



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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"EYEWITNESS" EXHIBIT PERFECT FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND PRESIDENTS' DAY *STORIES OF FREED SLAVE, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, AND THE LIVES OF A DOZEN PRESIDENTS*

Atlanta, GA. - Firsthand accounts of the African Americans' fight for freedom are presented in the words of runaway slave John Boston and Civil Rights leader John Lewis. They are just two of the twenty-five personal stories that the New York Times calls "haunting and illuminating" in the exhibition ***"Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives."*** This highly acclaimed exhibit is currently on display at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum and is a perfect way to celebrate Black History Month and Presidents' Day.

Also included in the exhibit are personal reflections by and about a dozen U.S. Presidents, from George Washington warning about the threat of bioterrorism to Jimmy Carter's diary description of Pope John Paul II.

These "Eyewitness" accounts are presented in letters, documents, audio recordings, and video. Describing the bloody voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, visitors will hear John Lewis say, *"they came toward us with nightsticks and bullwhips, trampling us with horses. I was hit on the head by a State Trooper with a nightstick and had a concussion on the bridge. I thought I was going to die."*

Visitors can read the 1862 letter runaway slave John Bolton wrote to his wife saying *"My Dear Wife it is grate joy I take this time to let you know Where I am...this Day I can Adress you thank god as a free man."*

There are notes by Alonzo Fields, the Chief Butler at the White House, describing a hurried dinner for President Truman and his advisors following North Korea's invasion of South Korea.

Visitors will see letters written by Thomas Jefferson describing the start of the French Revolution, George Washington warning that the British may be *"Spreading the Smallpox thro' this Country & Camp"*, Harry Truman describing his first meeting with Russian leader Joseph Stalin, President Nixon's last day in office as witnessed by George H. W. Bush, and President Jimmy Carter's diary entries urging Pope John Paul II to discuss Israel.

Abraham Lincoln's doctor testified about his treatment of the President after John Wilkes Booth shot him. *"I at once informed those around that the case was an hopeless one: that the President would die,"* Dr. Robert King Stone said.

Visitors can play a portion of Lady Bird Johnson's audio diary in which she tells about the day President Kennedy was killed. Johnson talks about seeing First Lady Jackie Kennedy at Parkland hospital saying, *"You always think of her - or somebody like her - as being insulated, protected, sort of on Olympus. She was quite alone. I don't think I ever saw anyone so much alone in my life..."*

Other featured Presidents include President Kennedy's audio recording about the Cuban Missile Crisis, Dwight Eisenhower's report on a transcontinental convoy while in the army, John Adams describing meeting King George III, and Herbert Hoover's last day in office as seen by his personal secretary.

The national tour of "Eyewitness" is sponsored by the Boeing Company. The Atlanta Journal Constitution is a sponsor of this historic exhibition at the Carter Presidential Library.

The exhibition is open Monday through Saturday from 9 am until 4:45 pm and on Sunday from noon until 4:45 pm. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (60+), \$6 for military and students with IDs. Those 16 years old and younger are free. Parking is free at the Carter Presidential Center.

For more information, call 404-865-7100 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov.