. Warren was a superb South Georgia lawyer who helped me fight election fraud to win my seat in the Georgia State Senate in 1962. ... Warren was a brave advocate for racial equality in a time and place where it was a costly position to take, but he never backed down."

Fortson helped to orchestrate the integration of the public schools in Sumter County without a court order through a "freedom of choice" plan that allowed Black students to attend any school they wished. He spearheaded the integration of the Carnegie library and facilitated the integration of the town's largest manufacturer.

Fortson tried to establish a biracial commission in Americus, but that broke down when some white leaders refused to address Black members as Mr. or Mrs. The southwest Georgia town, along with nearby Albany, became a cauldron of protests. When an interracial group attempted to attend Sunday worship services at First Methodist Church and were denied entry, he, his wife, and children left. Although he was superintendent of the men's Bible class, Fortson was told not to return to his church.

Now perceived as a "civil rights" lawyer, Fortson was replaced as the county attorney. Former friends would cross the street to avoid speaking to him, clients who owed him money didn't pay, and a neighbor's child pointed a rifle at Fortson's 10-year-old son. His once-thriving practice gone, he and his family left Americus.

They moved to Atlanta, where he became general counsel to the Atlanta Board of Education and helped shepherd the conclusion of an 18-year desegregation lawsuit. In the ensuing years, Fortson worked closely with board President Benjamin E. Mays and Superintendent Alonzo Crim to implement mandated changes to the school system administration, staff, and policies.



S. David Freeman

S. David Freeman was an engineer, attorney, author, and former head of some of the largest public power utilities in the United States. President Carter appointed Freeman to the Tennessee Valley Authority board, where he served from 1977 through 1984. He chaired the TVA from 1978 to 1981. While leading the board, Freeman shifted the organization’s focus toward energy conservation, and he was instrumental in shutting down construction on several of the TVA’s nuclear projects.

In 1967, Freeman was appointed to an energy committee by President Lyndon Johnson, and he later worked for the Environmental Protection Agency during the Nixon administration.

From the TVA, Freeman went on to leadership roles with the New York Power Authority, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. It was while working for the LCRA in Austin, Texas, that Freeman reportedly began wearing a cowboy hat as protection from the sun. The hat, along with Freeman’s penchant for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation policies and initiatives, earned him the nickname “Green Cowboy,” which he proudly included in the title of his 2016 autobiography, “The Green Cowboy: An Energetic Life.”

Freeman became general manager of SMUD in 1990, shortly after the people of Sacramento voted to close the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant. The station, which entered commercial operation in 1975, had a dismal operating history and was a drain on the utility’s finances, leading to a number of substantial rate increases. Freeman’s strategy of focusing on energy efficiency and investing in renewable energy provided the impetus to turn SMUD around. Its rates are now among the lowest in California, with SMUD customers paying 35% less on average than customers of neighboring utility Pacific Gas and Electric.

Most recently, Freeman became a senior energy advisor for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE), where his four decades of experience directing federal, regional, and local energy policies was appreciated. Stephen A. Smith, executive director of SACE, said in a statement, “S. David Freeman was a visionary force of nature. I’m proud to

have collaborated with him over the years in support of our common goals of a cleaner, greener world. Dave taught me that most utilities will first tell you ‘no’ on advancing many clean energy policies, but never take no for an answer. We will miss his leadership and tenacity and will honor him by carrying his vision forward in our work.”

Phyllis George, who achieved one level of fame as Miss America 1971 and another one four years later when she joined the otherwise all-male cast of “The NFL Today” on CBS, was an active supporter during the Carter-Mondale administration and of the reelection campaign in 1980. She was married to Democratic Kentucky Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. from 1979 to 1988.

Upon joining “The NFL Today,” George became the most prominent woman in sportscasting. With her beauty-queen background and her modest television résumé, she was criticized for lacking the traditional sportscaster credentials, the New York Times reported. She responded, “I’m from Texas, and down there you follow the Texas Longhorns and the Dallas Cowboys, or you don’t belong.”

She was unquestionably a pioneer. To many young women who hoped to have careers in sportscasting, seeing her sharing the studio desk with Brent Musburger, Irv Cross, and Jimmy “the Greek” Snyder and discussing the day’s games was inspiring.

“Sometimes you have to see it to be it; you have to know something is a career option in order to aspire to it,” Hannah Storm, an anchor at ESPN’s “SportsCenter,” told the Times. “Which means someone has to be first. That was Phyllis George—a true trailblazer.”



