

American Cancer Society and ACS CAN Statement on the Passing of President Jimmy Carter

WASHINGTON, DC – December 29, 2024 – The American Cancer Society joins the nation in mourning the loss of former president Jimmy Carter. President Carter passed away today after receiving home hospice care since February 2023.

In 2015 President Carter was diagnosed with cancer. He underwent elective surgery in August 2015 to remove a small mass in his liver. The surgery revealed melanoma, spreading to four different parts of his brain. He was 90 years old at the time.

“A tremendous advocate for cancer education and prevention in the United States, President Carter helped accelerate progress against the more than 200 diseases we call cancer during his time in office,” said [Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick](#), interim CEO of the [American Cancer Society](#) and the [American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network \(ACS CAN\)](#). “Upon receiving his own cancer diagnosis, he benefitted from that progress, undergoing innovative treatment methods made possible by cancer research funded by both the federal government and the American Cancer Society, among others. Our thoughts are with the Carter family during this difficult time.”

President Carter’s successful treatment was credited to pembrolizumab, a drug that works to harness the body’s immune system to fight cancer.

During President Carter’s administration, he supported an extension of the mandate passed in the National Cancer Act to intensify and expand the national effort to fight cancer. He also signed legislation to emphasize education and demonstration programs in cancer treatment and prevention and directed the National Cancer Institute to devote more resources to prevention, focusing particularly on environmental, dietary and occupational cancer causes.

There is a history of cancer in Carter’s family. His mother died of breast cancer. His father, two sisters and brother all died of pancreatic cancer.

“We extend our deepest condolences to the Carter family and friends at the loss of this American treasure,” Frederick said.

What is Melanoma?

Melanoma is a type of skin cancer that develops when melanocytes (the cells that give the skin its tan or brown color) start to grow out of control. Learn more about melanoma [here](#).

###

About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a leading cancer-fighting organization with a vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. For more than 100 years, we have been improving the lives of people with cancer and their families as the only organization combating cancer through advocacy, research, and patient support. We are committed to ensuring everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. To learn more, visit [cancer.org](#) or call our 24/7 helpline at [1-800-227-2345](#). Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

About ACS CAN

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) makes cancer a top priority for policymakers at every level of government. ACS CAN empowers volunteers across the country to make their voices heard to influence evidence-based public policy change that improves the lives of people with cancer and their families. We believe everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer. Since 2001, as the American Cancer Society’s nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN has successfully advocated for billions of dollars in cancer research funding, expanded access to quality affordable health care, and advanced proven tobacco control measures. We’re more determined than ever to stand together with our volunteers to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. Join the fight by visiting [www.fightcancer.org](#).

For further information: For More Info, Contact: American Cancer Society Email: Michele.Money-Carson@cancer.org American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) Email: Emily.Burr@cancer.org

Additional assets available online: [Photos \(1\)](#)