

THE Carter Mondale Letter

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Carter Created Sea Change in Executive Branch Appointments

President Carter appointed more women, African Americans, and Hispanics to judgeships and senior positions than all of his 38 predecessors combined, creating the most inclusive executive branch in the history of the federal government.

The appointments represented a sea change in the opportunities available to the majority of Americans. It was a change that set a standard that helped lead to today's

world—one in which such appointments are now seen as common and expected, both in the federal government and throughout the country.

Cabinet Secretaries and Other Executive Branch Appointees

President Carter doubled the number of women ever to hold a Cabinet post when he appointed three women to his Cabinet:

- Patricia Roberts Harris as secretary of housing and urban development, making her the first African American woman to fill a Cabinet post. He later named her as secretary of health, education, and welfare (which was renamed the Department of Health and Human Services during her tenure)
- Juanita Kreps as secretary of commerce
- Shirley Hufstедler as secretary of education

They were three of only six women who



Jimmy Carter Library

Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall swears in Patricia Roberts Harris as secretary of health, education, and welfare. She was the first Black woman to hold a Cabinet post.

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had ever served in Cabinet positions. The Franklin Roosevelt, Eisenhower, and Ford administrations each had one woman in their Cabinets.

President Carter named two African Americans to the Cabinet-level position of U.S. ambassador to the United Nations:

- Andrew Young, longtime civil rights leader and congressman, the first African American to hold that post
- Donald McHenry, a career diplomat, as Young's successor

By early 1980, women held 22% of President Carter's 2,110 appointments. These included the following:

- Three of the five women ever to have served as undersecretaries of a Cabinet department: Bette Beasley Anderson, undersecretary of the Treasury; Lucy Wilson Benson, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, then the highest State Department position ever held by a woman; and Antonia Handler Chayes, undersecretary of the Air Force
- 80% of all women ever to have served as assistant secretaries of Cabinet departments
- 40% of all women ever to have held an ambassadorial post

Other Women Appointees

When President Carter took office, no women had ever been appointed to the Federal Reserve Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. Carter named a woman to each of them. In addition, before Carter's presidency, no women had ever been the general counsel of a Cabinet department. Carter appointed women as the general counsel to six departments: Defense, Labor, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services.

Other Notable Appointees

- Clifford Alexander, first African American secretary of the Army
- James A. Joseph, first African American to serve as undersecretary of the Department of the Interior, the department's No. 2 position
- Drew S. Days III, former staff member of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and Temple University law professor, assistant attorney general for civil rights, the first African American to head any division of the Justice Department

- Ernest G. Green, a member of the Little Rock Nine (a group of students who in 1957 became the first African Americans to attend Little Rock High School in Arkansas), assistant secretary of the Department of Labor in charge of federal training (CETA)
- Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton, the first African American woman to chair the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Hon. Esteban Torres, appointed U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, and later as special assistant to President Carter for Hispanic affairs
- Esther Peterson, special assistant to President Carter for consumer affairs and director of the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs
- Hon. Alexis M. Herman, director of Women's Bureau, Department of Labor
- Louis E. Martin, longtime journalist and newspaper publisher who, given his activism in the civil rights movement, became known as the "Godfather of Black Politics," as special assistant to President Carter
- Azie Taylor Morton, treasurer of the United States, who remains the only African American to have held that office
- Valerie F. Pinson, special assistant to the president for congressional liaison, the first African American and the first woman to serve on the congressional relations staff of a president
- Annette Samuels, White House assistant press secretary, the first African American woman to be a spokesperson for a president

Federal Judges

President Carter appointed more minority and female judges to the federal judiciary than all previous presidents combined. His appointments had a dramatic impact on the diversity of the federal judicial system:

- Before Carter, only 31 minorities had ever been named to federal judgeships. He named 57.
- Before Carter, only eight women had ever been named to federal judgeships. He named 41.

When President Carter left office, he had appointed 41 of the 46 women serving as federal judges.



Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps is seen at far right during a 1978 Cabinet meeting with President Carter in the White House. President Carter appointed numerous women to important posts.

Some Carter judicial “firsts” included the following:

- First female African American U.S. Court of Appeals judge, Amalya Lyle Kearse
- First Hispanic U.S. Court of Appeals judge, Reynaldo Guerra Garza
- First Chinese American appointed to the federal judiciary, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Thomas Tang
- First female U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals judge, Helen Wilson Nies
- First female Hispanic District Court judge, Carmen Consuelo Cerezo
- First African American U.S. District Court judge in Alabama, U.W. Clemon; Georgia, Horace Ward; Maryland, Joseph

C. Howard Sr.; North Carolina, Richard Erwin; and South Carolina, Matthew Perry

There were no vacancies on the Supreme Court during President Carter’s term. He appointed two judges to U.S. Court of Appeals positions who were later elevated to the Supreme Court by President Clinton:

- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- Justice Stephen Breyer

While president, Carter characterized his appointment of a far greater number of women and minorities as “just the beginning.” Thanks to the groundwork laid by President Carter, today there are more than 360 female federal judges, including four on the Supreme Court.

Law School Unveils Portrait Honoring First Black Graduate

Chester Davenport's image to hang in school's iconic rotunda

by Lona Panter
University of Georgia School of Law

The University of Georgia School of Law recently unveiled the portrait of its first Black graduate, the late Chester C. Davenport, and the painting will hang in the law school's iconic rotunda that bears his name.

"Today we honor the first," Dean Peter B. "Bo" Rutledge said at the event. "When future students following in Chester's footsteps enter these halls for the first time, they [will] forever see Chester's name. They [will] forever see Chester's portrait. They [will] forever know that they belong here just like Chester did and just like Chester does now."

In addition to the law school community, members of the Davenport family, including Chester's daughter, CeCe, attended the unveiling.

"It's very interesting to think about, not only the legacy that he left from his life and his professional career, but just thinking about him as a father," CeCe Davenport said. "I was so fortunate to have not only a trailblazer but to have

someone who was ... my toughest critic and my fiercest advocate."

Describing her "incredible" father, she noted: "One thing that stands out is him saying, 'We have been in America, but we have not been of America.'

"We're of America now," she continued, "and we have to make sure we continue to be of America and live in a country that makes sure that ... everyone has the opportunity to do what they want to do."

She encouraged those in attendance to continue her father's legacy. "Stand up for yourself and stand up for others," she said. "Keep being trailblazers in your own way."

Davenport, who died in 2020, graduated from the School of Law in 1966 after remaining its only Black student during his three years at UGA. A native of Athens, he finished in the top 5% of his class and served as a founding member of the editorial board of the Georgia Law Review. After graduation he became an attorney in the tax division of the U.S. Department of Justice, served as a legislative assistant for California Sen. Alan Cranston and went on to be a part of President Jimmy Carter's transition team before receiving an appointment as an assistant secretary at the U.S. Department

of Transportation. In sum, Davenport had a 50-year-plus career serving in key roles in banking, finance, telecommunications, transportation and energy.

Since his passing, Davenport was posthumously awarded the UGA Alumni Association's oldest and highest honor, the Alumni Merit Award.

"Chester Davenport is the quintessential example of what is possible when the doors of education, particularly legal education, are open to all," UGA Senior Vice

Submitted via UGA Today



CeCe Davenport and School of Law Dean Bo Rutledge with Chester Davenport's portrait.



Law students Tia Brown, Celina Cotton, Jessica Davis, David Howell, Jordan Jackson, Erika Love, Garfield McIntyre, Natalya Moody, Justin Nixon, Akilah Parker, Julian Rheams and Cori Robinson pose with Chester Davenport's daughter CeCe and her uncle, Reginald Willis, in front of the portrait.

Provost Michelle Garfield Cook said. "His is a story of perseverance, brilliance, excellence and accomplishment; a true inspiration for UGA law students for generations to come."

Additionally, UGA President Jere W. Morehead and the School of Law established an additional scholarship fund in his honor with preference to support students who have graduated from Georgia-based historically Black colleges and universities and who share Davenport's characteristics

of academic excellence, courage, determination and a trailblazing spirit.

"I am grateful to President Morehead for his role in establishing this scholarship, and to the president and University Cabinet for their role in naming the rotunda after this special alumnus," Rutledge said.

Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from UGA Today, a digital publication from the University of Georgia.