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a revered U.S. Supreme Court associate justice who was appointed to the federal judiciary by President Carter, died Sept. 18, 2020, after serving 27 years on the nation’s highest court. She was 87.

Ginsburg was a legal, cultural and feminist icon. NPR called her the architect of the legal fight for women’s rights. President Carter said of Ginsburg, “She had a powerful legal mind and was a staunch advocate for gender equality. She was a beacon of justice during her long and remarkable career. I was proud to have appointed her to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1980. We join countless Americans in

continues on p. 18

Continued from p. 17

mourning the loss of a truly great woman.”

President Bill Clinton nominated Ginsburg for the Supreme Court in 1993. She was an unlikely pioneer, a diminutive and shy woman, whose soft voice and large glasses hid an intellect and attitude that, as one colleague put it, was “tough as nails,” NPR reported.

By the time she was in her 80s, she had become something of a rock star to women of all ages, according to NPR. She was the subject of a hit documentary, a biopic, an operetta, merchandise galore featuring her “Notorious RBG” moniker (a play on the name of rapper The Notorious B.I.G.), a Time magazine cover, and several “Saturday Night Live” sketches.

As a lawyer, Ginsburg wrote her first Supreme Court brief in 1971, in the case of *Reed v. Reed*. Ginsburg represented Sally Reed, who thought she should be the executor of her son’s estate instead of her ex-husband. The constitutional issue was whether a state could automatically prefer men over women as executors of estates. The answer from the all-male supreme court: no. It was the first time the court had ever struck down a state law because it discriminated based on gender.

Ginsburg would become the first female tenured professor at Columbia Law School, and she would found the Women’s Rights Project at the ACLU.

As Ginsburg’s place on the Supreme Court grew in seniority, so did her role. The court veered right after the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, and Ginsburg dissented more often and more assertively, her most passionate dissents coming in women’s rights cases, according to NPR. She famously wore distinctive silver necklaces over her black robe to signal her dissent. Those dissents were often sharply worded.

In 2013, when the court struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, contending that times had changed and the law was no longer needed, Ginsburg wrote that throwing out the provision “when it has worked and is continuing to work ... is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.”

Ginsburg kept up a busy schedule of public appearances, even after five bouts with cancer: colon cancer in 1999, pancreatic cancer 10 years later, lung cancer in 2018, and then pancreatic cancer again in 2019 and liver lesions in 2020. During that time, she endured chemotherapy,

radiation, and in the last years of her life, terrible pain from shingles that never went away completely, NPR reported. All who knew her admired her grit.

“Our nation has lost a justice of historic stature,” Chief Justice John Roberts said. “We at the Supreme Court have lost a cherished colleague. Today we mourn, but with confidence that future generations will remember Ruth Bader Ginsburg as we knew her—a tireless and resolute champion of justice.”

Robert S. Havelly spent more than 40 years providing strategic counsel to Democrats and nonprofits. After graduating from North Springs High School in Atlanta and earning his undergraduate degree from Columbia University, he joined President Carter’s White House staff as assistant director, domestic policy.

Havelly was well known in personal and Democratic circles as an intelligent debater and tenacious competitor. He returned to New York to study law. After receiving his juris doctor from Columbia Law School, he researched the country to determine where his skills could have the most lasting impact. He chose North Carolina. He worked for many of North Carolina’s most prominent elected officials, including former Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. He served as Hunt’s issues director during Hunt’s unsuccessful 1984 run for the U.S. Senate.

Havelly also worked with North Carolina members of Congress David Price, Bob Etheridge, and Tim Valentine; Attorneys General Rufus Edmisten and Mike Easley; and many others. Havelly’s nonprofit consulting focus was higher education. He served as director of government relations for Duke University and helped guide High Point College to university status. He also served as legislative strategist for The College Foundation of North Carolina and Prevent Blindness North Carolina.



Lyons Barnett Joel

Lyons Barnett Joel, a renowned “super salesman” who climbed the ranks at the Atlanta-based firm started by his grandfather in 1896 to become president of Selig Chemicals, was a diehard Georgia Bulldogs fan who never missed a game, according to the Atlanta Jewish Times. “Run the damn ball” was his

favorite phrase. He supported the 1976 and 1980 presidential campaigns of Jimmy Carter.

