

# THE Carter Mondale *Letter*

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## Rosalynn Carter Led an Astonishing Life

By Stuart E. Eizenstat

**T**hat Rosalynn Carter would become a transformative first lady, the first to be a full political and policy partner of a president, was as astonishing to those who knew her as I did, from Jimmy Carter's early political years, as her husband's remarkable rise from obscurity to the Oval Office.

I first met Rosalynn when I was working as the policy director of Jimmy Carter's 1970 gubernatorial campaign in Georgia. She was painfully shy and retiring. During his

unsuccessful first race for governor in 1966, she did not make a single speech. In this campaign, when she was unexpectedly asked to speak at a luncheon in Gainesville, Georgia, she stammered that her husband needed the help of the audience and sat down.

She later told me she was terrified that she would have to go through this again and again as a political wife. And yet she blossomed like a beautiful flower, becoming more and more confident—and coming into her own as a political actor.

Rosalynn ultimately came to enjoy campaigning. While Jimmy Carter traveled to Iowa on more than 100 visits before the 1976 caucuses, she too went there more than 70 times, and she campaigned vigorously in New Hampshire, the first primary, and in Florida, where she helped her husband defeat the arch-segregationist George Wallace.

During the Iran hostage crisis, when (over her objection) the president took a self-imposed hiatus from campaigning against Sen. Ted Kennedy for the 1980 Democratic nomination, she took on the burden of campaigning for several crucial months.

During the gubernatorial campaigns, she told me that the topic Georgians raised with her most often was the stigma attached to mental illness and the absence of mental health care for members of their family. The issue became her abiding interest.

In 1977, only a few weeks after her husband's inauguration, Rosalynn was the driving force behind the establishment of the President's Commission on Mental Health. She urged the president to name her its chair, but federal law precluded it, so she settled for honorary chair, although she was the commission's guiding leader.

Even though I was the president's chief domestic policy advisor and would normally have overseen any new policy initiative, Rosalynn and her staff took the lead in drafting, testifying before Congress, and successfully lobbying for what

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**Rosalynn Carter evolved the role of U.S. First Lady.**

**Read more about the life of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter at [www.rosalynncartertribute.org](http://www.rosalynncartertribute.org).**

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became the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980, tirelessly explaining that people with mental illness should be treated just as those with physical illness.

She was a champion for family and women's issues. She recommended the establishment of the National Advisory Committee for Women and was significantly responsible for identifying qualified women for senior positions in the administration and in the federal courts. Jimmy Carter would appoint more women to federal judgeships than all 38 preceding presidents combined. After her White House years, she built on her work as first lady (and as first lady of Georgia), to help develop an ambitious children's immunization program in all 50 states.

There were a series of other "firsts" as first lady. The press frequently asked about her husband's positions on issues, and so she insisted on being fully briefed so she could respond correctly. After Cabinet meetings, she grilled the president about what had transpired, and he said, "Why don't you sit in on Cabinet meetings, and then you'll know what's going on and why we made the decisions?" She became the only first lady to do so, sitting near me with the senior White House staff, taking copious notes.

Senior White House staff sometimes went to Rosalynn to

try to convince her to weigh in with the president on sensitive issues, not always for the best. For example, White House pollster Pat Caddell first went to her to argue for a shakeup of his Cabinet and for what became the "crisis of confidence" speech, or as the press called it, the "malaise" speech.

The president recognized her capabilities from the start, giving her a challenging diplomatic assignment unlike any first lady before or since: a grueling two-week trip to seven Latin American countries, not to meet with her fellow first ladies as a goodwill gesture, but to bring a message to the region's military dictators that the Carter administration was putting a new emphasis on human rights and democracy.

She worked hard to improve her Spanish by taking language lessons and immersing herself in the culture and history of the region, while absorbing briefings by scholars and administration experts. She brought home tangible achievements. Ecuador pledged to sign the American Convention on Human Rights; the military leader of Peru promised to give up power and establish a democracy. She got the president of Colombia to intercede with Panama's leader, Gen. Omar Torrijos, to move forward on negotiations for the Panama Canal Treaty.

This was not her only challenging foreign diplomatic assignment. She was instrumental in helping Cambodian refugees who had fled the murderous Pol Pot regime. She took a 24-hour flight to Thailand, urging the king to provide more support for them and successfully prodded U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to appoint a special relief coordinator. She also played a key role in arranging an airlift of U.S. food and emergency supplies.

And she had a hand in Carter's most important foreign policy triumph, the Camp David Accords. Jimmy Carter told me it was Rosalynn's idea to conduct the negotiations between

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*Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter celebrate his November 1970 election as governor of Georgia.*

Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin at the rustic presidential retreat in Maryland's Catocin Mountain Park. And she was by the president's side much of the time during those 13 arduous days, as he drafted more than 20 peace agreements before the final one was accepted.

In the White House, she displayed a keen sense of politics as she advised Jimmy Carter, and by their joint admission, she was more politically oriented than he was. She urged him to delay Senate ratification for the Panama Canal Treaty until a second term, because it was so politically controversial. But the president charged ahead, saying, "Suppose there isn't a second term," and won Senate ratification in one of the toughest congressional battles of his presidency. But it came with the political cost Rosalynn feared, as a number of Democratic senators who supported the treaty were defeated for reelection. She told him to avoid a traditional Russian kiss on the cheeks by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev when they signed the SALT II Treaty in Vienna, Austria, in 1979, but he did so anyway.

Rosalynn Carter was often referred to as the "Steel Magnolia," a hard woman with a soft exterior, but I saw a different side of her. As busy as she was, she always tried to be home by 4 p.m. to greet her young daughter, Amy, after school. She worked hard to make life as normal as possible for Amy, allowing her to roller-skate down the White House hallways and play in the treehouse the president built for her.

She and Jimmy would often jog around the track of the South Lawn of the White House and play tennis together in the late afternoon. They would cool off on the Truman Balcony, in the Southern-style rocking chairs Jimmy designed. She saw to it that the family ate dinner at 6:30 p.m. when the president was not tied up with official business. And they ended the day reading the Bible together, often in Spanish.

I was the beneficiary of her personal kindness on many occasions. In 1974, she arranged for my late wife, Fran, and me to have a Sunday lunch at the Governor's Mansion in Atlanta to thank me for my work with the governor in his role as chairman of the Democratic National Committee's congressional campaign committee. She also invited my parents and Fran's parents, who were visiting from Boston. She showed great aplomb when, on a tour of the greenhouse, my wonderful mother had the chutzpah to ask if she could take one plant home. Without blinking, Rosalynn readily agreed. And it was Rosalynn who urged the president to



**Mrs. Carter listens to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin during the 13-day summit that yielded the Camp David Accords.**

allow the senior White House staff to spend weekends with our families at Camp David, realizing the sacrifices our 24/7 jobs imposed on our family life.

Their partnership continued in the historic post-presidency of Jimmy Carter as they returned to their ranch house in Plains, Georgia. They co-founded The Carter Center, which has monitored more than 100 democratic elections, and they worked to eradicate Guinea worm disease and promote human rights. They both joked—though with some truth to it—that one of their most difficult jobs in the post-presidency was co-authoring a book, "Everything to Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life."

With all these accomplishments, family came first. She was a loving wife of 77 years, a caring and kind mother to her four children, and grandmother of 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Her 96 years on this earth was truly a life well-lived.



**Stuart Eizenstat**

*Editor's Note: This article originally appeared Nov. 28, 2023, on CNN.com and is reprinted with permission.*

*About the Author: Stuart E. Eizenstat was chief domestic policy advisor to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and deputy secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton administration.*

# Rosalynn Carter Bettered the Lives of Millions Here and Around the World

By Kathryn Cade

In December 1976, Rosalynn Carter and I sat in the elegantly furnished drawing room of Blair House: “I need to create a new office to help me with my projects as first lady,” she told me.

Thus began my almost 50-year relationship with a remarkable woman who devoted her life to helping the most vulnerable among us. She did indeed establish the Office of Projects, Issues and Research, and that rather long title reflected her fierce determination to use her influence as first lady in substantive ways. I became its first director.

Rosalynn Carter’s compassion for the weak, the poor, and the disenfranchised was simply boundless. So was her passion for action. She often reminisced about growing up in a small town during very hard times. Everyone knew everyone else, and when there was trouble, the community always took care of one another. Equally important were the lessons she learned at church as a child: to be kind, love one another, and help those in need.

How many of us heard those same lessons in our childhoods? Yet for Rosalynn Carter, they became the foundation of a lifetime of caring. Years of campaigning exposed her to

the staggering problems so many families face in providing for loved ones — including those who are disabled, elderly, or struggling with depression or other serious mental illnesses. She came to the White House with a specific goal of improving mental health services in our country and a broader agenda of building a more caring society.

It was an ambitious—some might even say grandiose—ambition. Yet this soft-spoken, humble woman, who never sought acclaim for her own work, mobilized significant resources to tackle a host of issues while serving as first lady and later as co-founder of The Carter Center.

I recall being summoned to the White House one weekend in 1979. The images on the nightly news had been horrific—mothers on dirty bamboo mats too weak to lift their heads, emaciated infants and children barely alive, thousands upon thousands of innocent Cambodians sick and dying in squalid refugee camps on the Thai border. “I have to help,” Rosalynn said. “I have to do something.”

Within a week, she had visited those same camps, convened a White House meeting to raise funds for the relief effort, and personally asked the secretary-general of the U.N. to appoint a single coordinator for all relief activities.