I Threw a Party for the President-Elect

By David Smoak

Sometimes the only reward for a job well done is the satisfaction of knowing you did it right. Such was the case when I was assigned to plan and execute the election night victory party for Jimmy Carter in 1976.

Gov. Carter had ordered the campaign personnel not to divert any campaign resources to plan an election night party, as all resources were needed for the campaign. Richard Harden, the campaign's director of finance, came to me.

"Carter does not know about you, and we are not allowed to work at all on an election night party," Harden said, "so I want you to go and plan a party, and while you are thinking, think big."

Off I went with just my imagination and no idea of how to do this. The norm would have been to find a hotel ballroom and let them help me plan it. Atlanta was a busy convention town, so hotels were pretty booked up. While governor, Carter had acquired air rights over some rail tracks in downtown Atlanta, and the state was building a giant convention and exposition building downtown. It was called the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC). On the main exposition floor, one could lay the Eiffel Tower down and it would not come close to touching either end of the building.

I contacted the manager of the center and told him what I needed. There was a problem: A portion of the building was ready to open but the exposition center floor was not quite ready. He decided it could be made ready for this special event and he went to work on it. It seemed right to have Carter's victory party in a building he basically created, and that he would be one of the first to use it. The game was on for me. No one from the campaign was involved, but I did inform Harden of what I was planning in a general way. He said

nothing, so I proceeded.

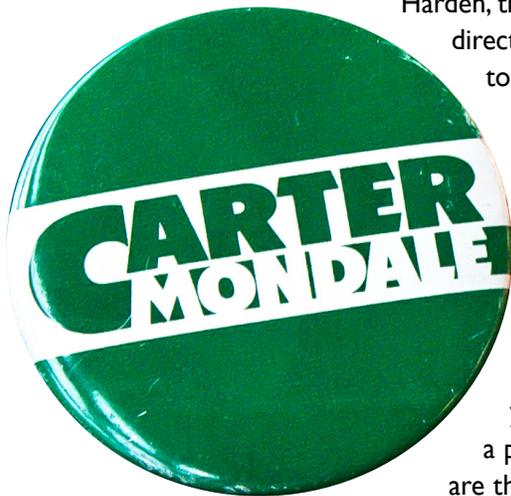
I worked with the GWCC staff to decide about a press room, campaign staff room, holding area for certain officials, what food and drink to serve, the flow of people into and out of the building, and a hundred other details.

Somehow the media found out about this, and WSB-TV came to see me at the GWCC. We agreed WSB could build a media stand in the center of the main room, where Jimmy Carter would come down and declare victory (assuming he won).

Soon the Secret Service came to see me, and I had to brief about eight agents on the plans. I told them the president-elect would have to cross a railroad track to get into and out of the building and that when I talked to the railroad people, they refused to say they would halt all trains on that track for the evening. One of the agents got up, walked down the tracks, and came back in about 15 minutes. He told the group all trains would be stopped that evening. I was an impressed 29-year-old CPA!

Three or four days before the election, some in the campaign heard about my efforts and came to see me. They were astounded at all that had been done. They were also angry that I had given WSB-TV rights on the floor and said they would now have to figure out how to handle the rest of the media. People I had never heard of — Jerry Rafshoon, Barry Jagoda, and others — began making demands of me: Cancel this place and let's go get a ballroom that will hold 5,000 people so it will look packed for the media, they said. I calmly refused. They said, "This place will be an embarrassment and look empty." I rented Atlanta's new subway system for the night so that all rides to and from the GWCC station were free. Other objections I basically ignored. What were they going to do? Fire me? I was a volunteer. The media was hyping this every day, especially WSB! I believed we would have a good crowd.

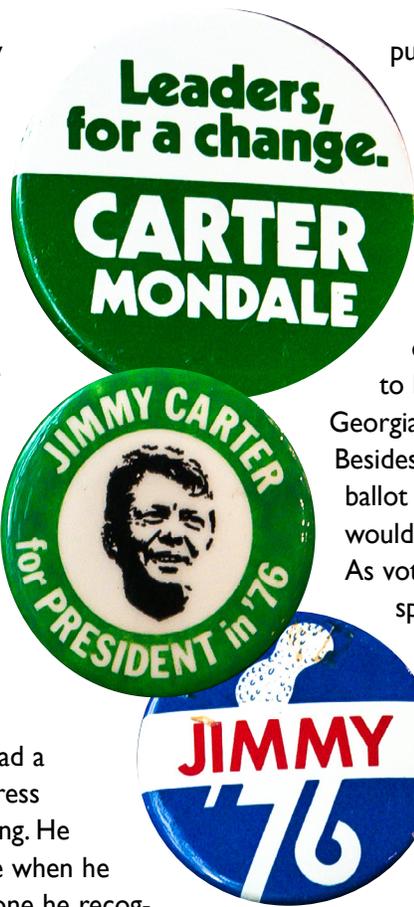
With the plan so far along and the logistics in place with the Secret Service and all, they decided they had no choice but to go



along. They made it clear, though, that they would all blame me for the disaster to come. The site adjoined the Omni Hotel, and we had reserved the Presidential Suite and many other rooms for the night. Of course, the president-elect would not stay in the Presidential Suite, so they gave it to me. The Carters would stay in a small undisclosed suite on a different floor, one that was to be shut off to others.

Well, we had 30,000 people inside the building on election night when the fire marshal closed the entry doors. We had another 30,000 outside who could not get in. We asked Carter friend Bert Lance to go outside with a bullhorn and tell people what was going on and to blame the fire marshal. He did.

A good friend of mine, Roy Chalker, had a press pass to the event and went into a press room where there was a small food offering. He had a plate and was going through the line when he looked across the table and he saw someone he recognized. "I know you," he said. "You are... you are... um...." The other man put down his plate, grabbed up all of his hair and



pulled it up onto the top of his head. Then Chalker exclaimed, "Samurai Reporter!" It was "Saturday Night Live" star John Belushi, who was there with Dan Aykroyd as press for someone, I think Rolling Stone magazine.

We had a room set aside for officials. (We could not have a VIP room of any kind or any designation of "VIP" anywhere, as Mr. Carter did not approve of that. We were all important to him.) I sat in this room for a little while with Georgia Gov. George Busbee and his wife, Mary Beth. Besides the presidential vote, on the Nov. 2 election ballot was a change to the Georgia Constitution that would allow a governor to run for a second term. As votes came in, George Busbee was staring off into space and his wife poked him and said, "George, it passed!" He snapped to attention, a big smile broke out on his face, and they promptly got up and left. This was about three hours before the Carters came down.

President-elect Carter would not come down to claim victory until CBS declared him the winner about 3 a.m. on Nov. 3. I did feel bad about the 30,000 that could not get in initially. Some got in later as others left, but many of them went home to watch on TV.



Carter campaign volunteer David Smoak recalls planning an election night party in 1976 at the brand-new Georgia World Congress Center in downtown Atlanta. The facility is still at the heart of the city's convention scene today.

‘We are family’: Georgian Reflects on Lifetime of Work with the Carters

Bernstine Hollis took leap of faith to White House before 40 years at Carter Center

By Ernie Suggs
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Who knows where Bernstine W. Hollis would be had her mother, Mary Wright Minion, not answered the phone.

Four of Minion’s five children already had established careers, but the 21-year-old Hollis, who had just gotten a business administration degree from South Georgia Technical and Vocational School, was having a hard time finding a job.

In 1977, there were not many good options for a Black woman in Plains or nearby Americus.

“No one wanted to hire me because I had no experience,” Hollis said. “My response was, ‘How will I get experience if no one wants to hire me?’”

The phone call that day was from the White House.

Jimmy Carter had just been elected president of the United States and wanted to take as much of Plains as he could with him to Washington.

Carter wanted to know whether any of the five children wanted to come work in the White House.

Minion had grown up with the Carters, and her husband, Leonard Wright Sr., was a share-cropper who farmed with Jimmy Carter on Carter-owned land.

Minion told them that Hollis was coming.

In March 1977, Hollis took a job at the White House, staying through the Carter administration before moving to Atlanta to help build the Carter Center, as one of its first employees.

This past week, the Carter Center marked its 40th

anniversary. On Saturday, Jimmy Carter celebrated his 98th birthday.

Hollis is still working with the Carters, stretching a family connection that goes back more than 100 years.