Joel was the editor of the UGA student newspaper,

The Red and Black; after college, he joined the army, where he was a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Then it was on to his maternal grandfather's company, Selig Chemicals, where he sold innovative cleaning and household products while developing new formulas, even naming one for his wife, Renee. Known for his problem-solving skills, he once raced to a local hotel where the manager had threatened to call police after a relative trashed a room during a party and stained a pricey marble tabletop, Atlanta Jewish Times reported. He brought his chemist and got out the stain. When the manager saw it, he asked, "What else you got like that?"—and Joel landed a huge hotel account for the company.

Joel ran Selig Chemicals after it was acquired by National Services Industry and retired in 1999. A prominent member of the Jewish community, philanthropist and member of the Temple, he served as president of the Standard Club, served on the board of directors of the Boy and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, and was a member of the Kiwanis Club active in community affairs.



Barbara Singer Thomas Judge CBE

Barbara Singer Thomas

Judge CBE, appointed in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter, was, at 33, the youngest person—and only the second woman—to become a commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Later she was the first female chair of Britain's Atomic Energy Agency. Judge's CV is studded with

precedent-setting appointments, reflecting her oft-voiced belief that success grew from long hours, close attention to detail and hard work, the New York Times reported.

She told the Securities and Exchange Commission Historical Society she worked hard "every single day, and every single night, and mostly every single weekend. You really had to do better if you were a woman."

In 2015, Judge became the first woman to be appointed as chair of the 113-year-old Institute of Directors, the British organization that works in promotion of company directors and corporate governance. She resigned from that role in 2018.

Judge was also known for her roles in higher education and the arts. She was associated with an array of business schools in Britain and the United States, including the

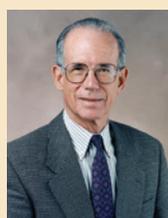
Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She sponsored a scholarship for Black South African women at the School of African and Oriental Studies in London and had been a trustee of artistic bodies like the Wallace Collection and the Royal Academy of Arts. British media outlets labeled her "the best-connected woman in Britain."

In 2010, Judge was awarded a Commander of the British Empire title in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the nuclear and financial services industries. That same year, she was named in BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour 100 Most Powerful Women list, according to The Independent.

"Some years ago I was on the shortlist to be on the board of the Bank of England. It was in the 1990s," she told The Manchester Evening News, a British newspaper, in 2015. "In the final interview they asked me what the best thing I ever did was."

"My initial thought was how I'd gone to Japan to enter into negotiations which resulted in opening the Tokyo Stock Exchange to foreign members so British and American firms could list on it," she continued. "But instead I told them how I'd discovered that my son, Lloyd Thomas, had dyslexia. After I'd discovered the dyslexia, I took nine months off to work with him so he could continue his education in the best way possible.

"I didn't get the job," she said. "In business the best thing I'd achieved is probably the Tokyo situation. In life, though, it was helping my son."



Donald Kennedy

Donald Kennedy was a neurobiologist who became the eighth president of Stanford in 1980 and helped set the stage for its transformation into one of the nation's top research universities during his 12 years in office, according to Stanford News, a university publication.

In 1977, Kennedy took a leave of absence from Stanford to become commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under President Jimmy Carter. He later told an interviewer that "the opportunity to serve government is one that scientists should come to regard as a routine part of their career patterns, just as many academic lawyers, political scientists and economists do."

Among the challenges he faced at the FDA were controversies over the banning of saccharin, the alleged

continues on p. 20

Continued from p. 19

cancer cure Laetrile, the risks associated with the use of hormones in beef production, alcoholic beverage labeling, and chronic complaints that the approval process for new drugs either allowed dangerous drugs into the market or impaired innovation.

In 1979, when Kennedy returned to Stanford as provost, the New York Times praised his leadership of the FDA:

“When he came to Washington two years ago, the agency was torn by internal dissension and the charge in Congress that it had become chummy with the industries it regulates. Morale has been raised and the FDA’s reputation is decidedly one of independence. One measure of the respect that Mr. Kennedy won is that spokesmen for both consumer and industry groups, who seldom agree on anything, rate him equally high.”

Kennedy was editor-in-chief of *Science*, the weekly journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, from 2000 to 2008.

Kennedy, who joined the Stanford faculty in 1960, was known as an inspiring and dedicated teacher in both biological sciences and in the Program in Human Biology, an interdisciplinary program that he helped establish and directed from 1973 to 1977, Stanford News reported.

In his scholarly research, which centered on the properties of small nerve cells, Kennedy established that complex forms of motor activity can be elicited by stimulation of single nerve cells located in the central nervous system of the crayfish. He subsequently pioneered a new technique of dye injection into single nerve cells so that the whole axon, dendrite and cell body of the cell can be seen in the light of the microscope.

