



## Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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### **Presidential Scholar to Discuss Ways Presidents Define Americans**

*Author Mary E. Stuckey Presents Case Studies on the Effects of Political Language*

**Atlanta, GA.-** Throughout history, U.S. presidents have shaped the image of Americans by the way they describe them. Andrew Jackson spoke in terms that reflected the concerns of a young nation. Franklin Roosevelt put forth an image of Americans as determined and hopeful amid the hardship of the depression and war.

On Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m., the Carter Presidential Library will host a free public lecture on such political rhetoric. Presidential Scholar Mary E. Stuckey will discuss her book *Defining Americans: The Presidency & National Identity*, and take questions from the audience.

In *Defining Americans*, professor Stuckey presents case studies on the way presidents from Andrew Jackson to George W. Bush use political language to create a sense of national identity. At times, Stuckey points out, that language is used to broaden the political community, while at other times, excluding groups.

David Zarefsky, the author of *Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery: In the Crucible of Public Debate*, said “Students of history, politics, and rhetoric will profit from this insightful study of the nexus between language and culture.”

Stuckey’s analysis shows how political language is rooted in the times and circumstances each president faces. Presidents draw upon the same set of ideals and values, Stuckey writes. Yet each president uses those ideals and values differently to communicate their own vision of the American people.

Mary E. Stuckey is professor of communication and political science at Georgia State University and the author of *Strategic Failures in the Modern Presidency; The President As Interpreter-in-Chief*; and *Playing the Game: The Presidential Rhetoric of Ronald Reagan*.

The Mary E. Stuckey lecture is co-sponsored by the Georgia Center For the Book. It will held in the Carter Presidential Library Theater at 8 p.m., February 18<sup>th</sup>. The lecture is open to the public at no charge.