“Bern was hesitant at first, but we thought it was an opportunity of a lifetime,” said the 92-year-old Minion, who still lives in Plains. “She was a young, shy Black girl who was a little stubborn. But if she had blown this opportunity, she probably wouldn’t have gotten any more.”

No Fanfare Necessary

Hollis’ office, where she works as a senior accountant at the sprawling Carter Center campus, is just outside the balcony of the facility’s chapel.

It’s almost hidden, which is how she likes it. She is still shy and seems reluctant to tell her story or draw attention to herself, choosing to stay in the background.

Occasionally, she will grab a book, take her shoes off, sit in the chapel and read — usually a novel or the Bible.

On nice days, she walks the grounds of the center,



Arvin Temkar

Bernstine W. Hollis poses for a portrait at The Carter Center in Atlanta. Hollis is one of the Center’s first employees, and her history with the Center stretches back to her childhood in Plains.

looking for a quiet bench near the koi pond.

She often quotes Scripture and teaches Sunday school at the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, where she has been an active member since 1981.

Associates and co-workers were hard-pressed to know that Hollis even has a relationship with the Carters.

“I never found it necessary to push my way through or fight for being first or out front,” said Hollis, 66. “I am reminded of passages of Scripture that we are not to exalt ourselves, for God will do the exalting.”

Three years ago, at an “Up Close and Personal” staff event attended by the Carters, it was Hollis’ turn to tell her life story.

After she spoke, Jimmy Carter got up and continued the story about the two families’ long-standing relationship.

Carter then asked her to sit down with him and Rosalynn Carter for the meal. They talked about old times.

Often asked about when she first met the Carters, Hollis doesn’t have a definitive answer.

“I have known them all my life,” Hollis said. “I don’t remember not knowing them.”

Farming, Mud Cakes and Babysitting

Hollis was born in Webster County on a farm owned by the Carters, as were all of her siblings.

Her name, Bernstine, is a variation of her Aunt Ernestine’s name and means “bold and beautiful,” she said.

Today, people assume it is her last name or that she is a white Jewish woman. Everyone simply calls her “Bern.”

Minion’s mother and Jimmy Carter’s mother, Lillian, were nurses together. Hollis’ father and Jimmy’s father, James Earl Carter Sr., worked together.

Minion and Jimmy’s sister, Ruth, made mud cakes together. She also often babysat Jimmy’s brother, Billy.

“We are family,” Minion said of the Carters. “The only thing I can say was different is the skin color. Lillian Carter was like a mother to me.”

In 1957, the family moved from Webster County to a Carter farm in Plains. They were among about 30 Black families who worked for the Carters or as area sharecroppers. The future president was in and out of the Wright house pretty much every day.

When one of Hollis’ sisters needed help getting medical assistance for kidney disease, the Carters stepped in. In 1982, when the Wrights wanted to build a house in Plains, the Carters gifted them the land.

“I didn’t think much about it, because it was normal,” said

‘I just want to walk worthy of what I am called to do. Being fruitful and making sure what I do is meaningful to the people.’

–Bernstine W. Hollis

Hollis, who made extra money in high school babysitting Amy Carter, Jimmy and Rosalynn’s daughter. “He was a farmer in Plains. An individual coming into our home.”

From Plains to the White House

In 1975, just a year after graduating from Plains High School, Hollis started working on the Carter presidential campaign under Maxine Reese, who organized the Peanut Brigade, Carter’s southwest Georgia supporters.

She was stationed at the now-famous Plains Railroad Depot, which became the Plains campaign headquarters, and she would travel through Georgia with Carter’s mother, Lillian, on campaign stops.

After the election, Hollis packed her one bag and headed to D.C. Until moving to Washington in March 1977, the farthest Hollis had been outside of Georgia was to Jacksonville, Florida.

“I was afraid but not afraid,” Hollis said. “Plus, I didn’t have anything else to do.”

In the White House, Hollis initially worked in Rosalynn Carter’s correspondence office, proofing speeches and letters. Three months later, she transferred to the president’s office.

She initially stayed with relatives, until she found her own apartment. But the fast pace of Washington challenged her.

She had to learn how to pay bills and shop for groceries. On the farm, her family grew all of their food. The stress caused her to lose weight.

“I can recall standing in the window of my apartment one day talking to my parents on the phone,” Hollis said. “I told them that I wanted to come home or I would jump out the window.”

She did neither, and she survived Carter’s four-year term in the White House by learning how to make new friends and becoming heavily involved in her church and a radio choir.

Planting Roots in Atlanta

After Carter lost the 1980 election, Hollis asked herself whether she wanted to stay in Washington, move back home

to Plains or find a new life in Atlanta.

Before she could make a decision, she got another phone call, this time asking whether she would be part of Carter's transition team back to Atlanta as he started to focus on his post-presidency and building the Carter Center.

"That was the answer to another prayer," Hollis said. In her final days at the White House, a man she had recently met, Charles Hollis, a widower with two little children, flew to Washington to help drive a U-Haul back to Atlanta.

Six years later, in 1986, they were married. Shortly after the wedding, the couple visited the Carters at the Plains home.

"He always called me Charles, which made me feel good that a former president would call and know my name," Charles Hollis said of Jimmy Carter. "But that day, he looked me in the eyes and said, 'If you harm one hair on Bern's head, I am gonna send the army, the air force, the marines and the navy after you.' I told him that I was gonna treat her like a queen."

Initially, Hollis oversaw volunteers who handled Carter's mail. When the Carter Center opened in 1982, Hollis came over to work in the finance office. Today, she makes sure gifts

and donations to the center are deposited into the correct causes.

On a recent afternoon at the center, Hollis' shyness vanished during a photo assignment.

She teased the photographer and struck several poses at her favorite spots throughout the center. On one occasion, she reclined on a bench like an Ebony Fashion Fair model.

"Nervous energy," she said. "I just want to walk worthy of what I am called to do. Being fruitful and making sure what I do is meaningful to the people."

She has been spending more time at home taking care of Charles, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, and playing with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. But she is not ready to think about retirement.

"It could have been anyone, but I was the chosen one," Hollis said. "I am grateful that I took advantage of the opportunity.

Had I not taken it, I am not sure where my life would have taken me."

Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Carter Achieves Longevity Records

President Carter's lifespan has led to four longevity-related records:

- **Longest-Living Team:** On May 23, 2006, President Carter and his vice president, Walter F. Mondale, became the longest-living post-administration president and vice president team in U.S. history. The pair had lived 25 years and 123 days after leaving the White House, which is one



Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary in 2016.

day longer than President John Adams and Vice President Thomas Jefferson lived after leaving office. Adams and Jefferson both died, just hours apart, on July 4, 1826. Vice President Mondale died on April 19, 2021.

- **Longest Period as a Former President:** Sept. 8, 2012, marked President Carter's 11,544th day as a former president, making him the president who lived longest after leaving office. Herbert Hoover formerly held the record.
- **Longest-Lived President:** On March 22, 2019, President Carter became the nation's longest-lived president, exceeding the lifespan of George H.W. Bush, who died at the age of 94 years, 171 days.
- **Longest-Married Presidential Couple:** On October 17, 2019, President and Mrs. Carter became the longest-married presidential couple at 26,765 days, more than 73 years. They exceeded the number of days the late George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush had been married when she died on April 17, 2018.

Carter, Pepper Struck a Blow Against Age Discrimination

By Robert Weiner

President Carter teamed up with septuagenarian U.S. Rep. Claude Pepper to address age discrimination in America.

Pepper (D-Florida) was chairman of the House Select Committee on Aging and national co-chair of Senior Citizens for Carter. Together, they proposed legislation that would end the mandatory retirement age in government service and raise the mandatory retirement age from 65 to 70 in the private sector. They later pushed a second bill banning all age-based forced retirement in private and public except in certain high-risk jobs.

With assistance by Rosalynn Carter in setting it up, President Carter met with the 30 members of the House Select Committee on Aging on July 15, 1977, at the White House.

The president expressed support for the Anti-Mandatory Retirement Bill, which he ultimately signed into law on April 6, 1978. President Carter said that his mother, Miss Lillian, demonstrated “every day that those who are past the age of 65 or even more can live a healthy, productive, and very inspiring life.”

Pepper, who was 77 at the time President Carter signed the bill, said that had he been forced to retire at 65, “I don’t know if I’d be alive today.” He called the White House meeting historic, “giving impetus to help millions of elderly.”

About the Author: Robert Weiner was chief of staff for Rep. Claude Pepper. Weiner was a 1976 Carter/Mondale campaign aide in the Atlanta national headquarters, member of the Clinton and Bush White House staff, and is currently head of an op-ed writing group recruiting young journalists; it won the National Press Club President’s Award. National Press Club member Ben Lasky contributed to this story.



President Carter meets at the White House with members of the House Select Committee on Aging, July 15, 1977. From left, Rep. Fred Rooney, Mildred Pepper, Committee Chairman Claude Pepper, President Carter, committee Chief of Staff Robert Weiner, White House Counselor on Aging Nelson Cruikshank, and Rep. Ed Roybal.

Naval Academy Visitors Reflect on Alum Jimmy Carter

By Tia Mitchell
The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—On the campus of the U.S. Naval Academy, families and Boy Scouts spent Presidents Day touring the school's historic buildings and majestic chapel. The last stop of the official tour is an obelisk at the center of campus where first-year midshipmen will soon celebrate being “plebes no more.”

It is an institution steeped in history where most of the students still reside in a single dormitory: Bancroft Hall. And on the main floor of that building is a tribute to one of its most famous alums, former President Jimmy Carter.

Carol and Greg Gifford had traveled from their home outside of Washington to meet up with their son and his family for an official tour of the campus. They had seen the portraits of Carter and reflected on his ties to the institution.

In February, The Carter Center announced that the former president decided to forgo further medical treatments and enter hospice. Now, the Giffords said, it also is a time to think about what Carter means to the country.

“They’ve given the ultimate service, in a sense, of directing our country in many different trials and situations,” Carol Gifford said. “And given up their personal life to be able to serve the United States of America.”

In Bancroft Hall, beneath the photo of Carter the midshipmen and another of Carter the president, is a short biography that traces his life, including an early graduation



The U.S. Navy announced recently that a building on the Naval Academy's campus in Annapolis, Maryland, has been renamed in honor of former president Jimmy Carter, an alum.

from the academy in 1946, an acceleration caused by the war. Carter went to work on the Navy's first nuclear submarines, and because of his expertise he was sent to Canada in 1952 to respond to a nuclear reactor meltdown, The Washington Post reported.

But the former midshipman from rural Georgia would have just a short career on active duty.

Carter resigned in 1953 to take over the family's peanut business after his father died, although he would remain a reservist for several more years. That change set the course for a political career that started in the Georgia Senate and continued to the governor's office and eventually the White House.

A short walk from Bancroft Hall but on a quieter side of the campus is a building that for decades carried the name of

Tia Mitchell

a naval oceanographer who resigned his commission to join the Confederacy. Just recently, that building was renamed in tribute to Carter.

Carter Hall is now marked with a brand-new plaque at its door and a sign on the lawn with shiny gold letters. It's not a stop on the campus tour, and since no classes were held on Presidents Day the building was quiet.

Jim Taggart, a Navy veteran from Levittown, N.Y., decided to spend the holiday checking out the campus for the first time. He toured the dining hall and stopped by the gift shop to purchase a sweatshirt.

Taggart remembers when Carter was president and the controversy he faced during the Iran hostage crisis. And then Carter embarked on a post-presidency highlighted by work for Habitat for Humanity and other philanthropic endeavors.

"It's a period to look back and see his presidency, and

'They've given the ultimate service, in a sense, of directing our country in many different trials and situations.'

–Carol Gifford

his time serving his country as a naval officer, and his time after being president," Taggart said. "What he did to make the world a better place."

About the Author: Tia Mitchell is the Washington correspondent for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. In this role, she writes about Georgia's congressional delegation, campaigns, elections and the impact that decisions made in D.C. have on residents of the Peach State.

Seeking Senator's Approval Proves a Hairy Proposition

By Terry Adamson

Early in the Carter-Mondale Justice Department, Jim Moorman was recommended for the Lands and Natural Resources Division, where he became a top-flight assistant attorney general. Moorman had been general counsel of the Sierra Club before the 1976 election and later had a strong career in environmental law at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft. He had a full, long beard and was liked at the department as he awaited confirmation.

Sen. James Eastland (D-Mississippi), then chair of the Judiciary Committee, had pledged to Attorney General Griffin Bell, Charles Kirbo, and President-elect Carter at an Atlanta meeting held at the Governor's Mansion before the inauguration that he would confirm all their DOJ appointments so long as Bell vouched for them personally. Eastland's promise was fully honored for many DOJ and judicial nominees—African American, Hispanic, and women—during the first two years while Eastland was chair of the Judiciary Committee.

Bell was nervous about how Eastland would respond to Moorman's long, bushy beard (and not the Sierra Club). So, he kept finding excuses not to take Moorman to the Senate to meet Eastland and vouch for him. Finally, when they could not postpone it any further, he grabbed Moorman and headed to the Hill. Bell didn't like to make appointments with Eastland,

preferring instead to just show up.

When they arrived at Eastland's office, Bell began talking to Eastland's longtime personal assistant, a Mississippian who guarded the sanctum and whom Bell knew quite well. Bell asked if the chairman was busy and the assistant responded, "He's just got some visiting bankers from Mississippi in there, and he would love for you to drop in."

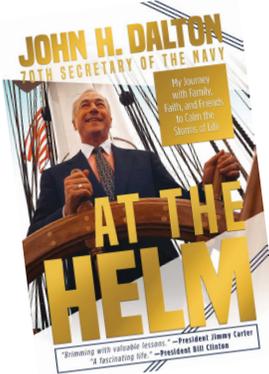
Bell tried to demur, doubly dubious about taking Moorman and his beard in with both the bankers and Eastland. But Eastland's assistant insisted and grabbed Bell by the arm to usher him in. Bell gulped and charged ahead, pulling Moorman with him. Eastland greeted Bell with his usual enthusiastic embrace and said he wanted Bell to meet the president of the Mississippi Bankers Association—who had a full, long beard. Bell all but hugged him and proceeded to introduce Moorman to him and to Eastland.

Moorman was promptly confirmed.

About the Author: Terry Adamson, who was special assistant to Attorney General Griffin Bell, and Lois Schiffer, who then worked at the Department of Justice and later served as the assistant attorney general of the Lands and Natural Resources Division of DOJ, recently shared this story.



BOOK CLUB



At the Helm

By John Dalton

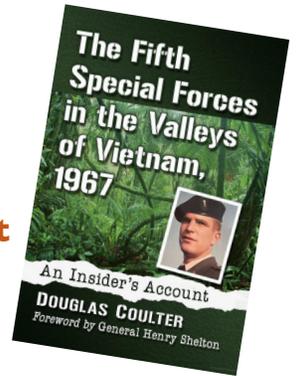
“At the Helm” is the memoir of former Secretary of the Navy John Dalton. It covers his early years, time at the U.S. Naval Academy, service aboard two submarines, meeting Gov. Jimmy Carter in 1975 and becoming a part of his

presidential administration, four presidential appointments requiring Senate confirmation, service as secretary of the Navy and life after that, and marriage to Margaret and the family they raised together. It includes the good, the bad, and the ugly of a life that Dalton considers blessed and has been encouraged to share.

The Fifth Special Forces in the Valleys of Vietnam, 1967: An Insider's Account

By Douglas Coulter

In 1966, U.S. Army Special Forces were pushed out of the A Shau Valley by the North Vietnamese Army. In 1967, Douglas Coulter, serving with the Fifth Special Forces Group, led five-man reconnaissance teams into A Shau to discover whether NVA and Viet Cong troops were marshaling for an attack on the ancient city of Hue. Coulter’s clear-eyed memoir recalls nighttime helicopter insertions and deep-jungle patrols miles behind enemy lines. Coulter blames the cruel narcissism of U.S. moral and military superiority as the underlying cause of the Vietnam War.



Passages



Dr. Elizabeth Bailey

Dr. Elizabeth Bailey was the first woman appointed to the Civil Aeronautics Board. The Republican economist was appointed by Democratic President Jimmy Carter. (The board was required to have two members of the minority party.)

President Carter was interested in deregulating the airlines, and he was impressed by Bailey’s credentials and the record she had built working at Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, N.J., where she led an economics research group.

Bailey said she had been impressed with President Carter’s vetting process.

“I was one of four Republican women on the list,” she told The Asbury Park Press of New Jersey in 1977. “What I liked was that the president didn’t want to appoint me until he had met me. He wanted to see if I had the energy to do the job and the courage it takes to make tough decisions.”

Carolyn Long Banks was a trailblazing civil rights activist and Atlanta City Council member. A fourth-generation Atlantan, Banks was one of the founders of the Atlanta Student Movement. She also worked with the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on An Appeal for Human Rights,



Carolyn Long Banks

a 1960 manifesto that outlined the Black community’s problems.

Banks was appointed to the Atlanta City Council to succeed Marvin Arrington Sr. and was reelected several times. She served as president of the National League of Cities in 1994 and left office in 1997.

Banks graduated from Atlanta’s Henry McNeil Turner High School, Clark College, now Clark Atlanta University, and Georgia State University.

Banks had a long list of achievements. She was the first Black buyer for Rich’s Department Store. She served on the Commission on the Status of Women at the request of then-Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter.

During her term as president of the National League of Cities, Banks helped shape the country’s municipal legislative agenda, testified before Congress, and met regularly with President Bill Clinton. She was also president of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials and Women in Municipal Government. Annually, while in elective office, she counseled first-time elected municipal officials at Harvard University.

Banks was presented with an award by President Joe Biden for her community service.

Senate Resolution 213

By: Senator Orrock of the 36th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mary Wilson Beazley; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Mary Wilson Beazley on November 27, 2022; and

4 WHEREAS, Mary Wilson Beazley was born on November 8, 1929, in Athens, Georgia, a
5 beloved daughter of Myrtice Bowers Wilson and James Hunter Wilson; and

6 WHEREAS, she enjoyed an extraordinary 46-year career in government at the state and
7 federal level, serving in eight administrations and, at the height of her career, in the executive
8 office of the 39th United States president; and

9 WHEREAS, in retirement, she served for 28 consecutive years as a Carter Center volunteer
10 and participated as part of both Concerto Group Atlanta Symphony Associates and her
11 church, further demonstrating her dedication to excellence through service; and

12 WHEREAS, she was united in love and marriage to her husband, Herschel, and was blessed
13 with two remarkable children, Herschel Jr. and Benjamin, as well as two wonderful
14 grandchildren, Wilson and Elliott; and

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- 1 -

15 WHEREAS, she gave inspiration to many through her high ideals, morals, and deep concern
16 for her fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding she demonstrated to
17 her family and friends were admired by others; and

18 WHEREAS, she was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
19 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example she made of her life,
20 she made this world a better place in which to live; and

21 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Mary Wilson Beazley will long be
22 remembered for her love of the great State of Georgia as well as her devotion to her family
23 and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing her.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 GEORGIA that the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mary
26 Wilson Beazley and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
28 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Mary
29 Wilson Beazley.

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The Georgia Senate passed a resolution honoring the life and memory of Mary Wilson Beazley.



Mary Wilson
Beazley

Mary Wilson Beazley's extraordinary 46-year career in government at the state and federal level began in 1959 after her family moved to Atlanta. She served in eight administrations—two lieutenant governors, four governors, one U.S. senator, and one president: Jimmy Carter.

In retirement, Mary had a remarkable record of activity, most notably 28 years of service as a Carter Center volunteer, as well as participating in Concerto Group, Atlanta Symphony Associates, and her church.



Donald Blinken

Donald Blinken was a financier, patron of the arts, and Democratic Party donor who became an ambassador. He was the father of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Donald Mayer Blinken was appointed ambassador to Hungary by President Bill Clinton in 1994. It was not long after the

fall of the Soviet Union, and Blinken promoted democracy, integration with the West, and the construction of a market economy.

Before he became ambassador, Blinken's government postings included membership in a judicial nominating panel named by President Jimmy Carter and appointments to the State University of New York's board by Gov. Hugh L. Carey and Gov. Mario M. Cuomo.

Blinken's career took off in 1966, when he co-founded the investment group E.M. Warburg, Pincus & Company. He remained associated with the company until being appointed ambassador.

In his early 30s, Blinken met the artist Mark Rothko and entered a scene of emerging artists before they became famous.

"These important artists actually enjoyed sharing their ideas with a beginning collector," he wrote in a 2017 article for *The Financial Times*. "Living with their art for six

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decades has been a pleasure, but the experience of visiting artists' studios and talking about art—that was an enriching, privileged education, briefly available then, perhaps impossible now.”

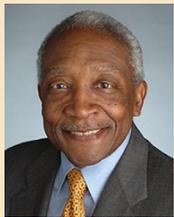


Dave Bolen

Olympian **Dave Bolen** was fourth in the 400-meter race at the 1948 Games in London.

Following his retirement from athletic competition, Bolen embarked on a lengthy career in foreign relations and was appointed by President Richard Nixon to serve as the U.S. ambassador to Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland in 1974. In 1977, he became the first African American to be named ambassador to the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) when appointed by President Jimmy Carter. Bolen also served as the deputy assistant secretary of state, Bureau of African Affairs, and worked to free Nelson Mandela from prison.

“There are two positions that I’ve had that nobody can take away from me,” Bolen said. “I’m an Olympian, and I’m an ambassador. I believe I contributed a great deal to my country.”



Walter D. Broadnax

Walter D. Broadnax, Distinguished Professor of Public Administration and International Affairs at The Maxwell School of Syracuse University and former president of Clark Atlanta University, led a life of public service.

Broadnax joined the Carter administration in 1980 as the principal deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, which became the Department of Health and Human Services. He was senior staff member for the Advanced Study Program of the Brookings Institution. In 1981, he joined the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, where he chaired the Massachusetts Executive Development Program and was founding director of the innovations in state and local government programs. In 1987, Broadnax was appointed president of the New York Civil Service Commission. In 1992, he served on the Harvard South Africa Program team and as a transition team leader for President Clinton. In 1993, he served as president of the Center for Governmental Research, and from 1993 to 1996, Broadnax worked as deputy secretary and COO of

the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He also worked as a professor at the University of Maryland and dean of public affairs at American University.

In 2002, Broadnax became president of Clark Atlanta University. Under his leadership, Clark Atlanta University became the only private historically Black college or university classified as a doctoral/research-intensive institution by the Carnegie Foundation. Broadnax served on Colin Powell’s U.S. Secretary of State management advisory board, Controller General of the United States David Walker’s Advisory Board and NASA’s Return to Flight Task Force.



John Y. Brown Jr.

John Y. Brown Jr. was a born salesman who became a multimillionaire by transforming Kentucky Fried Chicken into a global brand and then sold himself to voters in a six-week TV blitz to become Kentucky’s governor.

A prodigious Democratic fund-raiser, Brown, a son of a former Kentucky congressman and state legislator, considered a run for the United States Senate before deciding against it at the last minute and then gauged a bid for governor in 1975 before again declining to join the race.

In 1979, Brown plunged into a six-week television campaign for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination and defeated several candidates. He then easily defeated Louie B. Nunn, a former Republican governor, that November.

After completing his term in December 1983, Brown entered Kentucky’s 1984 Democratic primary for a U.S. Senate seat but withdrew six weeks later, citing health concerns.

Brown earned a bachelor’s degree in 1957 and a law degree in 1960, both from the University of Kentucky, and served in the Army Reserve from 1959 to 1965. He was married for 13 years to former Miss America and CBS sportscaster Phyllis George.

Entrepreneurial by instinct, in high school Brown had made up to \$1,000 a month in commissions in a summer job peddling vacuum cleaners, and as much as \$25,000 a year selling the Encyclopaedia Britannica during law school.

Elizabeth Ann (Beth) Byrd had an illustrious career beginning in 1967 as an intelligence research analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. She worked as the executive and administrative assistant to U.S. Rep. James Mann of South Carolina, and in 1978,



Elizabeth Ann (Beth) Byrd

she joined the Office of Congressional Liaison for the Carter administration. In 1981, she became executive assistant and office manager for Rep. Wayne Dowdy of Mississippi. In 1989, she worked as an executive assistant to Sen. David L. Boren of Oklahoma. In ending her career, she became district office manager for Sen.

Strom Thurmond in Charleston, South Carolina.

During her earlier career travels, Beth took time to work in Hawaii as a travel agent, in Lake Tahoe as a blackjack dealer, and in the security division at Rich's Department Store in Atlanta.