Kennedy’s unconventional teaching style delighted students, including two alumni quoted here:

“I will never forget Donald Kennedy getting up on the lab table at the front of the lecture hall and assuming a quadruped position to demonstrate to us the concepts of dorsal, ventral, cephalo, and caudal,” said Ingrid Schwontes Jackoway. “His first concern was always with teaching effectively, not preserving his dignity.”

“My favorite Hum Bio memory is of Donald Kennedy demonstrating echolocation in bats by climbing up on the desk in the front of the room, making ‘bat noises,’ and flapping his arms,” said Catherine Garzio. “I’ve thought of

it often over the years when other ‘important people’ take themselves too seriously. Human Biology in the ‘70s was really cool!”

Kennedy was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1972 and was also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Science, the National Commission for Public Service, and the American Philosophical Society.

The Stanford campus reflects the university’s high regard for Kennedy. In 2014, Stanford named a new five-building complex on the east side of campus in his honor—the Donald Kennedy Graduate Residences.

Ambassador James F. Leonard Jr. was a proud career Foreign Service officer and was a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy. He spent 20 years serving in Damascus, Moscow, Paris, Taipei, New York, Geneva, and Washington, D.C., including during the Carter-Mondale administration.

From 1979 to 1981 he was deputy special representative to the Middle East peace negotiations (the “Palestinian Autonomy Talks”) between the U.S., Israel, and Egypt, which resulted from the Camp David Peace Accords.

With an encyclopedic knowledge of history, his commitment to public service, his belief in equity and justice, his ability to speak six languages, and his delightful wit, Leonard was a real force for good in the world. A true intellectual, he dedicated his life to furthering the prospects for world peace.

Leonard had been the chief U.S. negotiator for the Biological Weapons Convention when he was assistant director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency from 1969 to 1973 under President Richard Nixon. After a brief retirement from government service from 1973 to 1977, during which he served as president of the United Nations Association, Leonard returned to serve as deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, with the rank of ambassador.

With a degree from Princeton University, he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during World War II, with posts in the United States, France, and Okinawa. Later he attended Harvard University and Columbia University.

His first diplomatic posting was to Damascus, Syria (1949–51). His second posting was to Moscow at the height of the Cold War (1953–55). He then served at NATO in

Paris (1955–57). From 1958 to 1963, he was stationed in Taiwan. He returned to Washington, where he worked on Far Eastern Affairs (1965–66) and as a director of the Office of Strategic Research (1966–68).

Leonard was country director for South Korea in the State Department’s Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 1968 to 1969. While serving in that position, he and his wife, Eleanor, were credited with devising the terms that would ultimately secure the release of the hostages on the USS Pueblo, which had been seized by North Korea in January 1968. In 1969 his career turned to arms control, the U.N., and Middle East Peace efforts.

After his second retirement from government service in 1981, Leonard was a consultant or board member for several nongovernmental organizations. They included the Aspen Institute, the Palme Commission, the Committee on National Security, the Washington Council on Non-Proliferation, the British American Security Information Council, and the Canberra Commission.



John Lewis

U.S. Rep. John Lewis, the son of a sharecropper, became a pastor and an icon of the civil rights movement. In 1977, Lewis was appointed by President Carter to direct ACTION, the federal volunteer agency. He was a supporter of Carter’s political campaigns and of The Carter Center.

In a statement, President Carter said, “Rosalynn and I are saddened by the death of Congressman John Lewis. He made an indelible mark on history through his quest to make our nation more just. John never shied away from what he called “good trouble” to lead our nation on the path toward human and civil rights. Everything he did, he did in a spirit of love. All Americans, regardless of race or religion, owe John Lewis a debt of gratitude. We send our condolences and prayers to his family and friends.”

In the 1960s, Lewis organized sit-ins at segregated restaurants, department stores, and movie theaters. He helped create the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and he participated in the 1961 Freedom Rides, a series of trips through the South that tested a new Supreme Court order desegregating bus depots. Lewis helped plan and lead the historic 1963 March on Washington, and, at age 23, delivered one of the most sensational speeches that day. A cop’s billy club nearly

killed him on March 7, 1965—“Bloody Sunday”—when he and other unarmed Black marchers tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. President Lyndon B. Johnson announced days afterward legislation guaranteeing African Americans full voting rights. In 1981, Lewis ran for Atlanta City Council and won in a landslide. Five years later, Lewis handily won a race for the congressional district that includes Martin Luther King Jr.’s boyhood home, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and the Sweet Auburn district. He quickly became one of the most liberal voices in the U.S. House of Representatives and was an early supporter of same-sex marriage. His Democratic colleagues dubbed him “the conscience of the Congress.” Lewis continued to participate in acts of civil disobedience, getting arrested for the 45th time in his life as he pushed for an immigration overhaul in 2013. He galvanized a 26-hour Democratic sit-in on the House floor in June 2016 to press for gun control legislation. Lewis’s numerous accolades range from the Presidential Medal of Freedom to a National Book Award for the final installment of his graphic novel trilogy about the civil rights movement, “March.”



