

# MEMORIES & FRIENDSHIPS



**October 1-3, 2022  
Plains, GA**

162 WHCA alumni assembled in Plains, Georgia for the reunion. The reunion when Larry Little and Cathie Skoog first started making plans were thinking a “cookout” with maybe 35 people attending.

Unfortunately 16 members were unable to attend due to property damage resulting from Hurricane Ian.

We were also pleased to have so many spouses and guests attend; they commented on how it was interesting to hear / learn what folks in WHCA did while working in DC, the CSTs and while traveling. Unfortunately we didn’t get a good count to determine the number of guests, but there were a lot and they all had a wonderful time.

It was heartwarming to see people creating memories, renewing former friendships, and making new friends.

The non-official reunion started on Friday evening as folks arrived and began renewing friendships in the WHCA office and the keg, where Rick Overstreet was the bartender and Ray Millaway make popcorn for everyone.

The reunion “officially”kicked off on Saturday morning with a “welcome” from Larry Little followed by an emotional video created by Ray Millaway. It has been posted to YouTube at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNKyBl\\_h1Dw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNKyBl_h1Dw)

The National Park Service now oversees a number of sites in Plains Georgia including the high school which President Carter attended. The school is now closed and serves as the visitor’s center for the Park Service Historical Site and as a museum chronicling President Carter’s boyhood and his presidency. The Park Service generously allowed us to use the school auditorium as the gathering place for the reunion activities. We should also note how welcoming the Plains community was for all the reunion attendees.



Bartender Rick Overstreet (‘84 – ‘87) and Popcorn Popper Ray Millaway (‘76 – ‘84)  
The Keg was provided by Allan Gomez (‘73 – ‘81)

We were honored to have the mayors from Plains and Americus welcomed WHCA to their cities. Kim Fuller, niece of President and Mrs. Carter, and the Executive Director of Friends of Jimmy Carter, spoke to the group and shared some stories of growing up with an uncle who was also the President of the United States. **Phil Wise who served President Carter’s as his appointments secretary also welcomed the reunion attendees.**

Jerry Muhlenkamp (‘75 – ‘80) is a member of American Legion Post 217 in Sidney, Ohio and is on the Post baseball committee. The committee is preparing for the 100th anniversary of American Legion Baseball in 2025. Through research it was discovered President Carter was the only president to play American Legion Baseball in his youth. Jerry acquired “home” and “away” baseball jerseys from the Post with the number “39” to match our 39th President. Jerry presented the two jerseys to Kim Fuller and Phil Wise for President Carter.



Phil Wise, Kim Fuller and Jerry Muhlenkamp

Following the presentations we had a birthday celebration to honor President Carter's 98th birthday, complete with singing happy birthday. We had a large birthday card, signed by every WHCA person who attended the reunion, which Larry Little presented to Kim. Unfortunately, President Carter was not able to attend the celebration.



At our afternoon break on Saturday, everyone had birthday cake. A big "thank you" to Kay Hathaway, Belinda Hudson, Becky Cammel and Sheila (Bellville) Brautigam ('75 - '81) for taking care of the troops and making sure everyone had a piece of cake.



And we had our very own Reunion Musicians, who entertained us when we were outside and at the Keg in the evenings. The two gentleman below are Ken Gray ('80 – '87) who is standing and Jimmy McLendon ('85 – '88). Glenn Arnett also provided some musical entertainment.



Sunday focused on presentations from all WHCA sections and people shared stories. We even had a trivia game, hosted by Marty Williams and the teams competing kept everyone in stitches laughing.

## REUNION PHOTOS



Larry Little & Ray Millaway, buying Reunion Tees



Harold Looney & Larry Little, Sunday Afternoon



John Harris, Tom Polaski & Bob Mitchell



Jackie Johnson, Glenn Arnett & Jerry Johnson

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Allan Gomez, Jackie Johnson & Tommy Jones



Gary Bresnahan & Jimmy Williams



Cathie (Gottus) Skoog, Mike Skoog, John Hudson  
and Scott Davies



Ed Blackford & Archie Melendez



Outside of Bonita's Restaurant, Plains, GA

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Debbie Childers ('78 - '86) and  
Jean Gomez (wife of Allan)

The Quality Inn in Americus Georgia (originally the Best Western from the days of Presidential trips to Plains) served as the base of operation for the reunion. The “WHCA Office” and Keg were set up in meeting rooms and the dining room of the hotel.

Having all of the dinners at the Quality Inn which opened into The Keg was a real treat. Folks could have dinner and socialize until they were ready to retire to their rooms or to the WHCA office, which was across the hall.

The only complaints we heard were, “Oh, I have to head home too soon”, “I wish we had more time to visit” and “Oh, I didn’t get to talk with xxx”. We heard you and with planning the 2023 reunion, we are going to provide even MORE time to visit with one another.

The dates for the 2023 Plains Reunion will be September 30 – October 2. Mark your calendar now! The location for the reunion will again be the Carter Center in Plains, GA.

The Quality Inn will be “Hotel Central” where we will have the WHCA Office, Keg and dining room for dinners. There will be no dog-fee at the hotel, so you can travel with your dogs; arrangements will be made for Doggie Daycare and Boarding in Plains.

**SYIP ‘23**