After retirement, Beth moved back home to Edgefield, South Carolina, where she became actively involved in her church, The Episcopal Church of the Ridge. She also took an active role in animal rescue, becoming a member and officer for All God's Creatures, as well as being active in civic and community projects.



Calvin Wallace Carter

Calvin Wallace Carter was appointed in 1978 to serve as vice chair of the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation by President Jimmy Carter. He was also appointed to the Hillsborough County (Florida) Civil Service Board, City of Tampa Variance Zoning Commission, and the Arts Council

of Tampa-Hillsborough County. He served on the original planning committee, the first Board of Trustees, and later, on the Operating Board of Directors of the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts (formerly known as the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center). He served as a board member of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Tampa Museum of Art, American Cancer Society and the Tampa Yacht and Country Club.

Calvin was the recipient of Tampa Jaycees' Outstanding Young Man of the Year award, the President's Award from the Tampa Chamber of Commerce, and the Governor's Award for his efforts to promote historic preservation in Florida.

Benjamin R. Civiletti, President Jimmy Carter's last attorney general, helped navigate the final 17 months of an administration besieged by the Iranian hostage crisis.

Civiletti was born in Peekskill, N.Y., on July 17, 1935. He graduated from the Irving School in Tarrytown, N.Y.,



Benjamin R. Civiletti

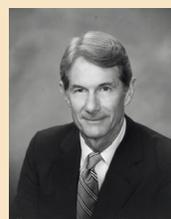
in 1953, and earned a bachelor's degree at Johns Hopkins University in 1957 and a law degree from the University of Maryland in 1961.

After a year as a law clerk for Judge W. Calvin Chesnut of the United States District Court in Maryland, Civiletti was an assistant federal prosecutor in Baltimore from 1962 to 1964. He then joined the large law firm of Venable, Baetjer and Howard in Baltimore (now Venable LLP). He became a partner two years later, in charge of civil and criminal litigation.

His work on an antitrust case impressed Charles H. Kirbo, an advisor to Jimmy Carter when he was governor of Georgia. After Carter won the presidency in 1976, Kirbo recommended Civiletti for a top Justice Department post. Civiletti joined the Justice Department soon after President Carter took office and served as the attorney general from 1979 to 1981.

After leaving the government in 1981, Mr. Civiletti returned to his former law firm in Baltimore.

Richard "Dick" Alden Denny Jr. enjoyed a long and



Richard "Dick" Alden Denny Jr.

distinguished career as a partner at the Atlanta law firm King and Spalding, where he was instrumental in founding the real estate department. He was a supporter of Jimmy Carter in his run for governor, and he and his wife were early supporters in Carter's campaign for president, traveling twice to New Hampshire to campaign on his behalf as members of the Peanut Brigade. In fact, the Peanut Brigade was first announced at a Carter rally in the backyard of the Dennys' home.

Denny was born in Atlanta, attended E. Rivers School and Boys High in Atlanta, The Darlington School in Rome, Georgia, Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, and served in the United States Navy Reserves during the Korean War. Throughout his life, he was an active member of social clubs and civic endeavors, including serving as a member of the Carter Center's Board of Councilors.

Charles W. Duncan Jr. got into the energy business as a young Texas roustabout digging pipeline ditches in 1947, and at the height of America's oil-shortage crisis in 1979 became President Jimmy Carter's secretary of energy.

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Duncan was born in Houston and graduated from Sewanee Military Academy in Tennessee before earning a chemical engineering degree from Rice University.

He became the president of Coca-Cola, and in Atlanta got to know Georgia's governor, Jimmy Carter. They liked each other and saw eye to eye on many forward-looking issues.



Charles W. Duncan Jr.

After Carter became president in 1977, he named Duncan deputy secretary of defense under Harold Brown. As deputy, Duncan notably asked Congress to end the ban on women in combat, raising the prospect of female volunteers flying fighter planes, joining infantry units, and serving aboard destroyers and aircraft carriers—realities that were decades away.

In 1979, President Carter chose Duncan to serve as the second energy secretary. The Senate swiftly confirmed him. Duncan was even-tempered, businesslike, and a superb manager who soon established a good rapport with Democratic leaders in Congress.

In November 1979, when followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seized American hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Duncan and President Carter put America on an energy diet, imposing oil-import quotas and filling shortages with domestic resources, like coal reserves. They won funds from Congress for a synthetic fuels corporation to produce gasohol for cars, using gasoline, wood chips, corn, and alcohol.

They offered loan and price guarantees to get private industry involved and tax breaks to weatherize homes. No mandatory cuts in gasoline usage were ordered, to the relief of motorists. Lines at the pump began to fade. Energy shortages continued but proved less serious than anticipated.



Dr. Margaret Giannini

Dr. Margaret Giannini, an internationally recognized expert in the care of people with disabilities, was the catalyst behind what is now the Westchester Institute for Human Development in Valhalla, N.Y., one of the world's largest facilities for people with developmental disabilities.

While a pediatric oncologist at New York Medical College in 1950, Giannini decided to start a clinic that

would focus exclusively on children with a range of disabilities. That year, she founded the Mental Retardation Institute in East Harlem, which she said was the first of its kind in the country.

Giannini's work at the Mental Retardation Institute, of which she was director from 1950 to 1978, drew the attention of President Carter, who appointed her the first director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (now the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research).

President George W. Bush named her the principal deputy assistant secretary for aging at the Department of Health and Human Services. There she got to know Tommy Thompson, the secretary of the department, who appointed her director of the department's office on disability in 2002.

"She wanted to make sure that people who were underprivileged or had a handicap had the same chance as anybody else," Thompson told *The New York Times*. "She was a constant doer, always in motion, always doing something for somebody else."



William L. "Bill" Harper

William L. "Bill" Harper was a former assistant attorney general in the Georgia state Law Department; former executive counsel to Governors Jimmy Carter and George Busbee; and former U. S. attorney for the Northern District of Georgia during Carter's presidential administration.



Thomas Hsieh

Former San Francisco Supervisor **Thomas Hsieh** was regarded as a hero and a trailblazer for Chinese Americans in local politics.

Born as Kuo Shang Hsieh in Beijing on Nov. 17, 1931, Hsieh and his family fled to Taiwan in 1948 amid the Chinese Revolution. With only \$400, a suitcase and his guitar, Hsieh immigrated to San Francisco in 1951 to study in the United States. He received his Master of Architecture degree in 1959. He later set up his own architecture agency.

Hsieh made history as the first Chinese American ever to be elected in a citywide election, after which he served as the San Francisco supervisor from 1986 to 1997.

Hsieh, a supporter of former President Jimmy Carter, raised money for his campaign. The former supervisor was

also among those chosen to greet the former president on the airport tarmac during his visit to San Francisco.

Hsieh's support for Carter later led to his becoming the founding national chair of the first Asian Pacific Caucus of the Democratic National Committee in 1978, later serving as the vice chair of the California Democratic Party.



James Alfred Joseph

James Alfred Joseph was a former civil rights activist who served as U.S. ambassador to South Africa. He served four presidential administrations, from Jimmy Carter to Bill Clinton.

Joseph graduated in 1956 from Southern University with a degree in political science and social studies. He served two years in a military medical corps before enrolling in Yale Divinity School, where he received a master's degree in divinity in 1963. After graduation, he was commissioned as an Army first lieutenant.

During the Carter administration, Joseph served as an Interior Department undersecretary. After the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, he worked on advisory groups on international development and historically Black colleges and universities.

Joseph served on boards and foundations, including leading a group aiding Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Judy Simon Kirschenbaum grew up in Rye, New York, and graduated from Rye High School in 1963. Following her graduation from Syracuse University in 1966 she married Bruce Kirschenbaum, who went on to serve as assistant to New York Mayor Abe Beame and then became deputy assistant to President Jimmy Carter.

While in the Washington area, Judy taught natural childbirth in Northern Virginia and then became a regular volunteer information specialist at the Smithsonian Institution, where she was known for her knowledge of the Smithsonian's collections. While working at the National Air and Space Museum, the Castle, and several art galleries, she shared her humor and enthusiastic knowledge of the museums.

Joyce Kravitz was a lifelong activist for social justice and an advocate for children. Her career included 30 years as a senior executive, communications strategist, and spokesperson for a major news network, a Fortune 500 company, the federal government, and a national political party.



