

Love story: Carters to mark 75 years of 'full partnership'

By Bill Barrow
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The young midshipman needed a date one evening while he was home from the U.S. Naval Academy, so his younger sister paired him with a family friend who already had a crush.

Nearly eight decades later, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter are still together in the same tiny town where they were born, grew up and had that first outing. In between, they've traveled the world as Naval officer and military spouse, U.S. president and first lady, and finally as human rights and public health ambassadors.

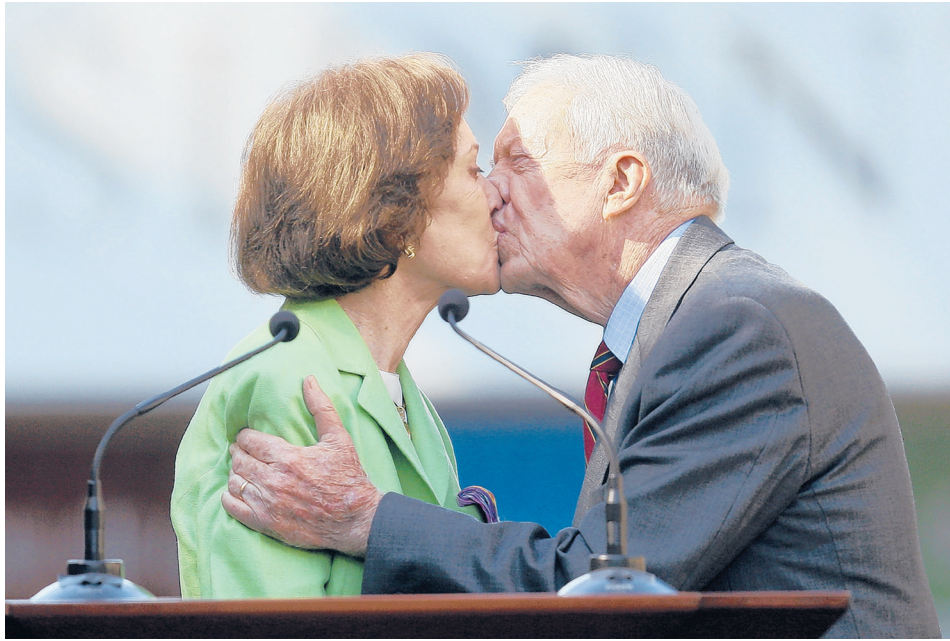
"It's a full partnership," the 39th president said ahead of the couple's 75th wedding anniversary Wednesday.

It will be another milestone for the longest-married presidential couple in American history.

At 96, Carter also is the longest-lived of the 45 men who've served as chief executive. Yet even having reached that pinnacle, Carter has said often since leaving the Oval Office in 1981 that the most important decision he ever made wasn't as head of state, commander in chief or even executive officer of a nuclear submarine in the early years of the Cold War.

Rather, it was falling for Eleanor Rosalynn Smith in 1945 and marrying her the following summer. "My biggest secret is to marry the right person if you want to have a long-lasting marriage," Carter said.

The nonagenarians — she's now 93 — offered a few other tips for an enduring bond.



Former President Carter gets a kiss from Rosalynn as she introduces him during a reopening ceremony for the redesigned Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta. JOHN BAZEMORE/2009

"Every day there needs to be reconciliation and communication between the two spouses," the former president said, explaining that he and Rosalynn, both devout Christians, read the Bible together aloud each night — something they've done for years, even when separated by their travels. "We don't go to sleep with some remaining differences between us," he said.

Rosalynn Carter noted the importance of finding common interests. Even now, she said, "Jimmy and I are always looking for things to do together."

Still, she emphasized a caveat: "Each (person) should have some space. That's really important."

As first lady, Rosalynn Carter carved her own identity even as she supported her husband. Building on her predeces-

sors' efforts to highlight special causes, she went to work in her own East Wing office, setting a standard for first ladies by working alongside her husband's West Wing aides on key legislation, especially dealing with health care and mental health. She continued that focus as the couple built the Carter Center in Atlanta after their White House years.

The Carters plan to celebrate their own marriage milestone a few days after their anniversary with a party in Plains. Decades removed from inaugural balls and state dinners, the most famous residents of Sumter County said they have mixed feelings about the spotlight.

"We have too many people invited," Rosalynn Carter said with a laugh. "I'm actually praying for some turn-downs and regrets."

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Biden fires holdover commissioner of Social Security Administration

By Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Friday fired the commissioner of Social Security after the official refused to resign, and Biden accepted the deputy commissioner's resignation, the White House said.

Biden asked commissioner Andrew Saul to resign, and his employment was terminated after he refused the Democratic president's request, a White House official said.

Deputy Commissioner David Black agreed to resign, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters.

Both officials had been put in place under President Donald Trump, a Republican.

Biden named Kilolo Kijakazi as acting commissioner while the administration conducts a search for a permanent commissioner and deputy commissioner. Kijakazi currently is the

deputy commissioner for retirement and disability policy at the Social Security Administration.

Saul's removal followed a Justice Department legal opinion that found he could be removed, despite a statute that says he could only be fired for neglecting his duties or malfeasance.

The opinion — researched at the request of the White House — concluded that a reevaluation because of a recent Supreme Court ruling meant that Saul could be fired by the president at will.

Biden's move got immediate support from the Democratic senator who would be in charge of confirming a successor to Saul. Republican senators accused Biden of politicizing the agency and pointed to Saul's confirmation by a bipartisan Senate vote in 2019.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said in a statement that "every president should choose the personnel that will

best carry out their vision for the country.

"To fulfill President Biden's bold vision for improving and expanding Social Security, he needs his people in charge," Wyden added, pledging to work to confirm a new commissioner "as swiftly as possible."

Sen. Mike Crapo of Idaho, the top Republican on the finance committee, and Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the top Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, issued a joint statement calling Biden's decision "disappointing." The pair claimed "Social Security beneficiaries stand the most to lose from President Biden's partisan decision to remove Commissioner Andrew Saul."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called the personnel move an "unprecedented and dangerous politicization of the Social Security Administration."

PUBLIC NOTICE
International Drive TFATA Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing

The International Drive Transit Feasibility and Alternative Technology Assessment study analyzed the potential of implementing a premium transit service as an urban circulator operating within the I-Drive District along International Drive from Sand Lake Road to Sea Harbor Drive. The project purpose is to address increasing transportation needs within the International Drive District and the desire by Orange County to implement a sustainable multimodal system that reflects and complements the surrounding environment.

Orange County invites you to attend the Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing to review the preferred alternative under consideration and to provide input.

Project Hearing Schedule

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing will take place on **Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at the Orange County Administration Center, located at 201 S. Rosalind Ave., Orlando, beginning at 2 p.m. or shortly thereafter.** The meeting will include a presentation of findings and recommendations. The public will have opportunities to ask questions and provide comments and input to Orange County and project representatives. Please check the County Calendar for additional meeting details at <http://www.ocfl.net/Home/CountyCalendar.aspx>

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, income, disability or familial status. Persons who require language translation or interpretive services, which are provided at no cost, should contact Ricardo Daye, Orange County Title VI/Nondiscrimination coordinator, at 407-836-5825 or at ricardo.daye@ocfl.net at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. Persons requiring special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) may request assistance from Nicola Norton, ADA coordinator, Citizens Resource & Outreach Division, at 407-836-6568 or nicola.norton@ocfl.net at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact:

Brian Sanders, Assistant Manager
Transportation and Planning Division
Phone: 407-836-8022 / Email: brian.sanders@ocfl.net

Para información en Español, llame a:
Jonathan J. Fong, P.E.
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