



## *Jimmy Carter Library & Museum* News Release

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### **FINAL DAYS TO SEE WRITINGS OF WASHINGTON, ADAMS, JEFFERSON & MORE** *"EYEWITNESS" EXHIBIT CLOSES IN TWO WEEKS*

**ATLANTA, GA.** - There are only two weeks left to see the exhibit that the New York Times called "haunting and illuminating." "Eyewitness: American Originals from National Archives" ends its only presentation in the Southeast United States on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

For the first time shown publicly outside Washington D.C., see Thomas Jefferson's handwritten account of the start of the French Revolution; George Washington's warning that the British may try to spread smallpox in the colonies; Lady Bird Johnson's audio diary of the Kennedy assassination; John Lewis' description of "Bloody Sunday" and the account by Abraham Lincoln's doctor of the President's chance for surviving an assassin's bullet.

These and other written video and audio accounts bring a personal touch to history. There is a letter from a soldier who helped liberate the concentration camp at Dachau. Written on German SS stationery, he writes home "Dear Mother and Father" and then details the horrific things he has seen.

President Jimmy Carter released his personal diary account of his meeting with Pope John Paul specifically for this exhibit.

Among the two dozen displays is a runaway slave's letter to his wife describing his flight to freedom, George Herbert Walk Bush's diary description of President Richard Nixon on the day he resigned, President Harry Truman's account of his first meeting with Joseph Stalin, and President John Kennedy's audio account of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"Eyewitness" draws on rarely-displayed documents, audio recordings and film footage culled from the extensive holdings of the National Archives and its Presidential Libraries and Regional Archives.

History books describe the slaves' fight for freedom or the liberation of concentration camps at the end of World War II, but the power of the original accounts written or recorded by players in these dramas enable visitors to be transported back in time to these events, almost as if they are experiencing them firsthand.

Many of the documents come alive in the free audio tour, in which visitors hear actual participants as well as actors speaking the words written in the documents.

These 25 gripping, firsthand accounts of historic events are vivid and intensely personal, offering the visitor a unique view of history ranging from stunning stories of adventure to grisly tales of war.

“Eyewitness” was created by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC, and the Foundation for the National Archives. The national tour of “Eyewitness” is sponsored by the Boeing Company.

For Additional information, photos or audio files contact the Carter Library Public Affairs Office at 404-865-7109.