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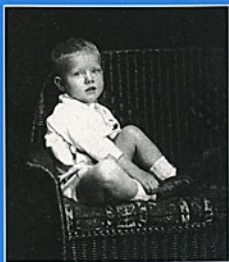
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# The Road to the James E. Carter Presidency

★ *The 39th President* ★



Jimmy Carter, 2yrs Old \*



Jimmy Carter with his sisters and father, 1-r: Gloria, Ruth, Earl Sr., Jimmy, ca. 1932 \*



Jimmy Carter with his dog Bozo, ca. 1937 \*



Rosalynn Carter, Jimmy Carter and Amy Carter, July 24, 1977 \*

*"A strong nation, like a strong person, can afford to be gentle, firm, thoughtful, and restrained. It can afford to*

The 39th President of the United States, James Earl Carter, Jr. was born in Plains, Georgia on October 1, 1924 to Lillian Gordy and James Earl Carter. Carter grew up during the Great Depression as the eldest of four—Ruth, Gloria, and William Alton (Billy)—on a peanut farm in Archery that his father operated along with running a small country store. Before his birth, Carter's mother was a registered nurse. Growing up during the depression, young Carter's family had no electricity or indoor plumbing. Living on a farm, Carter worked from a young age. At age ten, he sold produce from the family farm that gained him enough savings by the time he was thirteen to purchase and rent out five houses around Plains.<sup>1</sup> Carter attended Plains public schools, graduating valedictorian of the class at Plains High School, before attending Georgia Southwestern College (1941-1942) and the Georgia Institute of Technology (1942-1943). Following in the footsteps of his uncle who served in the U.S. Navy, Carter received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy through his local

congressman in 1943 and graduated 59th in his class with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1946.

Shortly after graduation, Carter married Rosalynn Smith, a friend of his sister. Carter dated Smith in 1945 while she was attending Georgia Southwestern College. Carter told his mother after his first date with 17-year-old Smith, "She's the girl I want to marry," and so he did on July 7, 1946. The couple share four children—John William, James Earl III, Donnel Jeffery, and Amy Lynn. The newlywed couple moved to Norfolk, Virginia—location of Carter's first naval duty after graduation. After working on battleships for two years, Carter was accepted for submarine duty, and selected by Admiral Hyman Rickover for the nuclear submarine program in Schenectady, New York. While serving in Schenectady as senior officer of the Seawolf, he studied reactor technology and nuclear physics at Union College.

After seven years service as a naval officer, he returned to Plains in 1953

\* Courtesy of the Jimmy Carter Library

1. Houses at this time were sold at rock bottom prices due to the Great Depression.





Zbigniew Brzezinski, Michael Blumenthal, Jimmy Carter and Cyrus Vance during a trip to London for the G7 economic summit, May 5, 1977 \*



Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter in the oval office, April 18, 1978 \*



Jimmy Carter at bat during a softball game in Plains, GA, July 7, 1977 \*



Jimmy Carter fishing in the Grand Tetons, WY, August 29, 1978 \*

*extend a helping hand to others. It's a weak nation, like a weak person, that must behave with bluster and boasting*

upon the death of his father to run his father's farm supply warehouse, cotton gin and family peanut farm. Carter formed a partnership with his mother to help run the family peanut business that proved difficult the first few years, but later prospered. Roslyn kept the books of the warehouse business, while Carter performed the labor of the business, ran his own farm, increased his landholdings, and gained ground with local community affairs. Carter served as Chairman of the Sumter county school board, Chairman of the county hospital authority, President of the Crop Improvement Association, and the first president of the Georgia Planning Association before his political life blossomed into Georgia's Senate. Carter's decision to enter politics was stimulated by his experience with the Sumter county school board. Shortly after the Supreme Court ruling the segregation of schools unconstitutional in the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954), Carter faced opposition with his plan to consolidate the schools by citizens who saw his plan as an effort to move toward integration. Seeking to improve

education, Carter served as a Senator to Georgia from 1962-1966, before he ran for Governor of Georgia in the Democratic primary. Carter lost his quest for governorship in 1966 to Lester Maddox. Carter did not give up hope on gaining the governorship of Georgia, and consequently became Georgia's 76th governor in 1971 on a campaign platform calling for an end to busing as a means to overcome segregation in public schools. As governor, Carter reduced government agencies, reorganized state government, instituted zero-based budgeting, added new social programs, increased the appointment of African American citizens to state boards and agencies, pushed for environmental legislation, instituted the passage of a "sunshine law" that opened government meetings to the public, supported the reinstitution of Georgia's death penalty, and worked for stiffer sentences for drug violations. Although, state expenditures rose, Carter made changes in office without a tax increase. While in office, Carter served as chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board, the Coastal



