

Class of 1947

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Jimmy Carter grew up in Plains, Georgia, with an appreciation for the land and an interest in the world around him.

After briefly attending college, Jimmy entered the U.S. Naval Academy in the Class of 1947. At the Academy, he was a gifted student and was always ready to help his classmates with their studies. The *Lucky Bag* predicted he would be remembered for his “cheerful disposition and ability to see the humorous side of any situation.”

After graduation in 1946 (his class graduated early to support the Fleet after World War II), Jimmy married Rosalyn Smith. He then served as a submarine officer in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. Carter was chosen by Admiral Hyman Rickover for the nuclear submarine program, and completed graduate work in reactor technology and nuclear physics. He served as senior officer of the pre-commissioning crew of the *Seawolf*.

After his father's death, Jimmy Carter returned home to Plains to run the family business, and quickly became a community leader. He was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1962 and governor in 1970.

In 1976 he was elected President of the United States, working for peace in the Middle East and pushing for economic deregulation at home.

In 1982, the former President established The Carter Center, addressing national and international issues of public policy. Under his leadership, the Center works to resolve conflict, promote democracy, protect human rights, and prevent disease and other afflictions. Through the Global 2000 program, the Center advances health and agriculture in the developing world.

Today, Jimmy Carter still works as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and has encouraged this same spirit of citizen involvement at his alma mater.

The former President and First Lady enjoy spending time with their four children and their families, and both remain role models of good citizenship.

Jimmy Carter is a distinguished graduate and an inspirational citizen.