



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498

404-865-7100

For Immediate Release

Date: March 6, 2006

Contact: Tony Clark, 404-865-7109

Tony.Clark@NARA.gov

Release: NEWS06-14

Poetry of Mattie Stepanek Comes to the Carter Library

Mother of Late Child-Poet to Read From "Just Peace"

Atlanta, GA. – When Mattie Stepanek died of a rare neuromuscular disease in June 2004, he was only 13 years old. Yet during that all-too-short life, Mattie was a poet, best-selling author, peace activist and a prominent voice for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

In 2001, Mattie met former President Jimmy Carter and a strong friendship developed. They talked of life and living and of peace. Together they worked on a book titled "**Just Peace: A Message of Hope.**"

On Wednesday, March 15th, Mattie's mother, Jeni Stepanek, will read from "**Just Peace**" and discuss her son's message of hope. The lecture and book-signing will be at the Carter Presidential Library at 7:30 p.m. It is open to the public at no charge.

Jeni Stepanek
"Just Peace"
Wednesday, March 15 th
7:30 p.m.

"**Just Peace**" includes personal email correspondence between Mattie and President Carter, along with never-before-published prose by Mattie. The book explores Mattie's concept of the world and his vision of all people as a unique mosaic of gifts. His message is clear: peace grows from the choices we make, in our attitudes and in our habits.

A portion of the proceeds from "**Just Peace**" will be donated to the MDA Mattie Fund for medical research.

For additional information, visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.com or call 404-865-7101.