While waiting to address the White House meeting, she brought my attention to a large photograph of her holding a very young girl in her arms. The child’s limbs hung limply from her tiny body; they looked like sticks. “She died,” Rosalynn told me with tears in her eyes, “shortly after we left the camp.”

I also cannot forget an afternoon spent in a small village in northern Ghana where the debilitating parasite, Guinea worm, was still prevalent. I had come with a delegation from The Carter Center, including both the Carters, to encourage the local people to redouble their efforts to eradicate the worm.

One of our staff came to me and said, “Mrs. Carter is asking for you.” I found her with a very small boy who had been infected with the parasite. He was sitting on a little wooden stool, a 2-foot-long worm emerging from his foot in a process that could take



*Kathy Cade enjoyed an almost 50-year relationship with Rosalynn Carter.*



**Cade (fourth from right) travels with the Carters to Mali in 2004 to check progress in eradicating Guinea worm disease.**

weeks. “You have to see the worm,” she said to me. “You have to see how much pain and suffering it causes.”

A few years later, after a board meeting of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia, Rosalynn turned to me and said, “Do you have time to come with me to thank a friend who sent some wonderful fresh vegetables to Jimmy and me?”

Within minutes, we were at Rudy’s Happy Patch, a combination plant, fruit, and vegetable store that is an integral part of the Perry Wellness Center. The founder, Stuart Perry—having recovered from major depressive illness—is now a leader in the peer support movement. “This program,” Rosalynn said to me, “can be a model for the nation. It brings hope for a better life to those struggling with mental illness.”

Here, in her beloved Sumter County in southwest Georgia, she continued her 50-year commitment to better mental health services for all, including her friends and neighbors.

Whether it was people in recovery or the poor family in Plains to whom she took food once a month or the villagers at the end of the road in Ghana, she was there to help... and bettered the lives of millions in our country and around the world.



**Kathy Cade**

*Editor’s Note: This article originally appeared Nov. 23, 2023, on Fox News and is reprinted with permission.*

*About the Author: Kathryn E. Cade served as First Lady Rosalynn Carter’s projects director in the White House. She is vice chair of the Carter Center’s Board of Trustees and a board member of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers.*

# Rosalynn Carter Was Our Modern-Day Dorothea Dix

By Steven Sharfstein

**F**or nearly 50 years, former First Lady Rosalynn Carter used her platform to champion the cause of people with mental illness, working zealously to ensure the fair and humane treatment of millions who suffer from these disorders.

She was in many ways her century's Dorothea Dix.

Dix, the legendary advocate for better treatment of people with mental disorders, also spent nearly half a century in her relentless campaign at federal, state, and local levels. Her efforts began in the winter of 1842, when she paid a visit to a freezing Massachusetts jail and was told by the jailer, "Madam, the insane require no heat." Her campaign led to the founding of some 32 "asylums," not a bad word in the mid-19th century.



**Dorothea Dix was a 19th-century American reformer who advocated for humane treatment of people with mental illnesses.**

Mrs. Carter's introduction to the issue came while campaigning with her husband during his bid for governor of Georgia in the early 1970s when she encountered a mother struggling to provide care for her daughter with mental illness.

She carried this passion for humane treatment from the governor's mansion to the White House. In 1977, the President's Commission on Mental Health—created by Jimmy Carter at Mrs. Carter's urging—embarked on the first comprehensive review of the country's mental health system since 1960.

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***More than anyone in our time, Mrs. Carter brought mental health out of the shadows. She was a tireless champion for people with mental illness, an extraordinary person who leaves an extraordinary legacy for us all.***

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At the time, I was a 35-year-old commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service and served as the liaison between the National Institute of Mental Health and the White House. I watched with awe as Mrs. Carter joined the work of the commission. When the commissioners scheduled a field trip on a rented bus to see a hospital in Chicago, the Secret Service wanted Mrs. Carter to travel separately, but she refused. She spent that travel time with the commissioners, getting to know them individually and urging them to be ambitious in their recommendations.

The commission's landmark report recognized the tragedy of deinstitutionalization and called for a robust system of care to help people obtain treatment, live independently, and contribute to society.

Mrs. Carter went right to work on the creation and passage of the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980, a sweeping bill that committed federal funds to provide community-based care. The bill integrated mental health with health care and created agencies to promote patients' rights, with a particular focus on serving the needs of those suffering from severe mental disorders.



**As active honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health, Rosalynn Carter presented President Carter with the commission's recommendations for sweeping reforms to mental health policy and programs on April 27, 1978. The report led to the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980.**

While fighting for the legislation's passage, Mrs. Carter testified before both houses of Congress, including before a Senate panel led by Ted Kennedy, who at the time was challenging her husband in his reelection bid. She was the first first lady to testify before Congress since Eleanor Roosevelt.

It was my job to brief her before these and other events. She was a quick, intense study, readily absorbing not just the broad strokes of the legislation, but intricate details.

When she spoke to large groups, she was wonderful, but I learned that she was a naturally shy person. As we would wait in the wings looking out at a crowd, she would turn to me and say, "Well, what do you say?" Then she would take a deep breath and utter, "Let's go," before walking on stage, all smiles.

The Mental Health Systems Act passed, but months later, Ronald Reagan took office and repealed most of it. That didn't stop Mrs. Carter, however. Her most important work for mental health came after she left office.

Through The Carter Center, the nonprofit she and Jimmy Carter founded after the White House, she intensified her advocacy, fighting for the passage of the Mental Health Parity Act, which requires insurance companies to cover mental illness in the same way they cover all health problems. At

various times, when the bill was in jeopardy, she stepped in to keep it alive—calling members of Congress, writing letters, giving speeches.

Year after year, she organized annual symposiums at The Carter Center that brought together mental health practitioners, advocates, and researchers from across the country to discuss a whole range of substantive issues and publish reports and calls to action. She sat through every session taking notes and, at the end of each day, took to the podium to summarize the main themes.

She gave speeches across the country to audiences large and small,

inspiring them to keep fighting for their sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, and children affected by mental illness.

Today, as people increasingly recognize depression and anxiety in themselves and others, share stories of treatment and therapy, and call for greater public investments to help people living on the streets, it is easy to forget the immense stigma that kept mental illness hidden for decades.

More than anyone in our time, Mrs. Carter brought mental health out of the shadows. She was a tireless champion for people with mental illness, an extraordinary person who leaves an extraordinary legacy for us all.



**Steven Sharfstein**

*About the Author: Steven Sharfstein, M.D., is president emeritus of Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore and a former president of the American Psychiatric Association.*

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# From Mental Health to Camp David to the Campaign Trail, Rosalynn Carter Made her Mark

By Paul Costello

I have an indelible image of Rosalynn Carter in my mind. She is sitting aboard an Air Force jet late at night and everyone on the aircraft—staff, Secret Service, Air Force stewards, journalists—is exhausted and asleep. We had left Andrews Air Force Base before dawn, hitting three or four cities during the rough-and-tumble 1980 presidential reelection campaign. We were on our way to an overnight stop somewhere in the United States.

Aside from the Air Force pilots, Mrs. Carter is the only one awake. As I open my bleary eyes, I see her face captured by the pin light from above her seat. She's mouthing words

and quietly uttering phrases. At the end of a grueling day of handshakes, press conferences, meeting crowds and local politicians, she's studying Spanish, a language she is determined to master. It's a picture of Rosalynn Smith Carter—who passed away Sunday morning [Nov. 19, 2023] at her home in Plains, Georgia, at the age of 96—that I'll never forget. Disciplined, focused, dutiful and resolute.

I could never imagine Jimmy without "Rosie," as he affectionately called his wife of 77 years. At age 75, asked to name the most important thing he had ever done, the 39th president of the United States and the 2002 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize answered in two words: "Marrying Rosalynn."

Jimmy Carter Library



*First Lady Rosalynn Carter traveled to seven Latin American countries as the president's official envoy, engaging directly with their leaders to improve their human rights performance and ties with the United States. Here she speaks at a welcoming ceremony in San Jose, Costa Rica, on June 1, 1977.*



***Rosalynn Carter observes voting at an Indonesian polling station in June 1999 during the nation's first genuinely democratic legislative elections, which were monitored by The Carter Center.***

### **A Novice Turned Full Political Partner**

A number of years ago my wife and I attended a donor's event for The Carter Center in Atlanta. There was a trip to Plains where the Carters still lived and an evening barbecue and square dance on the town's main street. It was homey and authentic and like the Carters, no flash, gimmicks or glitz. The only cloud that evening was Rosalynn's absence. The former president attended alone as Mrs. Carter was hospitalized in Atlanta. (It came out later, she was precariously close to death.)

Carter danced a first round with a random female partner, taking the appropriate steps from the caller. After that, he quickly disappeared. The next morning, speaking to a group of us at his boyhood home just outside the center of Plains, he volunteered that he had retired early the night before as he didn't feel right dancing with another woman with Rosalynn not there. It was a sweet remark, touching for

its manners, gentlemanly and old school but no surprise.

Whether it was his run for Georgia State Senate, his ill-fated congressional and gubernatorial races in 1966, or his larger victories, first as governor of Georgia and then as president of the United States, this determined woman was always beside her husband as his political partner — writing letters, knocking on doors, making phone calls, extolling her husband's virtues and touting his experience. Through persistence, determination, and downright guts, she evolved from a novice campaigner who admitted to often being nauseous and trembling before a speech, into a formidable presence on the international stage as first lady.

### **'I Told Jimmy It's Really Rough out Here'**

Lost in the years since the Carter presidency are details, big and small, that defined Mrs. Carter's unique influence as first

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lady. She traveled thousands of miles, domestically and internationally, representing her husband.

