



James "Jimmy" McCord Carter
October 15, 1952 - October 13, 2026

James "Jimmy" McCord Carter, 73, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, just two days shy of his 74th birthday.

Born on October 15, 1952, in Montgomery, Alabama, Jimmy was the son of the late Judge James J. Carter and Eva Carter. He grew up in Montgomery, where his curiosity, quick wit, and love of storytelling began at an early age. A beloved father, Granddaddy, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, Jimmy was a larger-than-life personality who never met a stranger and always had a story to tell.

Jimmy is survived by his three daughters, Michelle (Steven) Zimmermann, Sara (Mike) Atwood, and Mary Clarke Carter (Josh Harper); his grandchildren, Stacey (Austin) Sparks, Madison Nichols (Jesse Flock), Bryson Zimmermann, Logan Zimmermann, Ella Zimmermann, Mary Catherine Atwood, Chip Atwood, and Carter Atwood; and his great-grandchildren, Atlas Sparks, Damon Sparks, and Paxtyn Zimmermann. He is also survived by his brother, David (Rosemary) Carter; his sister, Kathy Green; his sister-in-law, Helma Carter, wife of his late brother Harold; and his niece and nephews, Chris (Susan) Carter, Rachel Carter, and James Green. He was preceded in death by his parents, Judge James J. and Eva Carter, and his brother, Harold Carter.

Above all else, Jimmy's family was his everything. He was an incredibly proud father, Granddaddy, great-grandfather, brother, and uncle who loved his family deeply and took great joy in their lives and accomplishments. While his career took him around the world and introduced him to some of the most famous people in entertainment, nothing meant more to him than his family. He never missed an opportunity to share stories about the people he loved most.

Jimmy was a born reporter. From an early age, he had an insatiable curiosity about the world around him, a natural gift for conversation, and a passion for being where the action was. His broadcasting career began at just 15 years old when he started working at his favorite rock radio station in Montgomery in 1968. What began as a teenage fascination with music and radio grew into an extraordinary career spanning nearly six decades in radio, television, entertainment, and journalism.

Jimmy was a 1970 graduate of Jefferson Davis High School in Montgomery and attended Auburn University, where he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity and played an instrumental role in establishing the university's first radio station, WEGL-FM. He later graduated from the University of Alabama in 1979. During his early adult years, Jimmy also served as a volunteer firefighter and licensed paramedic, reflecting his willingness to get involved and serve his community. His early broadcasting career included working with ABC's *Wide World of Sports*, where he had the opportunity to work alongside legendary broadcaster Howard Cosell. From there, his career took him across the country and around the world.

Jimmy worked as a reporter, producer, writer, and television personality, covering everything from civil rights and politics to hurricanes, presidential events, Hollywood premieres, and country music's biggest stars. His career included positions with NBC,

CBS, WSM-TV in Nashville, and The Nashville Network. His work earned him an Emmy Award, along with numerous other awards and nominations recognizing his contributions to television journalism and entertainment.

His work with *Crook & Chase* took him from the red carpets of Hollywood to movie premieres in London, where he interviewed some of the entertainment industry's most recognizable names. Over the years, Jimmy crossed paths with countless celebrities, including Elvis Presley, Bob Hope, Dolly Parton, Garth Brooks, Lionel Richie, Sean Connery, Clint Eastwood, Robert Redford, and many more. Whether covering the Academy Awards, interviewing country music legends, or sharing the latest entertainment news, Jimmy had a front-row seat to history and loved every minute of it.

Radio remained one of Jimmy's greatest loves throughout his life. His entertainment reports and commentary reached audiences across the country, with appearances on stations including WSM 650 AM in Nashville, WDEN in Macon, 95.9 Texas Country in Austin, KEZS in Cape Girardeau, The Bear in Tuscaloosa, and numerous others throughout the United States and Canada. He also co-hosted the weekly podcast *Sweeping the Country with Derik Walker*, continuing to share his love of country music, entertainment, and storytelling with audiences. With his unmistakable personality, quick wit, and gift for storytelling, Jimmy developed a special connection with his listeners. He understood that radio was about more than delivering the news; it was about making people feel as though they were part of the conversation. To the many listeners who tuned in over the years, Jimmy was more than a familiar voice. He was, in many ways, an old friend.

Beyond his broadcasting career, Jimmy shared his knowledge and experience with the next generation as an adjunct professor at Belmont University's Mike Curb School of Music Business for almost 30 years. He developed courses in electronic media and the music business and taught public relations and artist management, bringing his firsthand industry experience into the classroom.

For Jimmy, broadcasting was never simply a job. It was his passion and a defining part of who he was. He genuinely loved what he did, and his enthusiasm for reporting, storytelling, and connecting with people never faded. He continued working and doing what he loved right up until his passing.

Outside of his professional life, Jimmy was a proud Alabama Crimson Tide fan who loved music, movies, travel, and sharing stories about the remarkable people and places he

encountered throughout his life. A naturally gifted musician, Jimmy played the drums, guitar, and piano and had an extraordinary ear for music, often playing songs after hearing them just once. He was also a devoted friend to many and placed tremendous value on the friendships he built, some stretching back to his childhood in Montgomery. With his quick wit, gift for conversation, and personality that could fill any room, Jimmy made lasting impressions wherever he went. No matter where life took him, he never forgot the people who had been part of his journey.

Jimmy lived an extraordinary life, filled with fascinating people, unforgettable experiences, and stories that seemed almost too good to be true. But his greatest legacy will not be the famous faces he interviewed, the places he traveled, or the awards he received. It will be the family he loved so fiercely, the lifelong friendships he treasured, the listeners who welcomed his voice into their lives, and the countless people he touched along the way.

For a man who spent his life with a front-row seat to the world, Jimmy's greatest joy was always the people who shared his life with him.

Serving as honorary pallbearers are David Carter, Chris Carter, Ted Maynard, Steve VanGilder, Ben Glass, Doug Paisley, Barry Copeland, Tom Stipe, George Forbis, Art Acevedo, Eddie Harper, Jim Schwertner, Bob Cole, Merrill Thompson, Pam Huff, Laura Starling, Derik Walker, James Spann, and Rob Martin.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2026, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 11:00 a.m. at St. Henry Church, 6401 Harding Pike, Nashville, TN 37205.