Jimmy Carter signs the Social Security Act, December 20, 1977 \*



Jimmy Carter kisses Rosalynn Carter during ceremony for the Final Report of the President's Commission on Mental Health, April 27, 1978 \*



Jimmy Carter and Omar Torrijos at the signing of the Panama Canal Treaty, June 16, 1978 \*



Deng Xiaoping and Jimmy Carter sign diplomatic agreements between the United States and China, January 31, 1979 \*

## and rashness and other signs of insecurity." Jimmy Carter.

Plans Regional Action Planning Commission, The Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Southern Growth Policies Board. Unable to gain his bid for re-election as Governor of Georgia, he set his sights on the presidency in 1976, entering the Democratic Party Presidential primaries. Although, fairly unknown, Carter gained ground as something new to the American people during a time when the Watergate Scandal replaced the Nixon/Agnew administration with Gerald Ford—the first "unelected" president of the United States. Carter's campaign platform focused on government reorganization and he won the election with 40,827,394 (50.1%) of the popular vote and 297 electoral votes to Ford's 39,145,977 (48%) popular votes and 240 electoral votes (one electoral vote went to Ronald Reagan).

During Carter's administration as president, he made progress in U.S. relations with the Soviet Union and China, as well as peace relations with Egypt and Israel. Carter helped to lower transportation costs for industry and consumers by

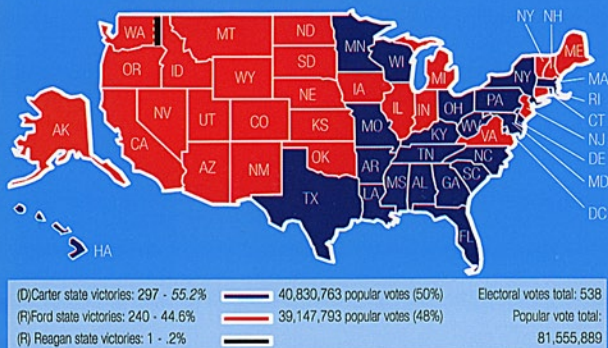
deregulating the airline, trucking, and railroad industries. He also set out to reduce the U.S. dependence on foreign oil through energy policies that were successful in reducing the consumption of foreign oil from 48% to 40% in 1980, totaling a reduction of 1.8 million barrels a day. Carter is the first President of the United States, in or out of office to visit Cuba since Castro's 1959 revolution, in a hope to make a step toward lifting a 40-year-old trade embargo between the United States and Cuba. Although, President Carter was unable to alleviate the economic recession, he remained a champion of promoting the United States to take a lead in universal human rights during his administration.

Upon leaving office in 1981, Carter returned to Plains, Georgia where the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site established in 1987. Carter continued his devotion to promoting peace and democracy abroad with the dedication of the Carter Center in 1986, which he founded in partnership with Emory University in 1982. The Center

2. The center also includes the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum.



## The Presidential Election 1976



promotes peace and human rights through mediation measures and election monitoring. Carter has served as an advisor to presidents on Middle East issues and as an international mediator in North Korea, Haiti, Bosnia, and Venezuela. He has worked to prevent diseases and other epidemics in Africa. For his peace efforts with international conflicts and his dedication of promoting democracy, human rights, and economic and social development, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. Carter also serves and regularly volunteers for the Habitat for Humanity, an organization that provides housing for underprivileged people. In addition, to serving as a freelance ambassador and serving for charitable causes, he has written several books and memoirs, held a professorship at Emory University, teaches Sunday school, and serves as a deacon in his church.

Jimmy Earl Carter served as the 39th President of the United States from January 20, 1977 to August 9, 1981.

