



# Mr. President

## James Earl Carter, Jr.

39th President of United States, 1977-1981

Jimmy Carter was born in Plains, Georgia on October 1, 1924. The mainstays of his upbringing were peanut farming, politics and devotion to the Baptist faith. In 1946, after graduating from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, he married Rosalynn Smith. They have three sons, John, James, Donnel and a daughter, Amy.

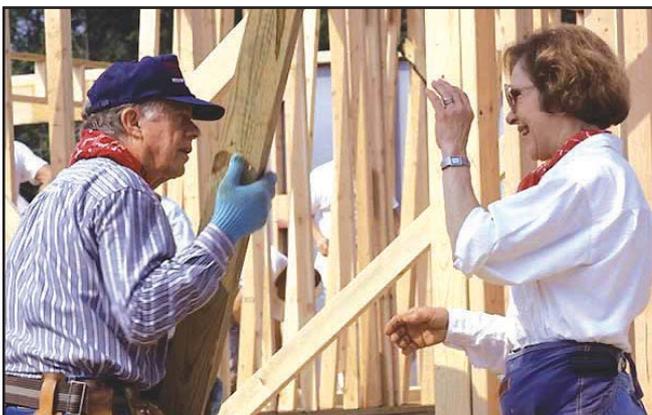
After seven years as a naval officer, Carter returned to Plains. In 1962, he entered state politics and eight years later was elected Governor of Georgia. He emphasized ecology, efficiency in government and the removal of racial barriers.

In December 1974, he began a two year campaign for the presidency. He worked hard and ended up winning against President Gerald R. Ford.

### President Carter had a number of achievements in domestic affairs:

- He dealt with the energy shortage by establishing a national energy policy and by decontrolling domestic petroleum prices to stimulate production.
- He prompted government efficiency through civil service reform and proceeded with deregulation of the trucking and airline industries.
- He sought to improve the environment.
- His expansion of the national park system included protection of 103 million acres of Alaskan lands.
- To increase human and social services, he created the Department of Education, bolstered the Social Security system, and appointed record numbers of women, blacks, and Hispanics to Government jobs.
- Under his presidency the US officially recognized the people's republic of China in 1979.

In foreign affairs, his championing of human rights was coldly received by the Soviet Union and other nations. In the Middle East, with the Camp David agreement of 1978,



President Carter and his wife volunteer one week a year for Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that helps needy people in the United States and in other countries renovate and build homes for themselves.



he helped bring amity between Egypt and Israel. He obtained ratification of the Panama Canal treaties. He also completed negotiation of the SALT II nuclear limitation treaty with the Soviet Union which got suspended with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

It was during President Carter's time in office that the seizure of the U.S. embassy staff by Iran happened. Continuing the difficult negotiations over the hostages, Iran finally released the 52 Americans the same day Carter left office.

### Interesting Facts:

- President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. It came as a response to his work in promoting human rights, trying to resolve conflicts peacefully and providing health care and food to the world's poor.
- President Carter collects bottles and arrowheads.
- He reads 3 to 4 books per week and has taken a speed reading course.
- To keep in shape, President Carter rides a bicycle, jogs and plays tennis.
- His favorite spectator sport is baseball.