



SENIOR
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SEA - The Voice of Senior Executives

SEA Celebrates the Life and Public Service Legacy of Former President Jimmy Carter

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Marcus Hill, President of the Senior Executives Association (SEA)—a non-partisan, non-profit organization representing the interests of over 8,000 career federal executives in the Senior Executive Service (SES), Senior Level (SL), Scientific and Professional (ST) and equivalent positions and other senior career federal rising and aspiring executives, released the following statement on the passing of former President Jimmy Carter:

“The passing of President Jimmy Carter marks the end of an era for American leadership, and his legacy continues to resonate in many facets of public service. Among his significant contributions, one of the most enduring was his role in the creation of the Senior Executive Service (SES) through the signing of the bipartisan Civil Service Reform Act of 1978. The SES was designed to strengthen the federal government’s ability to recruit, retain, and manage high-level, career executives who would lead agencies with professionalism and with a focus on results,” said Hill.

“President Carter’s commitment to good government and civil service reform, exemplified by the establishment of the SES, sought to bridge the gap between political appointees and career civil servants, ensuring a more effective, flexible, and accountable federal workforce. His leadership from the White House on this issue also emphasized the importance of a performance-based system, with a focus on merit and leadership qualities rather than political loyalty alone. By working with Congress to establish the SES, President Carter helped professionalize the management of the federal government, ensuring that top executives were better equipped to navigate the complexities of governance while remaining accountable to the public and responsive to political changes,” Hill furthered.

“President Carter also worked with Congress on a bipartisan basis to address concerns about government following the Watergate era. In addition to civil service reform, these included the establishment of federal ethics requirements, independent Inspector Generals, and management flexibility to reorganize executive agencies. “In sum, President Carter’s actions in reforming the civil service through the Civil Service Reform Act and the creation of the Senior Executive Service have had a lasting impact on the way federal agencies operate, and his legacy lives on in the leadership, integrity, and efficiency that the SES continues to foster within the U.S. government,” Hill stated.

Today, as a new Congress and administration prepare to begin in 2025, SEA stands ready to work with new leaders across the aisle to thoughtfully modernize the civil service and improve government for All Americans,” Hill concluded.

The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is a professional association representing Senior Executive Service members and other career Federal leaders. Founded in 1980, SEA's goals are to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity of the Federal government; to advance the professionalism and advocate the interests of career Federal executives; and to enhance public recognition of their contributions. For more information regarding the Senior Executives Association, please visit www.seniorexecs.org.