Larry Rasky

Larry Rasky was a legend in Boston political circles. While attending Emerson College, Rasky worked as a security guard in a building where Jimmy Carter’s Massachusetts campaign headquarters set up shop. Four years later, Rasky served as deputy press secretary for Carter’s reelection campaign.

“Larry was Boston through and through,” Joe Biden said in a statement after his passing. “Outspoken—as anyone who sought his counsel can attest—but also gregarious, sharp and generous in spirit.”

Rasky worked on political campaigns for decades, employed by a roster of politicians ranging from President Carter to John Kerry to former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn. Rasky had worked on both of Biden’s previous presidential bids and most recently served as treasurer on a pro-Biden super PAC, Unite the Country.

Flynn, who later served as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, said when he first flirted with running for mayor in 1984, he struck up a conversation with Rasky, whom he admired but didn’t think he could afford.

Though he was down in the polls, with little money to

continues on p. 22

Continued from p. 21

pose a serious threat to anyone, Flynn said Rasky joined the campaign anyway, holding up Flynn's work on homelessness and with special needs children while he served in the Statehouse. Rasky also plotted where the against-the-odds campaign would launch: in one of the poorest parts of the city. "I'm starting my campaign as the underdog, 17 points down with three months to go," Flynn recalled. "Here we're doing it in a West Broadway housing development with poor people and where nobody votes."

Flynn's message of fighting for those left behind resonated; his victory was so stunning he and Rasky couldn't believe the returns when they came in. Flynn went on to serve as mayor until 1993. It was just one of dozens of stories that old friends and politicians shared after learning of Rasky's death.

"Larry was real," said Harry Grill, political campaigns director for Unite Here, a labor union representing culinary and hotel workers, who knew Rasky for 45 years. "What you saw was what you got. If he called you his friend, you were a friend for life. He loved life and loved people. He treated everyone from all walks of life with dignity and respect. He will be sorely missed."

Paul Frederick Sheehan's political instincts and skills were greatly appreciated during the Carter-Mondale administration and again during the 1980 presidential general election. His gregarious nature made him a pleasure to work with, and his gentle professional skills were extraordinary.

Sheehan looked and sounded like a Kennedy, and his Boston accent was unmistakable. He was a guest of the Carter family in their private box during the Democratic National Convention held in Boston during the summer of 2004.

Earlier in his career, Sheehan served as Sen. Ted Kennedy's advance man extraordinaire in Massachusetts during the 1970s. He also served as a mentor to many aspiring Kennedy advance people. His attention to detail, his sense of humor and his resemblance to the boss made him a very special staff member. Prior to working for Ted Kennedy, he worked on Sen. Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign.

Sheehan also was the lead advance on many of President Bill Clinton's trips.

Sheehan will be remembered by scores of advance people, countless candidates, and myriad friends for his loyalty. His commitment to and practice of loyalty is a

powerful example to all who knew him and to all who benefited from it.



Phil Schaefer

Phil Schaefer was one of Jimmy Carter's earliest and most devoted supporters and fundraisers going back to the earliest days of the 1975–76 presidential campaign. He remained a strong supporter of the Carter Presidential Center. His son Jonas James Schaefer was named after President Carter.

Schaefer continued to be politically active in Democratic Party politics and was also active in Vice President Mondale's 1984 campaign. He created the World Pension Forum 20 years ago.

John Menges Struble, an avid hunter, football fan and political raconteur, worked in the Commerce Department as the deputy to the acting deputy undersecretary in the Carter-Mondale administration. Earlier he worked in the office of Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Illinois.

Struble attended the University of Nebraska on a football scholarship and was an honorable mention All Big Eight as a safety. "I wasn't that big, but I was fast and hit hard," he said. After a late-night infraction with other teammates, he left Nebraska and finished up playing football at North Texas State University.

Struble, the son of a military officer, grew up on military bases around the country. After college he joined the army and was an Airborne Ranger in Vietnam, where he was wounded.

