# Remembering the LGBTQ+ legacy of Jimmy Carter



[Photo: LBJ Library]

The recent passing of former President Jimmy Carter is the time to reflect on his legacy, marked by a commitment to civil rights, humanitarian efforts, and a recognition of LGBTQ+ rights. Woodrow Keown Jr., President of the Freedom Center, articulated this sentiment in an article featured in The Cincinnati Herald.

Carter’s presidency was notable for his advocacy of civil rights and his progressive stance on issues affecting marginalized communities, including the LGBTQ+ population. Known for his gentle demeanour, even in challenging times, President Carter openly supported significant legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1965, which laid the groundwork for increasing equality across various demographics.

Carter's impact extended well beyond the political sphere; after his presidency, he engaged in extensive humanitarian work. His involvement with Habitat for Humanity stands out, where he contributed to the construction of over 4,400 homes across 14 countries. His philanthropic focus also included efforts to combat infectious diseases, enhance mental health access, and promote human rights through the activities of the Carter Center.

Keown highlighted Carter's role as an election observer in more than 120 elections across 40 nations, emphasising his commitment to the democratic process. This service solidified his belief in the foundational principle that every citizen deserves an equal voice in determining their government's direction.

Reflecting on Carter's ethos, he famously stated, "in every person there is something fine and pure and noble, along with a desire for self-fulfillment," underscoring the importance of creating a nurturing society for all. As various communities, including the LGBTQ+ demographic, mourn his loss, they also celebrate a lifetime of advocacy for inclusion and equality.

Carter’s legacy includes not only his family—survived by his four children, numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren—but also a robust public service record that has left a mark on countless lives worldwide. His burial next to his wife Rosalynn under a willow tree near a pond he helped dig in Plains will serve as a quiet tribute to a man who dedicated himself to the betterment of society and inspired others to do the same.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://study.com/academy/lesson/jimmy-carter-the-civil-rights-movement.html> - Corroborates Jimmy Carter's advocacy for civil rights, his support for Affirmative Action, and his appointment of minorities to his administration.
* <https://wjla.com/news/nation-world/bucked-the-southern-system-carters-civil-rights-legacy> - Provides details on Jimmy Carter's early life and his stance on civil rights, including his support for the civil rights movement and his refusal to join the White Citizens Council.
* <https://www.gmu.edu/news/2024-12/remembering-former-president-jimmy-carter-statesman-humanitarian-and-peacemaker> - Highlights Jimmy Carter's humanitarian work, including his involvement with Habitat for Humanity, his efforts to combat diseases, and his promotion of human rights through the Carter Center.
* <https://www.gmu.edu/news/2024-12/remembering-former-president-jimmy-carter-statesman-humanitarian-and-peacemaker> - Details Carter's role as an election observer in over 120 elections across 40 nations and his commitment to the democratic process.
* <https://study.com/academy/lesson/jimmy-carter-the-civil-rights-movement.html> - Mentions Carter's progressive views on racial issues and his championing of integration during his governorship and presidency.
* <https://wjla.com/news/nation-world/bucked-the-southern-system-carters-civil-rights-legacy> - Discusses Carter's significant civil rights actions, including his support for the first African-American to graduate from the Naval Academy and his public stance against racial discrimination.
* <https://www.gmu.edu/news/2024-12/remembering-former-president-jimmy-carter-statesman-humanitarian-and-peacemaker> - Describes Carter's post-presidency work, including his founding of the Carter Center and his efforts in peace negotiations and disease eradication.
* <https://study.com/academy/lesson/jimmy-carter-the-civil-rights-movement.html> - Explains how Carter's civil rights legacy extended to his support for African American votes and his appointment of large numbers of minorities to his administration.
* <https://wjla.com/news/nation-world/bucked-the-southern-system-carters-civil-rights-legacy> - Details Carter's transition from focusing on civil rights to broader human rights issues during and after his presidency.