## James Earl Carter: While in Office

**1977** Pardon issued to draft dodgers of Vietnam • B-1 bomber program stopped • Department of Energy established • International Covenant on Human Rights • Emergency Natural Gas Act ("Fireside Chat") • Reorganization Act • Shah of Iran visits White House, prompting demonstrations by anti-Shah forces • Social Security measure signed, resulting in increase in payroll taxes • Government Spending Program to alleviate unemployment announced • Tax cut of \$37.5 billion implemented over three years **1978** U.S. and the Peoples' Republic of China established full diplomatic relations • Peace Accord between Egypt and Israel mediated • Panama Canal Treaty ratified • Production of neutron bomb deferred • First energy package passed • Civil Service Reform Act • Bakke v. University of California ruled that the race of a college applicant could be considered a "plus" **1979** The Department of Education formed • Sadat and Begin signed Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty • Three Mile Island Nuclear Incident • Demonstrations in Washington demanding shutdown of America's nuclear plants • Domestic energy riot in Levittown, Pennsylvania • Carter asked his entire cabinet to resign and announced cabinet and senior staff changes • Shah admitted to the U.S. for medical treatment • Iranian hostage crisis • Executive order froze all Iranian assets in U.S. • The Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty (SALT II) • Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan • Vietnamese sought refuge in the United States • Taiwan Relations Act • Voyager II space vehicle photographed Jupiter • Trans-Alaska Pipeline opened and alleviated the nation's oil crisis **1980** The Alaskan National Interest Lands Conservation Act • Unsuccessful rescue attempt of American hostages from Iran ("Desert One") • "Carter Doctrine" announced that Soviet military intervention in the Middle East will be treated as a direct threat to U.S. national security • Decision to boycott the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow • Iraq invades Iran • Crude Oil Windfall Profits Tax • Federal Superfund program to clean up toxic waste sites • Energy Security Act • Selective Service Act passed • Alaska Lands Superfund Bill to clean up toxic waste dumps • Prime Interest Rate at 21.5% • Carter defeated for a second term as President by Ronald Reagan **1981** President Carter continued to negotiate the release of the American hostages in Iran, whom were released minutes before his term as President is over • Carter administration ends January 20

## Key Establishments

- U.S. and Panama signed treaties to end American control of Panama Canal by year 2000
- Department of Energy established • Camp David talks result in Middle East peace negotiation breakthrough • U.S. and China resume full diplomatic relations • Separate Department of Education created • Deregulation of energy, transportation, communications and finance • Consumption of foreign oil dropped from 48% to 40% (a reduction of 1.8 million barrels a day)

## James Earl Carter: Personal Trivia

**Presidential Number:** 39 **Years President:** 1977-1981 **Age at Inauguration:** 52 **Terms:** 1 **Political Affiliation:** Democrat **State Represented:** Georgia **First Lady:** Eleanor Rosalynn Smith **Vice President:** Walter F. Mondale **Date of Birth:** October 1, 1924 **Birthplace:** Plains, Georgia **Nickname:** Jimmy **Parents:** James Earl & Lillian Gordy Carter **Early Activities:** Basketball in high school, ran cross-country and played football at U.S. Naval Academy **Education:** Georgia Southwestern College, Georgia Institute of Technology, Bachelor of Science from U.S. Naval Academy, Graduate work in Nuclear Physics at Union College **Professions:** Lieutenant in Navy; Peanut Farmer and Warehouseman; 39th President of the United States of America **Pre-Presidential Offices:** Georgia State Senator; Governor of Georgia **Occupation after Presidency:** Writer; Professor at Emory University; Humanitarian **Hobbies:** Playing tennis & softball, skiing, jogging, cycling, wood working, billiards, bowling, fly fishing, hunting, swimming, watching baseball, dancing with Rosalynn **Favorite Books:** Let us Now Praise Famous Men by James Agee & War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy **Favorite Philosophers:** Paul Tillich, Reinhold Niebuhr, Soren Kierkegaard **Favorite Color:** Blue **Favorite Foods:** Sirloin steak, fish, poultry, corn bread, salad with Roquefort dressing, and frozen yogurt **Children:** John William (Jack), James Earl III (Chip), Donnel Jeffrey (Jeff), Amy Lynn **Religion:** Baptist **Pets:** Dog named Grits; and daughter's Siamese cat

## Notable Facts

**First president** born in a hospital. **Only president** who graduated from the United States Naval Academy, and one of three to attend a military academy. **Third president** honored the Nobel Peace Prize. **First president** to send his mother on a diplomatic mission. **First president** sworn in using his nickname ("Jimmy"). **Only president** who served as a submariner. **First president** to write a fiction novel, The Hornet's Nest.