She relished taking on the challenges of presidential envoy, most notably on her first solo trip abroad on a groundbreaking tour of seven Latin American nations in June 1977. There, breaking from the traditional social role of a presidential spouse, she met one on one with foreign leaders to advance the cause of human rights, a cornerstone of Carter's foreign policy.

As first lady she became her husband's most fervent political evangelist, and it seemed as though she was always on the road as marketer in chief for his administration.

A powerful fundraiser in the 1978 midterm congressional elections and an intense campaigner, she was a vital ingredient in her husband's success as a politician. She liked nothing more than being a sounding board, traveling the country as Carter's eyes and ears and bringing him back the unvarnished reality of the nation's temperature, warm or cold.

On one such trip, the temperature might have been just a bit too hot. As the Air Force jet was leveling off at 35,000 feet, she relayed to us, three staff traveling with her, that she had just spoken to the president.

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***As first lady she became her husband's most fervent political evangelist, and it seemed as though she was always on the road as marketer in chief for his administration.***

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"I told Jimmy it's really rough out here," inflation and the Iran hostages were taking their toll on his political fortunes. "Everyone beating up on you."

Rather than listen, Carter interrupted, telling her he didn't want to hear it. But she thought he needed to hear it and she told him so. It illustrated to me that even dedicated and loving spouses bear stresses inside the presidential pressure cooker.

### **Rosalynn Carter Was No Mere Footnote as a First Lady**

I'm often surprised that Rosalynn Carter is not seen as I see her and ranked higher for significance and substance as a first lady. To me, she broke new ground as a political partner and established herself as one of the nation's most influential presidential spouses.

From the successes of her husband's campaign and

her substantial efforts to reform the nation's fractured mental health delivery system to the momentous breakthrough in Israeli-Egyptian relations at the Camp David summit, Rosalynn Carter was there and made her mark. She was no mere footnote as a presidential mate.

Journalist and playwright Lawrence Wright, who wrote the play "Camp David" about the 13-day summit that brought about the peace accords between Israel and Egypt, told me: "Mrs. Carter's influence at the Camp David summit is underappreciated. It was she who suggested that the president bring the parties to Camp David in the first place. Moreover, during the summit, she served as a kind of emotional back channel, especially for (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat, who vented his frustration to her."

The loss of the presidency to Ronald Reagan in 1980 was her period of extreme sadness. She couldn't imagine the American people would reject Carter and never believed he'd be defeated by the former actor who she thought had neither the substance nor intellect to be president.

In her autobiography, "First Lady from Plains," she wrote that as election night set in and a loss for Carter was inevitable, someone noted Carter's reserve: "Mr. President, you're a great example, you don't seem bitter at all." Rosalynn responded, "I'm bitter enough for both of us."

To be sure, she and her husband established a post-presidency that has been heralded as triumphant and historical. At The Carter Center, they brought major health advances to resource-limited countries around the globe, and her ongoing mental health advocacy was sustained and noteworthy.

What I will remember is not "a steel magnolia," as she often was called by the media, but a compassionate, intuitive, and insightful woman. Adventurous, too, and funny.

From the kitchen window of their home in Plains, you could see the burial plots for both Mrs. Carter and the former president. The grassy field is land now run by the National Park Service. The 39th president of the United States will be laid to rest there amid a clump of bushes above a pond. Now his Rosie will be, too.



**Paul Costello**

*Editor's Note: This article originally appeared Nov. 19, 2023, on USA Today and is reprinted with permission.*

*About the Author: Paul Costello was assistant press secretary to Rosalynn Carter from July 1977 to January 1981.*

# Personal Tributes Honor Mrs. Carter

*Some of the people who knew former First Lady Rosalynn Carter well wrote personal tributes to her, remembering her as a relative, political strategist, advocate, and friend.*

## Remarkable Grandmother

By Sarah Reynolds

She was notably soft-spoken, but her message was bold and passionate. She was 40 years ahead of her time when she called for an end to the stigma of mental illness. She advocated for equal rights and for the monarch butterfly. She sent out \$20 on Valentine's Day to every grandchild and then later to all her great-grandchildren. She had an unstoppable work ethic and an unwavering moral compass. She took offense when the press poked fun at the South, or the small town of Plains, or their humble home, because she knew firsthand that the people who live there are just as smart and good and valuable—and that a reverence for materialism was nothing to aspire to. When she went to the Hall of Presidents attraction at Disney World and saw that they had dressed the figure of Jimmy in a ridiculously exaggerated '70s-style suit—poking fun at him—she went to his closet and mailed them one of his suits for the figure to be redressed. When I moved to New York City, she and my grandfather JOGGED from their hotel in Midtown to my new apartment in Harlem, knocking on every door and introducing themselves to all my neighbors. She loved her family fiercely. It's hard to believe this strong, brilliant woman who tirelessly fought for those with little voice is gone.



## Travels with Rosalynn

By Mary Elizabeth King

I was privileged to know Rosalynn Carter from 1970 on and was one of her friends, colleagues, and traveling companions until her death. Rosalynn possessed an

extraordinary and original sense of humor. She also held acute perceptions about people. This would serve her as she moved from First Lady of Georgia to First Lady of the United States.

My husband, Dr. Peter Geoffrey Bourne, was perhaps the earliest person to suggest, in 1972, while Jimmy Carter was governor of Georgia, that he run for the presidency of the United States. As Gov. Carter started to seek the presidency seriously, Rosalynn continued as his dedicated partner. It was at this time that I started working with Rosalynn both domestically and internationally.

Rosalynn was deeply committed to promoting, among other needs, public awareness of mental illness. In addition, she also held a deep commitment for promoting the full participation of women, ranging from advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment to having more women hold public office.

After meeting with my husband to learn about community mental health services, Rosalynn told Peter, "I want to make my role as First Lady of Georgia a focus on increasing public awareness of mental health." Rosalynn told me herself that many citizens with whom she had spoken while campaigning publicly for her husband, one of her children in each hand, specifically told her: "Do something about mental health!"

In fidelity to her pledge to my husband, who is now a retired psychiatrist, Rosalynn decided that she would not subscribe to any particular school of psychiatric thought. She understood after talking with Peter that all pedagogy and methods would be needed to address this public need.

Beginning in 1988, our friendship deepened as the Carters came to stay with Peter and me three times at our farm in Wales, United Kingdom. Each time we were there, we went fly fishing together, pony trekking, and enjoyed the local culture.

During our extended friendship I would accompany Rosalynn to Moscow more than once. One time, as we attended a meeting of an International Commission on Food and Security, Rosalynn mentioned that previously she had visited the Solovetsky Stone that was placed in Moscow by Memorial, one of the early human rights advocacy groups in the Soviet Union. When Rosalynn learned that I had never

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been to the monument, she persisted in asking our hosts to take me there.



**On July 10, 2007, Rosalynn Carter testified before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee, calling for mental illnesses to be covered by insurance on par with physical illnesses.**

## In the Union Hall

By Jake Sullivan

During the general election of 1976, the campaign asked me to advance a stop at the John Deere Plant in Moline, Illinois. Mrs. Carter was invited to visit by the union, which had been on a very contentious strike for some time and the campaign wanted to show support for union workers. We were there to shake hands with the workers and have an “information session” with union leaders. It was Mrs. Carter, her press secretary Mary Hoyt, her personal assistant Madeleine MacBean, a reporter, two Secret Service agents, and me, a far cry from the traveling party that would accompany us when she was first lady.

Although it was a rainy day, we still greeted the local workers and then went inside the union hall for our meeting. Inside there were about 15-20 union men (no women). Most were big, brawny, and since they had been on strike for quite a while, they were mad, really mad at the world! Mrs. Carter started her speech by letting them know how much Jimmy supported unions and that we would appreciate their support. She did not get two minutes in when a large man in the back interrupted her and yelled, “If you want our support, we DEMAND that you call John Deere’s management for us.” The rest of the union boys then also jumped

up and were yelling, “Yeah, that’s right!” I could see that the two Secret Service agents were getting a little nervous. They moved to her side as the meeting was getting out of hand. Mrs. Carter held up her hand, quieted the crowd (they still did not sit down) and said, “Wait a minute. We support union work. However, neither Jimmy Carter nor I will ever listen to demands! You can support us or not, that is your choice, however, we do what we think is right, not what any person or group demands of us. We do not take demands from anyone!”

There was a moment there where I thought they were going to run us out of town. However, instead of doing that, the union leader said, “Mrs. Carter, we don’t appreciate that answer, but we do appreciate your being here.” There was no clapping afterwards and we got out in a hurry. Still, I think we won a lot of votes that day.

## Winning Hearts and Votes

By Phil Wise

This is one of my favorite campaign stories about Rosalynn and the 1976 presidential campaign.

In the early spring of 1975, Rosalynn and her best friend Edna Langford made a car tour of North and Central Florida, a key state in the nomination strategy. They had a few contacts to visit but mostly drove from one small town to another visiting the local courthouse, local newspaper, and radio station trying to meet as many people as possible.

They did have one appointment, through a third party, to meet a young attorney in Orlando who had just served as the finance director for a successful candidate for state insurance commissioner. Richard Swann was a young, up-and-coming attorney and lived across a lake from Rollins College. A friend of Edna’s son attended Rollins and was renting a garage apartment from Richard.

Rosalynn and Edna met with Richard and his law partner, Ed Haddock, in their office in downtown Orlando. They discussed the presidential campaign, husband Jimmy’s background and qualifications, the strategy for gaining the Democratic Party nomination, and then the general election strategy.

