



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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Final Four Weeks of *First Ladies* Exhibit at Carter Library See This Exhibition Before It Closes January 16th

Atlanta, GA. – There are only four weeks left to see the Smithsonian’s *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* exhibition at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. This extraordinary exhibit of first ladies’ gowns, china, silver and personal items ends January 16th

Throughout our history, the first lady has been a central figure in extending political roles for women and gaining acceptance for women in public life,” says Edith Mayo, curator emeritus at the National Museum of American History. “As the most visible women in America, the first ladies have evolved from the president’s social and ceremonial partners to advocates of social causes and political allies in their own right. This evolution places the first lady at the center of both presidential history and women’s history.”

The nation’s expectations of the first ladies reflect American ideals of home, family, and womanhood—ideals that change with every generation. Some first ladies remained within the boundaries of what was considered a proper role for women in their day. Others challenged and expanded those boundaries, subtly or openly.

The exhibition is comprised of more than 150 objects including gowns and dresses from Dolley Madison to Laura Bush, White House furnishings beginning with Martha Washington, and personal and political items that depict the changing role of the first lady.

For the holidays, the lobby of the Carter Presidential Museum is decorated with a recreation of the 1980 White House Christmas tree. The Victorian-style tree is surrounded by antique toys and will delight children of all ages.

The museum shop offers visitors unique holiday gifts, including reproductions of presidential china, first ladies’ jewelry and a wide selection of books written by President and Mrs. Carter.

The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 am until 4:45 pm and Sunday from noon until 4:45 pm. The museum is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (60+), military and students with IDs. Those 16 and younger are always free. Parking at the 35 acre Carter Presidential Center is also free. For more information, call 404-865-7101 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.org.