## Interesting Facts

- Won Nobel Peace Prize in 2002
- Author of seventeen books
- Volunteers once a week for Habitat for Humanity
- Studied nuclear physics at U.S. Naval Academy
- Became a millionaire in the peanut industry
- Speed reader; recorded reading up to 2000 words per minute
- Submarine named for him; USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23); one of a very few to have named a person after a Navy vessel while alive
- Frugal personal presidential expenses; replaced Nixon's limousine with a smaller one, retired the presidential yacht from service, did not spend the full allowance given to refit the White House living quarters to their liking, and Rosalynn did not follow the First Lady custom of purchasing her own china pattern



## James Earl Carter: Timeline

**1924**

Born October 1st to Lillian Gordy and Earl Carter in Plains, Georgia

**1930**

Began first grade at Plains High School

**1942**

Transferred to Georgia Institute of Technology in  
Appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis

**19**



Jimmy Carter with his sister Gloria and his mother Lillian, ca. 1930\*



Gloria, Jimmy and Ruth Carter, ca. 1932\*

**1943**

Entered the U.S. Naval Academy

**1941**

Graduated from Plains High School and enrolled at Georgia Southwestern College

**1928**

Family moved to a 350 acre farm in Archery, Georgia without running water or electricity

\*Credit Line: Courtesy of Jimmy Carter Library

Atlanta

1946

Received a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy  
Married Rosalynn Smith of Plains July 7th  
Moved to Norfolk, Virginia, where assigned to the U.S.S. Wyoming

1948

Accepted into a six-month submarine officer training school

1951

Senior Officer of the pre-commissioning detail on the K-1 ship in

1953

Father died of pancreatic cancer  
Honorable discharge  
Due to a limited



President and Mrs. Carter's  
wedding Photo, July 7, 1946\*



Portrait of Lieutenant Jimmy Carter,  
ca. 1948\*

1949

Assigned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

1952

Accepted into Admiral Hyman Rickover's  
(one of the first two U.S. nuclear submariners)

1954-1955

1946-1952

As a naval officer, moved his family to several locations: Virginia, Hawaii, Connecticut, California, and New York.  
During this time three sons are born, Jack in 1947, Chip in 1950, and Jeff in 1952.



New London, Connecticut

creatic cancer

ged from the navy as Lieutenant and returned with his family to Plains, Georgia to run peanut farm and warehouse.  
come, moved into Public Housing in Plains

**1954**

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka ruled Segregation in schools unconstitutional

**1966**

Ran for governor, and lost to Lester Maddox Mother joined Peace Corps

**1970**

Ran for governor again and w

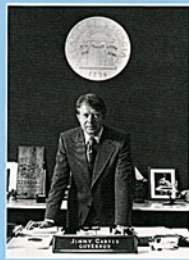
**1962**

Served as a member on several local boards in Plains, Georgia  
Accepted an appointment to the Sumter County Board of Education.

elite nuclear submarine program and worked on the U.S.S. Seawolf  
s)



Jimmy Carter being sworn as State Senator of Georgia,  
January 1963\*



Governor Jimmy Carter in his  
office, ca. 1971\*

**1967**

Fourth child, Amy born on October 19

**1962-66**

Elected to the Georgia State Senate and served two terms

**1971-1974**

Gov

in the election against Carl Sanders, becoming Georgia's 76th Governor on January 12, 1971

**1974**

Announced his candidacy for president

**1976**

Elected 39th President of the United States on November 2, 1976

**1977**

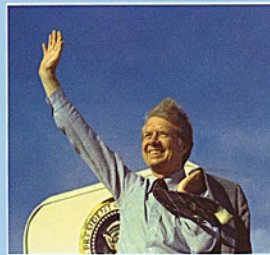
Inaugurated President of the United States of America on January 20th

**1981**

Returned to Plains, Georgia



President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter at Inaugural Ball, January 20, 1977\*



Jimmy Carter waving from Air Force One, May 17, 1977\*



Jimmy Carter and Helmut Schmidt review NATO troops, July 15, 1978\*

**1975-2003**

Authored 17 books

**1977-1981**

Served as the 39th President of the United States of America

Governor of Georgia until January 13, 1975



## *James Earl Carter : The Time Line*

**1982**

Planned and set up fundraising to establish The Carter Center in Atlanta  
University Distinguished Professor at Emory University

**1986**

The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and The Carter Center in Atlanta opened

**2002**

Traveled to Cuba to meet with Fidel Castro in efforts to lift a 40 year-old trade embargo between Cuba and the United States of America.

**1987**

The Jimmy Carter National Historic Site established in Plains, Georgia

**1987-Present**

Resides in Plains, Georgia  
Travels all over world with Mrs. Carter helping others through their work with the Carter Center and the Rosalynn Carter Institute  
Works to resolve conflict, foster democracy and development, fight hunger, disease and human right abuses in Asia, Africa, Central America, South America and the United States  
Received Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999  
Volunteers once a week with Mrs. Carter with Habitat for Humanity



Jimmy Carter with "Iron Eyes" Cody,  
Cherokee Indian April 4, 1978\*