

National Federation of Democratic Women
Resolution Commending Rosalynn Carter
For Her Lifelong Commitment to Public Service

WHEREAS, Rosalynn Carter has lived a life of public service that has resulted in unparalleled humanitarian successes throughout the United States and globally as First Lady of Georgia, First Lady of the United States and now as co-founder and Vice-President of The Carter Center and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project for Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, mental health care and discrimination against those with mental health have greatly improved; and since the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalist were established in 1996, fellows have produced more than 1,500 stories, documentaries, books and other works that have won an Emmy or nominations for the Pulitzer Prize. This work by several domestic and international fellows has led to changes in local, state, and national behavioral health policies or programs; and

WHEREAS, from 1985–2016, the annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy has brought together national leaders in mental health to focus and coordinate their efforts on issues of common concern and recommend action steps to move an agenda forward, and Former First Lady Carter played a key role in the passage of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, which ensures that mental illnesses are covered by insurance at parity with other illnesses; ¹ and

WHEREAS, Rosalynn Carter made a priority of aiding senior citizens in need, subsequently assembling a task force to inventory federal programs for the elderly. She conferred frequently with the president's counselor on aging and worked with advocates like the Gray Panthers as well as Congressman Claude Pepper, Chair of the House Select Committee on Aging, on how to

best serve the elderly within the community. She also lobbied Congress for passage of the Age Discrimination Act to do away with mandatory age retirement within the federal workplace and to raise the age limit to seventy in the private sector. She further lobbied for the Older American Act, a funding increase in elderly services, as well as the Rural Clinics Act and Social Security reform to benefit seniors. In addition, Rosalynn Carter presided over the White House Conference on Aging.²

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the National Federation of Democratic Women commends Rosalynn Carter for her ongoing work to improve the lives of all citizens of the United States and the world and expresses what an honor it is to have her representing all women.

Submitted by the NFDW Legislative Committee May 1, 2017

Adopted by NFDW Members at Convention June 10, 2017

¹www.thecartercenter.org

²www.FirstLadies.org