After the Carter-Mondale administration ended, Struble went to work in Texas as a commercial real estate broker in transactions involving nursing home chains and huge warehouses. He also put together oil and gas and real estate limited partnerships. He prospered in the big leagues of commercial real estate in the Dallas area. His work ethic and sense of family responsibility made him successful as a businessman and as a provider.



Benjamin James Tarbuton Jr.

Benjamin James Tarbuton Jr. was a member of the Peanut Brigade, a Carter Center supporter, and member of the Carter Center Board of Councilors. He had a distinguished career in business, including as past president of the Georgia Railroad Association and former director

of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

The native of Sandersville, Ga., served as a director and founder of the American Shortline Railroad Association and co-founded B-H Transfer Company with his brother, Hugh.

He focused much of his time and energy on advancing educational causes and served on the board of trustees of Wesleyan College and Emory University's Oxford College. He was also a board member of the Technical College System of Georgia for 25 years, where he helped to guide the agency during a time of huge expansion.

Tarbutton served on many other Georgia public and corporate boards, including the State Board of Natural Resources and Industry and Trade, C&S National Bank, NationsBank of Georgia and AGL Resources.



Paul Hines Trulock

Paul Hines Trulock was an enthusiastic supporter of Jimmy Carter, starting with his activities in the Peanut Brigade. In addition to campaigning, he worked to influence several state caucuses at the 1976 convention. He followed President Carter's footsteps as a Georgia state senator for three terms and was a founder of the Decatur County Habitat for Humanity in 1989.

Trulock was a "liberal conservative"—liberal in his desire to help all underprivileged people, and conservative in not wanting to waste resources to accomplish worthwhile goals.

He built a successful career in farming as the owner of Farmer's Peanut Company, the founder and president of SOWEGA Cotton Gin, and president of the Georgia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee.

Trulock loved bird hunting more than any other outdoor activity and shared his many stories whenever hunters had the opportunity to meet, greet, and eat. His humor was always colorful. He never missed an opportunity to laugh at himself or with others over his jokes and great stories. He and his wife, Diane, expanded their horizons by traveling extensively throughout their 37 years of marriage.

The Rev. C.T. Vivian made a lasting mark on the civil rights movement. Over a long career, Vivian advised Jimmy Carter, and they shared the stage during a conference on racism at the World Baptist Alliance, where Vivian was the keynote speaker.

One of Martin Luther King Jr.'s most valuable



Rev. C.T. Vivian

lieutenants, Vivian was known for his intellect and philosophical reasoning, as well as his wit.

"All of us knew, from the beginning of our lives we knew, that we wanted to get rid of racism," Vivian told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "We were all ready for that, and I wanted to

be involved. It was not like a calling to the ministry, but a preparation for it." In 1961, after the initial Freedom Rides to challenge segregationist interstate transportation laws had collapsed in the face of threats and violence, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee—which Vivian was now a member of—took over and continued them. Those rides, which led to Vivian's being arrested and shipped to Mississippi's notorious Parchman Prison, marked the beginning of his major national movement work. In 1965, in his role as national director of affiliates for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, in Selma, Alabama, he confronted the local sheriff, a notorious segregationist named Jim Clark. "Whenever anyone does not have the right to vote, then every man is hurt," Vivian lectured the sheriff, adding that the only reason Clark retained the post was that he refused to let Black people vote. "You don't want them to register because you would no longer be able to use your brutality on them." Clark turned his back on Vivian, who was quick to use the slight to his advantage. "You can turn your back on me, but you cannot turn your back on the idea of justice. You can turn your back now, and you can keep the club in your hand, but you cannot beat down justice," Vivian said. Clark punched Vivian in the face. Instead of retaliating with violence or backing down, Vivian stood back up and faced Clark and the deputies again. "We're willing to be beaten for democracy, and you misuse democracy in the street," Vivian said, with blood streaming from his face. "You beat people bloody in order so they will not have the privilege to vote." Before being carted off to jail, he had 11 stitches put into his mouth, the Journal-Constitution reported. The voter registration campaign at the Dallas County Courthouse was followed by the march from Selma to Montgomery, both pivotal events in the passage, later that year, of the Voting Rights Act. In the summer of 2013, Vivian got a call from the White House. It was President Barack Obama, asking Vivian if he would accept the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

THE CARTER CENTER
One Copenhill
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THE
CARTER CENTER



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; Phone (404) 420-3809; 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.

To keep our records up to date, please provide your best email address and current phone number. Send to jay.beck@cartercenter.org.