After a 45-minute meeting, Rosalynn ended her discussion by asking Richard and Ed to meet her husband when he was next in Orlando as she felt sure they would decide to support him for president. Richard told Rosalynn that he did not need to meet him because he had already decided to support Jimmy Carter for president, explaining that anyone

who could convince Rosalynn to be his wife deserved to be president of the United States. Both Richard and Ed were true to their word and became significant and important supporters of presidential candidate and then President Jimmy Carter. Score a big one for Rosalynn.

## Business and Pleasure

By Bernstine Hollis

I have two stories to share about Rosalynn Carter. One demonstrates her passion for work, and the other, her joy of life.

Having served as the president of the Plains Historical Preservation Trust (PHPT), Mrs. Carter was very passionate about starting a Chautauqua program in Plains. Miss Julia Coleman, a former teacher at Plains High School, is credited with first introducing Chautauqua to the town. She held “mini” events at the school, leaving many residents with fond memories. Working alongside Annette Wise, and with encouragement from Mrs. Carter, PHPT was able to bring Chautauqua back to Plains in 2008. During the planning, it was exciting to see how happy she was, and then to witness the joy it brought her to see Plains host several events. At one point, we traveled to DeFuniak, Florida, where Chris Mitchell was the president of the Florida Chautauqua Assembly. As a former employee of The Carter Center, Chris enjoyed a special relationship with the Carters. While working on the project, Mrs. Carter openly shared her love for others and spoke about the importance of families’ spending time with each other. Chautauqua is organized around four pillars: religion, art, recreation and education. Working to bring the program to Plains brought joy to Mrs. Carter, and she often shared how much she loved to see others getting involved and being educated.

Working with Mrs. Carter, I had the chance to see her joy and passion from one point of view. My husband, on the other hand, had a very different one. Rosalynn Carter really enjoyed dancing, and Charles was happy to serve as one of her partners during Carter Center holiday parties and at other events. It started with her asking me once if I thought my husband would dance with her. I responded, “Of course,” and watching them I could see that they both really enjoyed it. Afterward Charles told me that he was nervous about dancing with the first lady. Sensing this, Mrs. Carter began asking him questions about how we met and how long we had been married to help him relax. It was exactly what I would expect her to do.

## Picture This

By Terry Adamson

Rosalynn’s funeral services were inspired and inspiring, in no small part for affording the wife of Jimmy Carter her due as an individual — a woman whose life was spent with love, faith, commitment, caring, healing, passion, and compassion, but also as a friend, a daughter, partner and wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

My own precious memories are from years of board and other meetings, many for The Carter Center; a lawyer and counselor for Rosalynn and Jimmy for over 40 years; a friend for many more; numerous trips around the globe with them; my own time during the presidency with Judge Griffin Bell at Justice; and from just the honor of being in their personal orbit from 1964 on.

We once took a borrowed private plane to Americus to ferry the Carters to the National Geographic Society in Washington to “star” at a large afternoon event for about 400 notables featuring President Carter and a dinner afterward. We left ourselves a couple of hours before returning to Washington to have breakfast with the Carters and enjoy Plains. Our untold “surprise” for them later that day was bringing their grandson Jason Carter from Swaziland; Jason was then near the end of his Peace Corps days there. Jason spoke with wit and passion at the dinner, clearly delighting his grandparents as well as the audience. That evening led to “Power Lines,” Jason’s book about his Peace



**Terry Adamson recalls the time the Carters’ grandson Jason Carter surprised them with a visit from Swaziland, where he was serving in the Peace Corps.**

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Corps experience. Another grand event a year or so later at National Geographic with his grandparents was held to launch Jason's book. On that initial pickup of the Carters in Americus, my daughter Kate, a high schooler then, traveled with me. In that morning time, Rosalynn ensured that Kate saw and understood every nook and cranny of Plains. What a treasured moment in time for me, but routine for Rosalynn!

About three years ago, I was with the Carters in their Plains home. At one point, Jimmy was in the kitchen getting a haircut as Rosalynn and I continued chatting in the living room about Ansel Adams. The famed photographer had given them a sweeping black and white fine art print from the high Sierras, long a part of the Carters' living room wall. She mentioned Adams had also taken their portrait in the White House. I asked if she had a favorite portrait of Jimmy. She smiled and said, "I'll show you." She moved sprightly to her walker and led me to their bedroom. She smiled again, and I noticed how sparkling her eyes were, and she pointed to a painting on the wall. "This is my favorite," she said. It was a youthful and handsome Jimmy Carter in 1975, a Marlboro man without the Marlboros, painted by Thornton Utz. Utz had been a well-known illustrator at the Saturday Evening Post. I asked her if I could take an iPhone photo of the portrait. I will always remember Rosalynn's slightly mischievous and loving smile and those eyes filled with life's joys as she shared her favorite portrait of her husband of then 75 years, so very prominent on the wall of their bedroom.

## Personal Matters

*By Caron Griffin Carter Morgan*

Just a sample of my reflections of Rosalynn as mother-in-law and friend:

When Chip and I began dating, Rosalynn was Georgia's First Lady and subsequently the First Lady of the United States. Her days were filled with decisions that touched people worldwide. I personally benefited from her compassionate heart—generous enough to serve the world and care for her family.

I was blessed to live in the same home with Rosalynn, sharing meals and private moments, at the Governor's Mansion and in the White House. We confided in each other concerning personal matters.

When Chip and I lived in Plains, I taught "junior first grade" for children unprepared for traditional first grade. I



**Rosalynn Carter favored this portrait of Jimmy Carter, painted by Thornton Utz and displayed in the Carters' Plains home.**

once mentioned to Rosalynn and Jimmy that my students were not allowed to touch the school's library books because "they could damage them." Within days, Amy surprised me with a beautiful selection of children's books from her personal collection—many signed by the author!

For security, the proposed family walk in the Inaugural Parade had to be secretive. I was eight months pregnant. Rosalynn, concerned about me, gave me a heads-up, and made sure I was prepared. Thanks to her, I was. I comfortably walked from the Capitol to the White House.

At the White House on Feb. 25, 1977, while attending a luncheon for the family of the secretary-general of the United Nations, I detected "stomach pains." After lunch I sought advice from the White House doctor since we would soon board Marine One, the president's helicopter, for our first visit to Camp David. It was confirmed: I was in labor. Rosalynn immediately altered her plans, and her Secret Service car joined the motorcade that took Chip and me to the hospital. Having Rosalynn and Jimmy there for James' birth was especially heartwarming since my parents were en route from Georgia.

Chip and I were living in the White House when we began struggling in our marriage. Even with her overwhelming responsibilities, Rosalynn was there for us—never intrusive, just empathetic and supportive. She personally arranged for professional counseling. She also often talked privately with me, even calling when I was not in Washington.

I especially admired Rosalynn's focus on the important things in life. I observed her genuine interest in each person she met, showing no difference between a head of state and a person in need. In fact, her emotional response was often greater for the latter.



**The Carters walk along Pennsylvania Avenue on inauguration day, 1978.**

I never heard her commenting on someone's appearance or what they wore. She cared about what was in a person's heart and soul—what was on the inside, not on the outside.

I was privy to behind-the-scenes discussions, totally honest opinions, and frank reactions to experiences. Though Rosalynn's words at times could be reasonably stronger in private than in public, she was open and honest in both. There was not a private or a public Rosalynn; there was one amazing Eleanor Rosalynn Smith Carter.

I am overwhelmed as I contemplate the influence she had on my life and how blessed I was to be loved and nurtured by her. She knew I loved her, and I am thankful for this opportunity to honor her in writing.

## Always Astonishing

By Judy Langford

Rosalynn Carter was not yet 40 when I met her in 1966. I was 16 and came along with my parents, Edna and JB Langford, to the Dinkler Plaza Hotel in downtown Atlanta for a Sunday meeting of the Carter for Governor campaign committee. Rosalynn was very gracious and very quiet. I had no idea that she would be a vital part of my life for the next 50 years.

During Jimmy's second (successful) run for governor, I sometimes served as driver/assistant for Rosalynn as she traveled from one small-town radio station to another or to small events where she spoke. She was often nervous and had to get herself together before getting out of the car and going in the door. She would often begin by saying the biggest audience she had ever spoken to was her Sunday school class. She did it anyway. And got better at it.

During that campaign, Rosalynn learned firsthand about issues that people were facing across Georgia. When I was with her, I learned to look around for the one or two people who were waiting at the back of the audience for a chance to talk with her. More often than not, they had a story to tell about a family member who desperately needed mental health care that was not available where they lived. She never forgot those stories, and she worked the rest of her life to make mental health care available to families like those she met in the 1970 campaign.

Rosalynn kept a small trove of evening gowns in a closet in the Governor's Mansion, including a couple that belonged to me. We shared them as needed. At a holiday party for members of the legislature, one of the legislators, a renowned bachelor, asked her where she got the gown she was wearing. She ignored him, but he followed her around the crowded room, still commenting on the dress and wanting to know where she got it. She finally managed to lose him in the crowd, without telling him that she borrowed it from her daughter-in-law!

Years later, when she was first lady, Rosalynn agreed to be the main speaker at the annual awards luncheon for all the women's magazines. There were a thousand people in the audience in New York, including me (then a contributing editor for Redbook). I was nervous for her as she got up to speak. I couldn't believe it: She was not nervous at all! She told jokes, she poked fun, she was serious about the issues that women were facing and challenged the magazines to do a

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better job of portraying women appropriately and supporting the Equal Rights Amendment. She got a standing ovation, as she deserved. I was astonished, one more time.