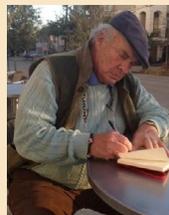
Joyce Kravitz

Joyce was born and raised in Philadelphia, where she gained a passion for politics from her mother, Shirley Kravitz, who was a fixture in the state's Democratic Party. In 1972, Joyce was hired as a press assistant at the Democratic National Committee headquarters just weeks after the Watergate break-in. She shifted to President Jimmy Carter's White House press office in 1977, and later became deputy director for congressional and public affairs at the Office of the United States Special Trade Representative.

In 1980, Joyce entered the private sector as manager of media relations for Philip Morris in New York. Later, she became director of news information for ABC News, where she oversaw public relations for "Nightline," "World News Tonight," "20/20," and documentaries.

With the election of President Bill Clinton, Joyce returned to government as senior advisor at Voice of America, and later as chief of staff at the U.S. Information Agency (USIA). Concurrently, she earned her master's degree in counseling at Trinity College to refocus her career on her lifelong passion to work with children.

In 2001, she returned to Philadelphia to become the school counselor at Delaplaine McDaniel Primary School. She rejoiced in helping children reach their academic and social potential.



R. Dobie Langenkamp

R. Dobie Langenkamp of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was deputy assistant secretary at the Energy Department during the Carter administration. He later held the same title in the Clinton administration.

"Just because a man has died doesn't give him the right to take three or so good hours of a living person to sit on a hard pew and hear bromides and platitudes," he wrote. "I'd rather my friends play golf or weed their garden. (If you have three hours to kill on my behalf drop by and wash my widow's car.)"



Elliott Levitas

Elliott Levitas, a legal and political crusader against injustice, became Georgia's first Jewish congressman in 1975.

He was elected to the Georgia House

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of Representatives in 1965. Levitas' first act as a legislator was to cast a vote to seat civil rights activist and Vietnam War opponent Julian Bond in the legislature. Levitas was one of only five white legislators to vote to seat Bond.

Then in 1966, no one received a majority of votes in the race for governor. Acting under existing state law, the General Assembly convened to decide the state's leader and gave the election to Democrat Lester Maddox, even though a plurality of the vote had gone to Republican Bo Calloway. Levitas, a Democrat, refused to cast his vote for Maddox, an outspoken segregationist, and cast his vote for Calloway.

Levitas would serve five terms in the legislature and became a leading proponent for the development of Atlanta's rapid transit system, MARTA.

In 1974, he was elected to represent Georgia's Fourth Congressional District.

Upon leaving Congress, Levitas joined the Kilpatrick & Cody law firm (now Kilpatrick Townsend), where he practiced for over 30 years before retiring.

Levitas was born in Atlanta on Dec. 26, 1930. He graduated from Grady High School and received his undergraduate and law degrees from Emory University. As a Rhodes Scholar, he obtained a Master of Law Degree from Oxford University in England. He served two years in the U.S. Air Force and was a member of the Judge Advocate General staff. His career in private law practice began at the Atlanta firm of Arnall, Golden & Gregory, where he was a protégé of former Georgia Gov. Ellis Arnall.

Levitas was active in Atlanta's Jewish community as a member of the Ahavath Achim congregation and with the Anti-Defamation League.



Roland Robert Mesnier

Roland Robert Mesnier was hired as White House pastry chef in 1979 by the first lady, Rosalynn Carter, and served until he retired in 2004, during the administration of George W. Bush.

Mesnier was born on July 8, 1944, in Bonnay, a tiny town in eastern France. He hung around his brother's pastry shop and, when he was 14, apprenticed with a baker in another village. He earned his professional certification as a pastry chef at 17 and went on to work in Paris, Hanover, and Hamburg. After completing three years of military service in France, he was hired at the Savoy Hotel in London.

In 1976, Mesnier emigrated to the United States to work at the Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia. In 1979, he heard that the Carter White House was looking for an executive pastry chef. He interviewed for the job in December, his application for citizenship was expedited, and he began work in February 1980.

"My role in the White House," Mesnier once told *The Canadian Press*, was "to put a smile on the face of the first family."



Ambler H. Moss Jr.

As deputy assistant secretary of state for congressional relations, **Ambler H. Moss Jr.** was involved with the negotiation and ratification of the Panama Canal Treaties. He served as ambassador to Panama from 1978 until 1982, having been appointed successively by Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. He also served as a member of the U.S.-Panama Consultative Committee from 1978 to 1982 and from 1995 to 2001. Previously, as a member of the career Foreign Service, he served in Spain, in the U.S. delegation to the Organization of American States, and as Spanish Desk officer in the Department of State.

Moss received his B.A. from Yale University in 1960 and J.D. in 1970 from The George Washington University. He was an officer in the United States Navy (submarines) and was a life member of the American Legion and Navy League. He was a member of the Bars of Florida and the District of Columbia. From 1972 to 1976 he was a resident attorney with the law firm of Coudert Brothers in Brussels. He was of counsel to the law firm of Greenberg Traurig in Miami from 1994 to 2010.



Hollis Jefferson "Jeff" Nesmith Jr.

Hollis Jefferson "Jeff" Nesmith Jr. earned his degree in journalism from the University of Florida and spent most of his career as a reporter. He began at the Atlanta Constitution, where he met Achsah Posey Nesmith, his wife of 56 years, a former journalist and speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter and Sen. Sam Nunn. Jeff worked for the Philadelphia Bulletin from 1975 to 1977 and in the Washington Bureau of Cox Newspapers from 1977 until he retired in 2007.

In 1998, Jeff won the Pulitzer Prize in the national reporting category with Russell Carollo of the Dayton Daily

News for a series on the U.S. military's mismanagement of the medical care of service men and women and their dependents. He covered the first moon landing in 1969 and he was in the stands with Hank Aaron's family when Aaron broke Babe Ruth's home run record. He wrote about Mafia dons and corrupt politicians in Philadelphia, white supremacists in the Georgia legislature, and CDC directors fighting to banish smallpox from the earth. Jeff's reporting spanned from human rights abuses of Latin American dictatorships in the 1980s, to the reconstruction of Kuwait after the Gulf War and national science and medicine topics. He received the World Hunger Media Award in 1986, Harvard's Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting in 1996, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer in national reporting the same year.



James A. "Jim" O'Kon

James A. "Jim" O'Kon designed the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

O'Kon was born in Buffalo, New York, but relocated with his family to Marietta, Georgia. He graduated from Georgia Tech in 1960, and later from New York University with a master's degree.

He and his family moved to New York City so he could work with Lev Zetlin, an engineer he revered. While there, he designed the Roosevelt Tramway over the East River and worked on the New York World's Fair of 1964. He returned to Atlanta to open a branch office for Zetlin's company and in 1977 bought the firm, expanding it to become a national award-winning company.

He published a book about Maya engineering, "The Lost Secrets of Maya Technology." He also published a book about the agronomy of the Maya titled "Corn, Cotton and Chocolate: How the Maya Changed the World."



Michael "Mike" Pertschuk

President Carter appointed **Michael "Mike" Pertschuk** chairman of the Federal Trade Commission in 1977. He continued to serve as an FTC commissioner from 1981-84.

Mike, born in London, earned his B.A. at Yale in 1954, then served two years in the Army before receiving his law degree from Yale in 1959.

After clerking for Hon. Gus J. Solomon, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, he came to Washington as a legislative assistant to Sen. Maurine

Neuberger (D-OR). He found himself, following the 1964 release of the Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health, as the leading Senate staffer handling tobacco control issues. It was in this role that he caught the eye of Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, and joined the committee staff. He subsequently became the committee's chief counsel in 1969, and staff director and chief counsel until his FTC appointment in 1977.

Back in private life in 1984, he co-founded, and co-directed for many years, the Advocacy Institute, training social justice advocates in the U.S. and emerging democracies in the skills of advocacy. Mike was a prolific writer and published many magazine articles, four advocacy guides combating the tobacco industry, and seven books, the last of which, "When the Senate Worked for Us: The Invisible Role of Staffers in Countering Corporate Lobbies," was published by Vanderbilt University Press in 2017.



