The J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding Award Ceremony

Jimmy Carter
39th President of the United States of America
1994 Fulbright Prize Laureate

October 1, 1994

Sponsored by the Fulbright Association

With Support of The Coca-Cola Foundation
Welcome and Remarks
Maurizio A. Gianturco
President, Fulbright Association

Fulbright Prize Address
Jimmy Carter
39th President of the United States of America
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Presentation of Fulbright Prize and "Tribute," Sculpture by Sergio Dolfi
Maurizio A. Gianturco
James Earl Carter, Jr.

Born on October 1, 1924, in the small farming town of Plains, Ga., former President Jimmy Carter grew up in nearby Archery. Father James Earl Carter, Sr., was a farmer and businessman, mother Lillian Gordy, a registered nurse.

President Carter attended Plains public schools, Georgia Southwestern College, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946 and later did graduate work in nuclear physics at Union College. During his naval career, he served with both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and became lieutenant (senior grade), working under Admiral Hyman Rickover to develop the nuclear submarine program.

He married Rosalynn Smith on July 7, 1946. When his father died in 1953, he resigned his commission and returned with Rosalynn to Plains. President Carter worked his own farm and continued his father's small business, selling fertilizer and farm supplies.

Carter's Warehouse grew into a profitable, general purpose seed and farm supply operation. Soon after his return to Plains, President Carter became involved in the affairs of the community. He chaired the county school board and served as the first president of the Georgia Planning Association.

In 1962, President Carter was elected to the Georgia Senate. He lost his first gubernatorial campaign in 1966, but ran again in the next election and won, becoming Georgia's 76th governor on January 12, 1971. While in office, he was selected by his fellow governors to serve as chairman of key regional boards, including the Southern Regional Education Board and the Appalachian Regional Commission. In 1973, he chaired the Democratic National Committee campaign for the 1974 congressional elections.

On December 12, 1974, he announced his candidacy for president of the United States. He won his party's nomination on the first ballot at the 1976 Democratic National Convention and was elected president on November 2, 1976.

President Carter championed human rights throughout the world. Particularly noteworthy among the foreign policy accomplishments of his administration were the Panama Canal treaties, the Camp David Accords, the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of U.S. diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

In domestic affairs, the Carter administration launched a comprehensive energy program carried out by a new Department of Energy and oversaw deregulation in the energy, transportation, communications, and finance industries. His administration also created the Department of Education and developed major environmental protection legislation, including the Alaska Lands Act.


As university distinguished professor at Emory University in Atlanta, President Carter founded the Carter Center in 1982 in cooperation with the university. The Carter Center brings people and resources together to promote peace and human rights, to resolve conflict, to foster democracy and development, and to fight hunger and disease throughout the world. The Carter Center has helped monitor elections in nearly a dozen countries. Its work has contributed to an increase in worldwide child immunization rates from 20 to 80 percent. The center has led the fight to eradicate Guinea worm disease in the developing world by the end of 1995. It has also assisted African farmers to more than triple grain production.

The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation awards a prize for outstanding contributions to the advancement of human rights. In 1991, President Carter launched The Atlanta Project, a community-wide effort to attack the social problems associated with poverty.

President Carter has also served on the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity. He and Mrs. Carter volunteer one week each year to help build homes for poor people in the United States and abroad. President Carter teaches Sunday school and is a deacon in the Maranatha Baptist Church of Plains.

1994 Fulbright Prize Laureate

Jimmy Carter

39th President of the United States of America

The Fulbright prize honors former President Jimmy Carter for his promotion of mutual understanding among nations and his commitment to public service as an elected official and as a private citizen. The prize recognizes President Carter's career as a living example of Fulbright principles.

The J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding

The Fulbright Prize honors the largest and most significant educational exchange program in history as well as the career and spirit of its creator, Senator J. William Fulbright. The prize recognizes and rewards outstanding contributions towards bringing peoples, cultures, or nations to greater understanding of others. Considered for the prize are individuals in any part of the world who have made a substantial contribution to breaking through the barriers which divide humankind.

In establishing the prize, the Fulbright Association and its cooperating American and foreign associates seek to provide substantial recognition to individuals who dedicate their energies to improving international understanding and to encourage new generations to undertake life commitments to international understanding.

The prize is made possible through a grant by The Coca-Cola Foundation.

The Fulbright Association would also like to acknowledge developmental support from the Archer Daniels Midland Foundation.
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