## **True Partner and Advocate**

*By Margaret McKenna*

“I am really sorry” is what I said, upon meeting Rosalynn Carter for the first time. We had just arrived at Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter’s house in 1976.



I had led a group of campaign staff from Atlanta to Plains. For those in the campaign business, I was the “advance person” responsible for mapping the route, timeline, stops, and arrival process at the Carters’ home. First, we got lost. Then the bus got stuck and we were hours late. As I apologized profusely and my colleagues enjoyed loudly taunting me, Mrs. Carter greeted me warmly while stating how challenging and sometimes confusing the trip could be. She thanked me for getting everyone to their home.

My second opportunity to spend time with Mrs. Carter came early in the administration, when I signed up for a speed-reading class. On entering the room, I saw the president, Mrs. Carter, and their 9-year-old daughter, Amy. When I started mumbling something and backing out of the room, Mrs. Carter got up to greet me and welcomed me to their small group. It is hard to imagine any other president or first lady who would invite staffers to join them in something that could be a humbling experience.

The times I remember best are the many meetings I attended where Rosalynn displayed her skills as an advocate. It was amazing to witness her grasp of the issues and eloquence in addressing them.

She was proud of her role as wife, as mother, and as a feminist. The combination made her a powerful and effective advocate for issues important to women. It was fascinating to see her, first with National Organization for Women leadership, and then with conservative senators and their wives. Her knowledge, patience, and quiet confidence were impressive.

Toward the end of the first year, I briefed her on the status of our efforts to broaden the federal judiciary “to look more like the country.” Between the Justice Department and the ABA Committee on the Federal Judiciary, it was challenging and frustrating. In recommending appointments, historically most nominees had been white males from big law firms. Our nominees represented a less traditional group, comprising academics, public defenders, civil rights lawyers, and significant numbers of women and minorities. The ABA Committee on Judicial Selection tended to find our nominees “unqualified” or “qualified” as opposed to “well qualified.” Although we suggested that the president meet with the ABA committee, that had not happened. When a judicial nominee from Georgia appeared to run into such a challenge, Mrs. Carter used her influence to urge the president to stand behind his nominations and to challenge the ABA process.

Shortly after, the president made it clear to the ABA that he expected them to look more broadly at candidates from a variety of experiences, not just the traditional profile. This resulted in a notable change in ABA committee reviews and opened the way for many of our nominees.

Finally, I remember sitting with a small group of women while Rosalynn talked about the day-to-day challenge of listening to her husband being criticized. She talked about how painful it was to watch often unfair criticism of her husband. She was not complaining, but you could see how painful this was for her.

Rosalynn Carter’s role was not easy. She chose to be a true partner and advocate. Some, in the administration and outside, criticized her for overstepping. I, like many others, am grateful for the role she played and the impact she had, particularly on a range of issues that improved women’s lives.

## **How Did She Know That?**

*By Pat Carter*

Even though she was busy as first lady and afterward, Rosalynn Carter extended so many thoughtful gestures to us and to our children. It was typical of her to place her own phone call and say things like, “I hear you are going to be in D.C.; why don’t you come for lunch?”

(How did she know that?) “Why don’t you bring the children with you when you come to meet the pope? It should be a good experience for them.” “I hear you are going to be in town for a YPO ladies’ forum while I am out of the country; would you like to have them come for a private tour and refreshments?” (How did she know that?) Later, after the White House while visiting an organization to promote mental health, Rosalynn asked that my recently graduated lawyer daughter (at the bottom of the totem pole) be included in her visit. (How did she know that?)

She was such a soft-spoken, caring person, yet such a determined lady. She was our Steel Magnolia.

## Partner and Competitor

By Rita Thompson

I was a teenager when I first met Rosalynn Carter. My dad was a freshman state senator along with Sen. Jimmy Carter. Because my mother couldn’t attend the reception that day, my dad asked me to go with him from our small rural town in northeast Georgia to Atlanta. Both Carters spent a lot of time talking to me, and I was impressed. I was excited to ask my very perceptive mother about them when we got home. She said, “Rosalynn Carter is different than all other Senate wives. She doesn’t drink or smoke, she doesn’t play bridge or go to fashion shows, teas, or fancy luncheons. Rather, she studies the legislation, takes notes, and asks questions. Then she calls the Americus Times Union newspaper to report on what is happening under the Gold Dome so her constituents in Plains will know which bills are being voted on.” She was as amazing then as she was for the rest of her life.

I followed the Carters from 1963 on and traveled in about 20 states with the Peanut Brigade. After we broke ground at The Carter Center, I worked with the Carters for 43 years.

In 1982 we rode a bus to New York City to build houses for Habitat for Humanity. Mrs. Carter and I were on the same team. After we worked six hours on the subfloor, President Carter came in after lunch and said we were all wrong in using 1/8-inch versus 1/4-inch plywood. Mrs. Carter didn’t flinch as she navigated gently around his arguments to prove we were right. This was another of her amazing strengths.

The Carters competed in everything. She was a better writer, a better fly fisher, a more graceful downhill skier, and she even took pride in her LDL cholesterol being lower than his.



**The Carters were partners—and competitors—in most of their pursuits, said longtime friend Rita Thompson.**

## Butterflies Are Free

By Kim Fuller

Growing up in the Carter family gave me the opportunity to be around Aunt Rosalynn in a myriad of ways. From front yard summer evenings at Grandmama’s house, to racing to see who could get to Grandmama’s house first on Christmas mornings, my siblings and I were always the recipients of her quiet calmness. No matter the time or the event, if she was in charge of us we knew that we would be well taken care of. My most poignant memory, though, happened just a year ago in August during Butterfly Daze, an event in Plains dedicated entirely to her. We always have a butterfly release, an event where we release Painted Lady butterflies in Aunt Rosalynn’s honor. This past year I took several butterflies wrapped in origami envelopes to the house and both she and Uncle Jimmy, along with family and caregivers, had their own butterfly release in the garden, that same garden where she rests today. I told her that lots of people were downtown waiting to release butterflies that morning, all because of her... and the expression on her face...well, let’s just say I’ll never forget the day she released butterflies out of tiny origami envelopes, watching them land on her hands and then shoed them away from us to fly wherever they were meant to go.

# Passages

Music executive and political fundraiser **Clarence Avant** is remembered for not only guiding musicians and actors but also for helping launch the political careers of three presidents.

Born in 1931 in a segregated hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina, Avant only attended school through the ninth grade. But he broke into the entertainment industry in the late 1950s as manager of a nightclub in Newark, New Jersey.

Avant formed Sussex Records in 1960, releasing the first few albums by Bill Withers—including the No. 1 single “Lean on Me.” In the 1970s, Avant founded Tabu Records, before later managing Motown Records in the 1990s.

He used his connections and skills to become a top fundraiser for three presidents—Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama. He helped football legend Jim Brown break into acting and brokered an endorsement deal for baseball home run king Hank Aaron.

In his statement honoring Avant, Clinton noted “his compassion, mentorship, and generosity,” saying that Avant was a positive influence for people beyond helping their careers.

“It was impossible to spend time with him and not come away feeling more positive and wanting to follow his example. We just loved him,” Clinton said.

*(Partially excerpted from The Wrap)*



Michael S. Berman

**Michael S. Berman**, a Minnesota native, served as Vice President Walter Mondale’s deputy chief of staff and counsel.

He began his career in private practice in Minnesota after earning both a bachelor’s and a law degree from the University of Minnesota. His public service began in the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office, and he went on to serve in then-Senator Mondale’s Senate office as counsel. When he left the White House, he joined the law firm of Kilpatrick and Lockhart and later formed the Duberstein Group and became a successful lobbyist and advisor to many companies and organizations.

Berman’s passion was politics and he practiced it with a depth of knowledge and an analysis of data unlike anyone else. His “Mike’s Washington Watch” newsletter has been

required reading for anyone interested in politics since 2007, with the most recent one published in December. His political acumen was usually prescient, but it was his restaurant and bathroom reviews that kept his readers laughing.

He was the scheduler for every Democratic Convention from 1968 to 2004. His mentorship over the years of Democratic convention leadership was renowned. Generous with his time and his wisdom, Berman nurtured many careers of budding politicians and political operatives. If you wanted a job or advice in Washington, his office was the first stop.

Berman received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from his beloved University of Minnesota in 2010, and he gifted his extensive collection of political memorabilia to the university.



Trish Byrnes

**Mary Patricia “Trish” Byrnes**

was born in Baltimore on Dec. 19, 1942. She attended Institute of Notre Dame and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from George Washington University in 1978.

In 1978, Byrnes joined the Carter administration, serving as administrative assistant to Margaret McKenna, deputy counsel to President Carter. “This was one of the most exciting times in my life,” she said. After the change in administrations, Byrnes joined Defenders of Wildlife as editorial assistant. Two years later, she became an assistant editor at The Wilderness Society Magazine, where she remained for the next 12 years.

In 1996, she returned home to Baltimore and took a job with Ottenheimer Publishing, where she wrote and edited children’s books. In 1998, she wrote a book called “Environmental Pioneers,” which was nominated for an award. Byrnes worked as a freelance writer, publishing articles in both the former Maryland section of The Washington Post and in The Baltimore Sun. Her most recent article, titled “One Maryland woman’s push for voting rights in the 1600s,” highlighted Margaret Brent’s determination and successes in colonial Maryland.

**Hugh A. Carter Jr.** was born in Americus, Georgia, on Sept. 29, 1942, the son of Hugh A. Carter Sr. and Ruth Carter of Plains, GA. He is survived by his wife of



*Hugh A. Carter Jr.*

44 years, Glenna Garrett Carter, and daughters Mary Elise Rising (Clay) of Tampa, Florida, Kathleen Carter of Denver, and Emily Gaston (Nick) of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Carter received his Bachelor of Industrial Engineering degree from Georgia Tech in 1964 and his Master of Business Administration degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1968. In the interim, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army.

