



## America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference

BOSTON GLOBAL FORUM · AI WORLD SOCIETY · LOEB HOUSE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY · MAY 1, 2026

### SYMBOLIC RECOGNITION

## President Jimmy Carter

*and the Generations of American Leaders Devoted to Peace*

Award accepted by **Jason Carter**

*Grandson of President Jimmy Carter · Chairman, The Carter Center Board of Trustees*



JASON CARTER · ACCEPTING  
*on behalf of the Carter family*

Recipient: 39th President of the United States, 1977–1981

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate · 2002

U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom · 1999

Founder, The Carter Center · 1982

*Honored, America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference*

## I **A Lifetime in Service of Peace**

FROM PLAINS TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE WORLD

President Jimmy Carter is among the most consequential American statesmen of the modern era — a leader whose decades of public service, both in office and after, have reshaped what it means for America to lead the world in the cause of peace. Born in Plains, Georgia, in 1924, his life spanned the full arc of the American Century: from naval service under Admiral Hyman Rickover, to the Georgia State Senate, to the Governorship of Georgia, and to the Presidency of the United States from 1977 to 1981.

As **the 39th President of the United States**, Jimmy Carter brought to the White House a conviction that the moral foundations of American power matter as much as its instruments. Among his most enduring contributions was the **Camp David Accords of 1978**, which produced the historic peace treaty between Egypt and

Israel — a diplomatic achievement that has endured for nearly half a century and stands as one of the singular accomplishments of postwar American statesmanship. After leaving the Presidency, Carter committed the remainder of his public life to the patient, unglamorous work of building peace, defending democracy, and serving the poorest of the world’s communities — in a postpresidency widely regarded as without equal in American history.

---

*“War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other’s children.”*

— PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LECTURE, 2002

---

## II **The Carter Center**

WAGING PEACE, FIGHTING DISEASE, BUILDING HOPE

In 1982, President Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter founded **The Carter Center** in partnership with Emory University — an institution dedicated to advancing peace and improving health worldwide. In the four decades since, the Center has observed more than 125 elections in nearly 40 countries, mediated armed conflict in some of the world’s most difficult regions, and led global efforts to eliminate diseases that have afflicted the poorest communities on earth for generations — most notably the near-eradication of Guinea worm disease, one of the great public-health achievements of our time.

For this body of work, in **2002** President Carter was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** — “for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.” He had earlier received the **U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999** for his lifetime of public service.

President Carter’s passing in December 2024, in his 100th year, marked the close of a singular American life — one whose moral example has become inseparable from the question of what kind of nation America aspires to be.

---

*“We can choose to alleviate suffering. We can choose to work together for peace. We can make these changes — and we must.”*

— PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LECTURE, 2002

---

## III **America at 250**

HONORING A TRADITION OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP FOR PEACE

At the **America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference** at Loeb House, Harvard University, on **May 1, 2026**, **Governor Michael Dukakis and Nguyen Anh Tuan** confer a symbolic recognition upon **President Jimmy Carter** — honoring not only his own extraordinary contributions to peace, but the broader American tradition he embodies: *the generations of American leaders who have devoted themselves to the cause of peace*, from the founding generation through the present day.

The award is accepted on behalf of the Carter family by **Jason Carter**, President Carter’s grandson and Chairman of The Carter Center Board of Trustees — in a gesture that joins the Carter family’s continuing stewardship of the Center’s mission to the Conference’s broader recognition of an American tradition of public service that the Carter name has come to represent.

In honoring this tradition at the threshold of the AI Age, the Conference affirms a central conviction: that the technologies which will define America’s next 250 years must serve the same purposes for which earlier generations of American leaders gave so much — the protection of human dignity, the building of a more peaceful world, and the patient, generational work of democratic governance. The Carter legacy reminds us that the moral foundations of American leadership are not the relics of a former era, but the responsibilities of every generation, including our own.

---

*“America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense, human rights invented America.”*

— PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE NATION, 1981

---

• • •

The Carter family’s presence at America at 250 carries forward a tradition older than any single generation — one in which the Republic’s ideals are not held in trust by a single office, a single party, or a single moment, but are renewed by every American leader who has refused to separate the exercise of power from the demands of conscience.

## CONCLUSION

*From Plains to the White House, from Camp David to The Carter Center, from a presidency defined by moral seriousness to a postpresidency defined by service to the world's poorest, **President Jimmy Carter offered the world an American example of leadership for peace** — one carried forward today by his family, by The Carter Center, and by every generation of American leaders who answer the call to that same enduring tradition.*



AMERICA AT 250 · AI PIONEERS  
Boston Global Forum · AI World Society  
LOEB HOUSE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY · MAY 1, 2026