

Office of the Chancellor



Reach greater heights.

November 20, 2023

Dear campus community,

The recent passing of former First Lady Eleanor Rosalynn Carter has left the world without one of its heroes — a true champion for mental health research, caregiving, early childhood immunization, women’s rights, and conflict resolution.

The wife of 39th President Jimmy Carter, Rosalynn served as First Lady from 1977 to 1981 and was cofounder of the Carter Center in Atlanta.

I knew that place well from my years in Georgia, but the impact of its nonprofit activities — often focusing on conflict resolution, global human rights, disease prevention, and mental health — were felt well beyond that state.

On that latter issue, her advocacy helped bring awareness to an issue that’s of particular importance on college campuses, where three out of five students is said to struggle with a psychological or psychiatric issue.

As was said on Sunday in a press release from her son, Chip: “Besides being a loving mother and extraordinary First Lady, my mother was a great humanitarian in her own right. Her life of service and compassion was an example for all Americans. She will be sorely missed not only by our family but by the many people who have better mental health care and access to resources for caregiving today.”

We at USC Upstate community applaud Rosalynn Carter’s commitment, her advocacy, and her activism. Her work will live on forever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennie L. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Bennie L. Harris
Chancellor