For 27 years, he was the owner, chairman and president of Darby Printing Company, a book manufacturing and publishing company based in Atlanta. In 2013, he sold the company and retired.

Hugh Carter served four years on President Jimmy Carter's senior White House staff as special assistant to the president for administration. He reported directly to the president, and his duties included management of all administrative and military support to the president; liaison between President Carter and former Presidents Ford and Nixon and several former first families; acting as a surrogate for the president nationally; speaking across the country on behalf of the administration; and coordinating several White House task force initiatives.

Hugh Carter was a member of the Carter Center Board of Councilors. After retirement, he and his wife, Glenna, moved first to Lake Oconee in Greensboro, Georgia, and then to Tampa, Florida.



*Dick Clark*

**Dick Clark** was a former college professor who won a long-shot U.S. Senate campaign in 1972 and went on to help shape U.S. foreign policy in Africa during a brief but busy single term in office.

The second of three children, Richard Clarence Clark was born in Paris, Iowa, on Sept. 14, 1928. He served two years in the Army before graduating from Upper Iowa University in 1953. Three years later, he received a master's degree in history from the University of Iowa.

Born in his grandmother's farmhouse in eastern Iowa, he grew up in the back of his parents' grocery store. He helped pay for his education by baling hay, became one of the first in his family to graduate from college, and joined the faculty at Upper Iowa University in Fayette as a history

and political science professor.

But after a few years volunteering in local Democratic politics, Clark quit academia and moved to Washington, becoming the top aide for newly elected Rep. John C. Culver (D-Iowa) in 1965.

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972, Clark served on several committees but was best known for chairing the Foreign Relations subcommittee on African affairs, a role that gave him a platform to speak out against White-minority rule in South Africa and Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

Clarke was appointed an ambassador-at-large by President Jimmy Carter and spent most of 1979 as the administration's coordinator for refugee affairs, working to provide aid and housing for tens of thousands of people fleeing wars and famine in Southeast Asia.



*Esther Coopersmith*

**Esther Lipsen Coopersmith** was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on Jan. 18, 1930, and moved to Washington in the early 1950s.

Over the decades, Coopersmith, whose interests extended from domestic politics to international affairs, helped raise millions of dollars for Democratic candidates.

In 1979 and 1980, during the administration of President Jimmy Carter, Coopersmith served as a public member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. President Ronald Reagan sent her as a representative to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and to a 1985 conference in Nairobi marking the U.N. Decade for Women. Under President Bill Clinton, she served as a U.S. observer at UNESCO and later, in 2009, was named a UNESCO goodwill ambassador.

Coopersmith organized trips to the Soviet Union, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa for the spouses of senators and Cabinet officials and was widely credited with cultivating the cross-cultural understanding that is the intangible basis of diplomacy. She received a U.N. Peace Medal in 1984.

After graduating from high school, Coopersmith studied at the University of Denver and later at the University of Wisconsin, where she joined the Young Democrats and worked for Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.).

At Kefauver's suggestion, she moved to Washington and found work initially as a lobbyist. She and her future husband, Jack Coopersmith, met at a dance hosted by Adas

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Israel synagogue and were married in 1954.

In addition to her political work, Esther Coopersmith was a founder of what is now the National Children's Museum in Washington.



*Lawrence Rambo Cowart*

**Lawrence Rambo Cowart** was born in Cuthbert, Georgia, and raised in Arlington, Georgia. He spent his youth there surrounded by a large, chaotic, and loving community of family and friends. The stories of his time growing up are family lore, the tales passed down through succeeding generations. He was an excellent student and athlete, and always intended to make his way in the wider world.

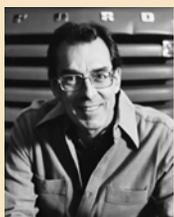
Cowart graduated from Georgia Tech in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science in physics. He proudly remained a Tech man his entire life.

After his first job at IBM, Cowart joined the Coca-Cola Company in 1963, where he remained until his retirement in 2000.

Cowart reveled in being a grandfather, welcoming grandchildren to the mix with exceptional love and joy. "PapaTata" or "Bobo," as he was known to his grandchildren, welcomed generations to gather in the kitchen, enjoy a fire, roam the halls, and live a joyful childhood. Those grandchildren are Lawrence II, Leena, Teddy, Walker, Georgia, Otis, Amos, Daisy, Finley, Georgie, and Angus.

Cowart served as a driving force for countless causes. He played an instrumental role in state and national politics, serving as vice chairman of the Georgia Democratic Party under Gov. Jimmy Carter and working tirelessly in the inner circle of Carter's brain trust to see him elected president.

Cowart's kind heart guided him in all things to the very end and could always be counted on.



*Jerry Doolittle*

**Jerome Hill Doolittle** was born in Pittsburgh on July 15, 1933. In the late 1930s, the family relocated to northwestern Connecticut.

Doolittle graduated in 1954 from Middlebury College in Vermont and then entered the Army. During his military service, he married a former Middlebury classmate, Gretchen Dewitt Rath, in 1956. They later moved to Arlington, Virginia, while

Doolittle began his work at The Washington Post and other newspapers.

In 1966, Leonard Marks, a Washington lawyer, offered Doolittle a position as press attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Morocco. His next posting was in 1969 in Vientiane, Laos, where he served until resigning from the diplomatic corps in early 1971.

In 1976, Doolittle joined the Carter presidential campaign. "I always thought that presidential campaigns were great theater," he said. After President Carter's victory, Doolittle was brought onto the White House speechwriting team, where he was charged with injecting some levity into Carter's speeches.

For a speech the president gave to the Washington Press Club in 1977, Doolittle's team managed to get in a line about Carter's brother, Billy. Carter described walking up Pennsylvania Avenue after his inauguration. "I could hear the vast crowd saying, 'Look, look, look,'" Carter said. "And I was feeling very good until they said, 'There goes Billy's brother.'"

After Carter's 1977 press club speech, Doolittle was feeling pretty good. The Pennsylvania Avenue joke got in and Carter tossed in a few other cracks written by Doolittle.



*Mortimer L. Downey III*

In Fairfax, Virginia, **Mortimer L. Downey III** engaged in local politics, advised on transportation, and continued his education with Yale until the end of his life.

Born on Aug. 9, 1936, to Mortimer L. Downey Jr. and Elizabeth Carlin Downey, he grew up in Connecticut and Massachusetts. After finishing high school, he attended Yale University, receiving a B.A. in political science in 1958.

After college, Downey moved to New York City, where he served as an officer in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. In 1961, he married Joyce Vander Meyden (1937-2012), and they moved between New York, Connecticut, and Virginia over the course of their 51 years of marriage.

Downey, who was assistant secretary for budget and programs at the U.S. Department of Transportation during the Carter administration, served in a variety of transportation roles, although the public sector was not his original choice. After interviewing with every bank and financial institution that was recruiting at Yale his senior year and receiving no offers, Downey joined the Port Authority of

New York (now known as the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey), and immersed himself in the theory and process of management and operations.



*Christopher F. Edley Jr.*

**Christopher F. Edley Jr.**, a Harvard law professor who championed affirmative action and promoted civil rights, died May 10, 2024, in Stanford, Calif. He was 71.

Edley was the first second-generation African American to graduate from Harvard Law School, following his father, who later became head of the United Negro College Fund.

In 2004, he left Harvard to become dean at the University of California Berkeley School of Law, becoming the first African American to lead a top-tier law school.

In 1995, when President Bill Clinton appointed him to lead a review of the nation's affirmative action programs, Edley argued for the continued necessity of affirmative action and helped forestall major policy changes.

Edley co-founded the Harvard Civil Rights Project with a colleague, Gary Orfield, and the Opportunity Institute, a Berkeley-based nonprofit organization that seeks to promote racial, social, and economic equality by expanding and improving education for young people.

Christopher Fairfield Edley Jr. was born in Boston on Jan. 13, 1953. He spent part of his childhood in Philadelphia, where he watched his father struggle to find work at the city's law firms because of racial prejudice.

Edley received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in 1973. He was admitted to Harvard and, after pausing his studies to work on Jimmy Carter's successful 1976 presidential campaign, received a law degree and a master's degree in public policy, both in 1978.

After graduating he went to work for the Carter administration as assistant director of domestic policy. Later he took a position as special assistant to the U.S. secretary of health, education, and welfare. He returned to Harvard Law School in 1981 to teach and later became only the fourth African American in the school's history to receive tenure.

In 1983 and 1984, Edley wrote for the Washington Post's editorial page. In 2008, he served on the campaign that propelled U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, his former student at Harvard, to office as the first Black president.

Edley was the author of the book "Not All Black and White: Affirmative Action and American Values" (1996).



*Charles Ferris*

**Charles Ferris** led the Federal Communications Commission for most of Jimmy Carter's tenure as president.

A longtime aide to Sen. Mike Mansfield, Ferris played a key role in the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society" legislation.

A decade later, in 1977, President Carter nominated Ferris to chair the FCC. Before joining the FCC, Ferris worked initially as a trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, and from 1964 to 1977 as general counsel to the U.S. Senate Democratic Policy Committee and chief counsel to Mansfield. He also served as general counsel to U.S. House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. in 1977.

Following the election of Ronald Reagan as president, Ferris departed the FCC in April 1981, beginning a 32-year career at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo Mintz, where he established the firm's communications practice.