Steve Protulis

Steve Protulis was assistant to the president of the AFL-CIO and former executive director of the National Council of Senior Citizens, one of the nation's strongest voices for the interests, dignity, and security of older Americans and families. He was a former chair of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, a coalition of national nonprofit groups committed to

representing the concerns of older Americans.

Protulis came to the U.S. from Uruguay in 1961 to attend university, but he received his real education on the shop floor at a General Motors plant in Detroit as a member of UAW Local 174. By 1970, Protulis was chairman for 6,000 UAW workers in the largest cut-and-sew plant in the U.S. He was a deputy field director for Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign; former administrative assistant to UAW President Douglas Fraser; and former AFL-CIO National Coordinator for Support Groups in Washington, D.C.

Protulis served on the board of directors of the National Council on Aging and the Center for Policy Alternatives. He was executive vice president/executive director of the Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corp.; vice president of Americans for Democratic Action; secretary of Citizens for Tax Justice, and a member of the editorial advisory board of CARING Magazine.

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Jane Fann Sanders worked at the White House as an administrative assistant to the president, working for the chief counsel to President Carter. Her job was handling the liaison between the White House and the FBI and CIA. She never missed a day of work in her career there.

When she and her husband, Paul, moved to St. Simons Island, Georgia, she ran the office of their business, The Appraisal Center, until they retired in 2014. Jane was a bridge Silver Life Master, playing often at the St. Simons Island Bridge Center, where she was also a donor for the building.

She served as chairman of Christ Church Tour of Homes, the Historic Courthouse Restoration Commission, and president of the Golden Isles Investment Club. Jane traveled extensively in Europe, the Caribbean, South and Central America, and Russia.



Professor Edward C. Smith

Professor Edward C. Smith's professional academic career began in 1969 when he co-founded The Heights School in Washington, and he taught there until the 1970s. He also taught at American University from 1969-2014. While at AU, Smith became the first African-American educator to earn a tenured professorship, and he was a co-founder of the university's Civil War Institute.

From 1976-1978, Smith took a sabbatical from AU and worked at the White House in the Carter administration. He was deputy speech writer for presidential assistant Midge Costanza.

In 1997, in collaboration with two Catholic Study Centers, he co-founded the Youth Leadership Foundation. Since 1997, the organization has supported character development in more than 4,000 students.



Robert Andre Staub

Robert Andre Staub spent a long and successful career running the management consulting and executive search firm Staub Warmbold & Associates and served as the assistant secretary of the Treasury under President Jimmy Carter.

Robert was the former chair of the board of trustees at Riverdale Country School, a former member of the board of trustees at Eckerd

College, and the former president of the Florida chapter of the Young Presidents Organization. Robert also served in supporting roles at countless other educational institutions, including the University of Miami, Duke University, and The George Washington University.

His philanthropic endeavors included supporting medical research and advancements with involvement in hospitals such as Memorial Sloan Kettering, New York Presbyterian, and University of Miami Sylvester Cancer Center.



Mary Eleanor Kidder Wall

Mary Eleanor Kidder Wall worked in favor of integration all her life. Mary Eleanor received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Southern College and a Master of Religious Education degree at Emory University, where she met her future husband, James McKendree Wall.

Mary Eleanor and her husband were active in both of Jimmy Carter's presidential campaigns. Jim was Illinois chairman for the Carter campaign in the 1976 primary and 1980. They were friends with the Carters and shared common interests. In 1977, Vice President Walter Mondale personally phoned Mary Eleanor to tell her that President Carter had appointed her to serve on a nine-member presidential commission to select a new director of the FBI.

"While Carter was president, he spent the night at our home on May 25, 1978, after speaking at a Democratic Cook County/City of Chicago dinner," Mary Eleanor recalled. "Carter flew to Springfield the next day to address the Illinois Legislature. In the fall of 1979, the two of us spent the night with the Carters at the White House and went to the opera with them to see 'Salome.' We slept in the Lincoln Bedroom."

While Mary Eleanor was in Washington, she took the opportunity, as president of the American Association of University Women-Illinois, to meet with President Carter's senior advisor on women's affairs to discuss the prospect of her home state ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. And it was quite an extraordinary and unforgettable community event in 1978 when the president of the United States slept at the Walls' residence in Elmhurst, Illinois. In 1980, Mary Eleanor again was appointed by President Carter as one of three public members on the 26-member federal Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.



Samuel Albert Way III

Samuel Albert Way III was born on August 16, 1926, in Warrenton, Georgia. In 1929 his family moved back to its original hometown of Hawkinsville. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Merchant Marines and served in post-World War II Germany. Upon returning from overseas, he enrolled at Emory University's

Oxford College and then transferred to the University of Georgia, where he graduated in 1949.

Sam married Dorothy Cook from Cochran, Georgia, in 1956. He was an avid reader of history, had a profound interest in politics, and he loved to travel this country and the world. He witnessed many historical events in his 96 years. Sam also had a deep and abiding love for Hawkinsville. Out of this came many great things for his community, including the Archway Partnership with UGA and the Sam A. Way Workforce Development Center of Central Georgia Technical College.

Sam served as a board member and chairman of Baptist Village in Waycross, board member of the Georgia Baptist Hospital, board member of the Baptist World Alliance, trustee of Mercer University and chairman and deacon of First Baptist Church in Hawkinsville for over 60 years. Sam was chairman of Planters Bank. After joining the board in 1961, he went to work full time as president in 1978.

Sam was a lifelong member and past president of the Rotary Club of Hawkinsville. He was recognized for 75 years of membership in Mount Hope Lodge #9 F&AM.



Denie Sandison Weil

Denie Sandison Weil of Washington, D.C., served on numerous corporate and nonprofit boards. She and her husband, Frank A. Weil, provided early support to establish Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Business and Government, which was initially housed in Weil Hall. She also served as a longtime director and then president of

the board of Washington's repertory theater, Arena Stage.

Denie Sandison was born in St. Louis and raised in Atlanta. She graduated from Radcliffe College cum laude in 1954. After Frank graduated from law school, the young couple settled outside of New York City.

They moved to Washington in 1977 when Frank accepted the position of assistant secretary of commerce in the Carter administration. Denie had a special interest in criminal justice reform and voter participation rights, which

she pursued in her work for the Vera Institute of Justice in New York, the German Marshall Fund in Washington, and the Citizens Participation Project in Washington, of which she was president.

Denie and Frank were early supporters and financial bundlers for a young senator from Illinois named Barack Obama, and hosted events in their home for various candidates, including Joe Biden. Denie loved to entertain, be it at their homes in Washington or New York, or when visiting Paris, London, Jackson Hole, or Maine. She was also an accomplished chef and loved to travel, to hike in Switzerland with children and grandchildren, and to explore the undiscovered.

Mary Eleanor Wickersham was married to David Wickersham for 49 years. Along with Bobby and Ree Garrett, they owned and operated several small-town Georgia newspapers, including the Gibson Record, the Sandersville Progress, the Cochran Journal, and the Wrightsville Headlight, of which Mary Eleanor was the editor for many years.

She later worked with geriatric providers and nursing homes, developing expertise that led Gov. Sonny Perdue to hire her as his health and human services policy advisor in 2007. Through her work in the governor's office, she was instrumental in founding SOURCE, an innovative in-home services Medicaid program designed to allow older adults to receive health care services without having to live in a nursing home. In 2010, The Arc Georgia—a nonprofit group that advocates for the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities—named her its Advocate of the Year.

A lifelong learner, Mary Eleanor held a certificate in ethics from Washington University in St. Louis and a master's in public policy from Georgia College and State University. While in her late 50s, she obtained her doctorate in public administration from Valdosta State University and spent a decade teaching and publishing there and at Coastal Georgia College, where she helped her students publish a book on environmental policy. Along the way and after retiring, she worked as a grant writer and community assessment provider for nonprofits, hospital systems, and Head Start programs across the state.

More than anything else, however, Mary Eleanor loved nature, travel, and her family. She was an avid conservationist, an amateur geologist, an accomplished writer, a finder of fossils, a friend to many, and a second mother to her younger siblings.

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This is the last print issue of The Carter-Mondale Letter.

Future issues will be sent via email.



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Questions? Contact Dianne Bryant at dianne.bryant@cartercenter.org.



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 distribution list. Contact Lauren Gay, The Carter Center, One Copenhill, 453 John Lewis Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307; Phone (404) 520-0437; Email lauren.gay@cartercenter.org.