*Joseph M. Hendrie*

**Joseph M. Hendrie** was a physicist who led the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during the country's worst nuclear power accident, at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

An expert in nuclear reactor safety, Hendrie was chair of the commission on March 28, 1979, when a commercial reactor located on an island in the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg experienced a sudden loss of cooling water and a partial meltdown of its radioactive fuel.

Hendrie, who was appointed by President Carter in 1977 to lead the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the government agency in charge of nuclear power safety, came in as a proponent of nuclear energy. He was criticized by environmentalists as too supportive of the industry.

"My biggest challenge will be to keep nuclear power as a viable energy option," he told *Newsday*, his local paper, when he was appointed. He pledged to end "the tortuous and Kafkaesque hearings" on proposed nuclear plants.

But the president fired Hendrie eight months after Three Mile Island following a blistering report by a presidential commission that called for sweeping changes in how

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nuclear plants were built and regulated. The report did not fault Hendrie by name.

Joseph Mallam Hendrie was born March 18, 1925, in Janesville, Wisconsin.

He met his future wife, Elaine Kostel, an instructor at an Arthur Murray dance studio in Cleveland, on a blind date. She died in 2019.



*Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson*

Retired **U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson** was the dean of the Texas congressional delegation before retiring from office in 2022. She served nearly 30 years in the U.S. House.

Born in Waco, Johnson was the first Black woman elected to any seat in Dallas, the first nurse and Black Dallasite to serve in Congress, and the third woman to represent Texas in the U.S. House.

In elementary school, Johnson met Doris “Dorie” Miller, a Black Navy man stationed at Pearl Harbor. Although relegated to mess duties, during the attack in 1941, he joined the combat to shoot down Japanese planes with no munitions training. Decades later, Johnson helped get a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier named after Miller, which will be the first to be named after a Black man.

After graduating from A.J. Moore High School in 1952, Johnson went to St. Mary’s College at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, where she received a nursing certificate in 1955. She received a Bachelor of Science from Texas Christian University in 1967, followed by a Master of Public Administration from Southern Methodist University in 1976.

She accepted a job working for the Veterans Administration hospital in Dallas, and eventually became the chief psychiatric nurse and psychotherapist. She was the first Black female chief psychiatric nurse at the hospital.

In 1972, she was elected to the Texas state House of Representatives.

During her third term in the Texas House, Johnson resigned to accept a post in the Carter administration as a regional appointee for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now the Department of Health and Human Services). She was reelected to the Legislature in 1986, this time in the Senate.

In the early 1990s, Johnson was credited with drawing

a version of the newly formed 30th Congressional District that overlapped heavily with her state legislative constituency. She would go on to win the congressional district she helped create in 1992 and sailed to reelection in every contest to follow.

In 2019, Johnson became chairwoman of the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. In that role, she was the top Democrat overseeing NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Weather Service, and parts of the Department of Energy and the Department of Transportation.

Johnson delivered millions of dollars in improvements for North Texas, including federal grant funding to expand the Dallas light rail to accommodate more riders and longer trains. In 2016, city leaders renamed the city’s downtown train station in honor of Johnson.



*Geri Mack Joseph*

**Geri Mack Joseph**, journalist, activist, Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party chair, prolific board member, Mondale Policy Forum director, and U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands, died Oct. 16, 2023.

Joseph worked with the National Institutes of Health and the National Mental Health Association for decades, raising awareness about mental illness and deplorable hospital conditions. In the early 1960s, her relentless lobbying of Congress on behalf of people in institutions led to millions in federal funding. President Lyndon B. Johnson gave Joseph an award for her groundbreaking work.

She ran Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey’s presidential campaign in 1968, served as Democratic convention delegate, was vice chair of the Democratic National Committee, and spoke at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago while riots exploded outside.

Joseph graduated magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1946 and was a Minneapolis Tribune contributing columnist through the 1970s, and she traveled to China in 1975 with then-Gov. Wendell Anderson. At Vice President Walter Mondale’s suggestion, President Jimmy Carter appointed her U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands in 1978.

She came home in 1981, became a senior fellow running international programs at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and in 1990 became

founding director of the school's Mondale Policy Forum. She retired in 1995 at age 71.



Roberta Karmel

**Roberta Karmel** was the first female member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, appointed by President Carter in 1977.

Early in her career, Karmel worked as a lawyer at the SEC. She later went into the private sector, representing firms like Merrill Lynch, often opposing in litigation

the agency she had once worked for.

Within about a year of becoming an SEC commissioner, she was the subject of two profiles on the cover of The New York Times business section, cited as “the most conservative” person on the five-member panel.

Karmel answered her critics in her 1982 “dissenter’s book,” as she called it, “Regulation by Prosecution: The Securities & Exchange Commission Versus Corporate America,” published by Simon & Schuster. It traced her development, as she wrote, from “an unquestioning liberal to a skeptical regulator.”

She attributed her differences with her colleagues partly to Watergate. Some Americans came to see “defiant civil servants” as heroes for going on “puritanical witch hunts,” she wrote. She took away a different lesson: that officials should be wary of the temptation to abuse their power.

Born Roberta Sarah Segal on May 4, 1937, Karmel grew up in Chicago.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in history and literature in 1959 and graduated from New York University Law School in 1962.

Karmel was the first woman to be appointed to the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in New York, and later became a professor at Brooklyn Law School.

She was married to Paul Karmel and David Harrison, both of whom preceded her in death.



Tim Kraft

**Tim Kraft**, former top aide to President Jimmy Carter, passed away Jan. 21, 2024, at the age of 82. He was born in Noblesville, Indiana, and graduated from Dartmouth with a B.A. in 1963. While pursuing graduate studies at Georgetown University, he joined the newly formed Peace Corps.

After training in Las Cruces, New Mexico,

Kraft served two years in the Peten of Guatemala. Fluent in

Spanish, upon leaving the Peace Corps he traveled through South America with some fellow Peace Corps volunteers, a trip made on a shoestring budget in a Volkswagen van. He returned to the U.S. and found work as a Peace Corps recruiter. “The job didn’t pay much but I got to go to college campuses and meet pretty girls,” he said. The friendships he made in the Peace Corps lasted 60 years.

Kraft got the political bug while working for U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Indiana). Following a job in the Office of Foreign Press Services at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968, he worked in Washington, D.C., on various political consulting contracts. He came to New Mexico in 1970 to ski, hike, and camp, and he fell in love with the state. He talked then New Mexico Democratic Party Chair Mike Anaya into hiring him as executive director. With his organizational and fundraising skills, he served in that role from 1970-1974. In 1975, fellow New Mexican Chris Brown introduced Kraft to Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, who was running for president. Carter hired Kraft to run Iowa for him. Carter came in second, but that campaign put Iowa caucuses on the map. Kraft went on to serve as national field director for the Carter-Mondale campaign.

After winning the 1976 election, President Carter asked Kraft to serve as appointments secretary to the president. He went on to serve in another White House role: assistant to the president for personnel and political coordination. In 1979, he left the White House to serve as national campaign manager for the Carter-Mondale reelection campaign. He met his wife, the former Molly Manuppelli, who worked in the White House Office of Personnel, and they married in 1981. They moved to Albuquerque, where Kraft started Avanti Ltd., an international consulting firm focusing on political strategy and management, public affairs, and intergovernmental relations. In the 1980s he consulted on presidential campaigns in Panama, Ecuador, and Costa Rica. Kraft also enjoyed serving on election observation teams in seven countries. In New Mexico, he was a state and local lobbyist; he also worked on ballot proposition management in several states.

Kraft’s retirement years were filled with travel, grandkids, and keeping in touch with friends all over the country. Anyone who knew him knew he was an inveterate collector of all kinds of information. His manila folders were filled with articles he found interesting, ranging from book, art and movie reviews to quotations, poetry, restaurant and

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travel articles and, yes, college football statistics. He filled journals with an eclectic array of interests. When September rolled around, he was a captive of all college football games, and he loved discussing odds with friends. He kept in touch with fellow political junkies, Peace Corps volunteers, old high school and college friends, and a core group of friends made during the Carter administration.

Kraft said his epitaph should be a line from an old Joe Walsh song: "Life's been good to me so far."



*John Jones Martin Jr.*

**John Jones Martin Jr.** of Aiken, South Carolina, grew up in East Point, Georgia, and graduated from Headland High School in 1965. He attended the University of Georgia, graduating in 1969 with a degree in political science. He married his wife, Bunny, that same year. They moved to Conyers, Georgia, where they lived for 40

years. Martin spent the first part of his career working in government positions, including the Governor's Office of Special Projects under Gov. Jimmy Carter, before shifting to real estate.

Martin loved history, politics, reading, cooking, and his family and friends. He never missed an opportunity for a good laugh and made sure those around him did too. His intelligence, humor and fierce love will be missed greatly by all who knew him.



*Wiley Sanders Messick*

**Wiley Sanders Messick** was born March 5, 1929, in Pike County, Alabama. He attended elementary school in Goshen and Abbeville, Alabama, and graduated from Abbeville Secondary Agricultural School in 1946. He obtained business (1950) and law (1953) degrees from the University of Alabama and a Master of

Laws degree from Georgetown University in 1956, the same year he was admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme Court.

Messick was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force when he received his B.S. degree in May 1950. In June of that year, he was called to active duty. He served 21 months at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, and remained in the Air Force Reserve for 30 years, retiring as a colonel in the Judge Advocate General Corps.

Messick practiced law in Abbeville in 1953-1954 and served six months of 1954 on the general counsel's staff of the Southern Natural Gas Company (now Sonat, a division of Kinder Morgan) in Birmingham, Alabama.

While in Birmingham, Messick met and married Betty Dotson.

In December of 1956, Messick became counsel to the Senate Small Business Committee and assisted the chairman of the committee, Sen. John Sparkman of Huntsville, Alabama.

After serving as executive secretary and administrative assistant for Sparkman, Messick was appointed Small Business Administration Southeastern regional administrator in Atlanta, where he served over 14 years, including those of the Carter administration.

Messick remained a lifelong passionate Democrat. He enjoyed discussing politics with family and friends and hosted many lively holiday gatherings.



*Gloria Molina*

**Gloria Molina** was a political pioneer who was the first Latina elected to the California State Assembly, the Los Angeles City Council, and the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

Molina became involved in political activism while a student at East Los Angeles College, participating in student walkouts and the Chicano Moratorium in opposition to the Vietnam War.

After helping found the local chapter of Comisión Femenil, she later became an aide to Art Torres, the long-time Democratic state legislator. Years later, Molina would defeat Torres in the 1991 campaign for the First District county supervisor seat.

Before running for public office, Molina was a recruiter for the White House personnel office under President Carter and served as an aide to Democratic Assemblymember Willie Brown.

In her statement revealing her cancer, Molina said, "You should know that I'm not sad. I enter this transition in life feeling so fortunate."

She added: "I'm really grateful for everyone in my life and proud of my family, career, mi gente, and the work we did on behalf of our community."

*(Excerpted from LAist)*



Achsah Nesmith

**Achsah Nesmith** was a former journalist who covered the Civil Rights Movement and later became a speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter. She lived in Alexandria, Virginia.

One of the first women to be hired as a speechwriter for a U.S. president, she worked for President Carter all four years of his administration.

She collaborated with him and First Lady Rosalynn Carter on the book "Everything To Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life" and also wrote his Nobel lecture in 2002. Rolling Stone magazine said she was President Carter's favorite scribe.

Eudora Achsah Posey was born Nov. 16, 1939, in Atlanta. She attended Southern Methodist University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in history in 1961.

After university, she worked for the Atlanta Constitution. That's where she met a peanut farmer named Jimmy Carter who was running for governor. She covered his campaign, following him all over the state of Georgia.

She was extraordinarily proud of the day that President-elect Carter's chief of staff called and offered her a job. After the Carter administration, Nesmith spent several years freelancing and volunteering in her church. She later worked as a speechwriter for Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia and as a writer in the communications office of the United States Agency for International Development.

Later in life, Nesmith earned a Master of Arts degree in liberal studies in 2000 from Georgetown University. She also volunteered to help teach children in City of Alexandria Public Schools to read. In her final years, she became concerned about the disparity that African American mothers faced in health care outcomes.



Greg Schneiders

**Gregory "Greg" Schneiders** of Key Largo, Florida, was a Democratic political advisor who made his way into President Carter's inner circle.

After selling drinking spots on Capitol Hill and in Georgetown that he co-owned, Schneiders visited his brother near Boston and attended a Carter presidential campaign rally. Schneiders was impressed by Carter and offered his services. He knew little about campaigning but had a gift for speechwriting and what he called intuitive

people skills that he honed as a bar owner.

He began at the bottom, helping load campaign buses and keeping track of luggage. Being on the road, however, put him in contact with the candidate. Soon, Schneiders was added to the team, led by chief strategist Hamilton Jordan, tasked with crafting Carter's image.

Schneiders entered the White House as a speechwriter and deputy communications director and later had roles including head of special projects, a portfolio that made him part of Carter's top initiatives. Among them were efforts by Carter to bring various disaster-response groups under one umbrella.

That led to the creation in 1979 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Schneiders often served as Carter's personal representative at major natural disasters.

Following his time in the Carter administration, Schneiders served as director of communications for the Senate Democratic Policy Committee. He also served as press secretary for Ohio Sen. John Glenn and later as director of communications in Glenn's presidential campaign.

Schneiders also founded the consulting company Prime Group LLC, which works with nonprofit and corporate clients to develop branding, messaging, and communications strategy.

Greg Schneiders was born in Detroit on April 15, 1947, and was a graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



John Brooks Slaughter

**John Brooks Slaughter** was the first Black director of the National Science Foundation, the first Black chancellor of the University of Maryland, and the first Black president of Occidental College in Los Angeles.

Slaughter was raised in Topeka, Kansas, and served as an assistant director at the National Science Foundation and as provost at Washington State University before President Carter appointed him to run the NSF in 1980.

In 1982, Slaughter became chancellor of the University of Maryland at College Park. He left there in 1988 to become president of Occidental College. He retired from Occidental in 1999.

Growing up, Slaughter pored over the pages of magazines like Popular Science and Popular Mechanics and would

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repeatedly take apart and reassemble his bicycle, studying how the pieces fit together. He was the only Black engineering student in his class when he graduated from Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, now Kansas State University, in 1956.

Also in 1956, he married Ida Bernice Johnson. She survives him, as do two children, Johnny Slaughter Jr. and Jacqueline Michelle Randall, and a sister.

Slaughter received a master's degree in engineering from UCLA in 1961 and a doctorate in engineering science from the University of California at San Diego in 1971. He led the Applied Physics Laboratory at the University of Washington before joining the NSF in 1977.

After retiring from Occidental, Slaughter was chief executive of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering and joined the faculty at USC in 2010. He was honored at the White House in 2015 with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, and in September USC's Center for Engineering Diversity—where Slaughter would casually join students for lunch—was renamed in his honor.



*Irwin W. Stolz*

**Judge Irwin W. Stolz Jr., “Yutch”**

to close friends, was born Nov. 9, 1929, in Atlanta. His family later moved to Columbia, South Carolina, where he graduated from high school, and went on to study at Washington and Lee University. After leaving school to join the military, Stolz eventually returned to

Georgia, attending the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, and graduating from Emory University School of Law in 1958.

After law school, Stolz moved to North Georgia and practiced law in Lafayette.

It was also in North Georgia that Stolz met a young state senator from South Georgia, Jimmy Carter, who was running for governor. They developed quite the bond, and Stolz traveled the state relentlessly to help his friend become governor. Several years later, Gov. Carter appointed Stolz to the state Court of Appeals. Later, when Carter became president, he sent Stolz on several international trips as his personal emissary to quiet conflicts.

Stolz left the bench and reentered the practice of law, joining former U.S. Sen. David Gambrell in the firm

Gambrell and Stolz. In 2002, he “retired” to Athens, Georgia, and started the firm of Hurt and Stolz.

In his 40s and 50s, Stolz ran marathons and competed in dozens of races all over the country. At 60, he returned to the swimming pool, where he had competed in his earlier years. He again competed all over the world and attained All-American status many times. He set two world records that are still in the books today.

In 1977 Stolz married the former Mary Bell Hancock Harrison of Savannah, Georgia, and blended their two families. They were married for 47 years.



*Peter Tarnoff*

**Peter Tarnoff** was a seasoned diplomat whose work behind the scenes for presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton included establishing a secret channel to Fidel Castro and helping arrange the escape of six U.S. Embassy officials from Iran, an escapade later depicted in the 2012 movie “Argo.”

Tarnoff was born April 19, 1937, in Manhattan and raised in Brooklyn until he was 12, when his family moved to Montreal. He graduated from Colgate University in 1958 with a degree in philosophy, a subject he continued to pursue at the Committee on Social Thought, a doctoral program at the University of Chicago. But his interest in global affairs pulled him away from academia, and he joined the Foreign Service in 1962.

After an initial posting to Lagos, Nigeria, Tarnoff moved to Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), the capital of South Vietnam. In 1965 he was seriously wounded by flying glass when a car bomb detonated beside the U.S. Embassy, killing two inside and 20 on the street.

During the 1970s he held a variety of posts around Europe before moving to Washington, where he later served as the special assistant to Cyrus Vance, the secretary of state under Jimmy Carter, and to Edmund Muskie, Vance's successor.



*Cynthia Wilson*

**Cynthia Wilson** was born in Syracuse, New York, and grew up with a menagerie of pets—the beginning of a lifelong interest in animals. She attended St. Lawrence University, where she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in English, before heading to the University of Texas for a master's in journalism.

In the mid-1960s, Wilson was working at Columbia Records when she received a fortuitous phone call from the White House. Lady Bird Johnson was looking for someone skilled at writing letters. Wilson was hired and joined Mrs. Johnson's personal staff, where she had a broad range of responsibilities, including work on the first lady's national beautification program.

At the end of the Johnson administration, Wilson joined the National Audubon Society as its first Washington representative. In Washington, she befriended Christine Stevens after they both testified at several congressional hearings on wildlife. In 1971, Stevens invited Wilson to join the board of the Animal Welfare Institute, where Wilson would serve for over 50 years.

During the Carter administration, Wilson served as an assistant to Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus. She worked on environmental and wildlife issues, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and other legislation that resulted in the setting aside of 103 million acres of

parks and refuges in Alaska. In addition, she served as Andrus' liaison with Congress, other federal and state agencies, White House staff, Native American tribes, environmental and animal welfare organizations, and the press.

Following her time in the Carter administration, Wilson held a number of positions in the private sector, including principal resource person for a law firm representing an environmental coalition seeking to block registration of Compound 1080 (a brutal poison used to kill coyotes and other native predators), executive director of Friends of the Earth, and development officer of American Farmland Trust, an organization that seeks to protect the nation's farmland from development.



*Correction: In the Passages section of the last newsletter, the photo used with the obituary of William L. Harper was incorrect. Here is the photo of William Harper.*

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