

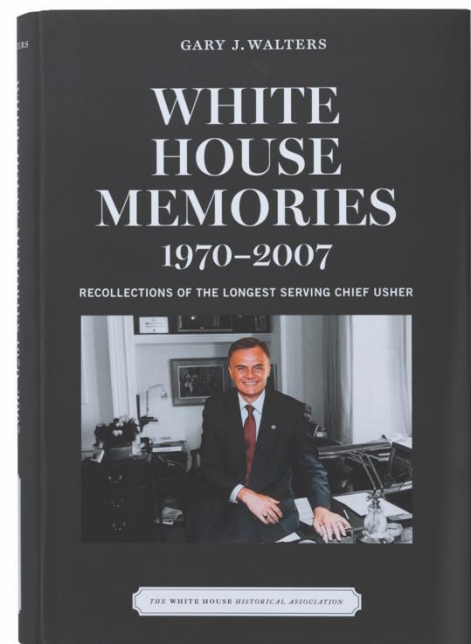


NEW BOOK: White House Memories 1970 – 2007
Recollections of the Longest Serving Chief Usher
By Gary J. Walters
On Sale December 5th

October 1, 2025 (Washington, D.C.) - From 1970 to 2007, **Gary J. Walters** served seven presidents and their families, standing at the heart of history in a role few will ever know. As the longest serving Chief Usher of the White House, Gary Walters had a front row seat to nearly forty years of White House history and is sharing his story for the first time in a new memoir, **WHITE HOUSE MEMORIES 1970-2007: *Recollections of the Longest Serving Chief Usher*** (White House Historical Association; on sale December 5, 2025).

After first serving in the White House as an Executive Protective Service officer, White House Division, assigned to protect President Richard Nixon and then President Gerald Ford, Gary Walters joined the Usher's Office in 1976 and was promoted to Chief Usher in 1986 serving in that role until his retirement in 2007. In these roles he was in a unique position to observe life as lived on a daily basis in the White House by Presidents Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush, and their families. Each chapter of **WHITE HOUSE MEMORIES** is dedicated to the presidents he served, walking readers chronologically through his many decades of service.

The Chief Usher's responsibility involves facilitating all operations in the White House's residence, where the sitting president and their family lives, thus providing an exceptionally



rare perspective on American history. Covering the late twentieth-century and the first years of the twenty-first, Walters relates fond stories of presidential humor and presidential stress. He describes first family routines, living spaces, pets, and the joys and trials of children in the White House. He recounts President Nixon's last day in office, the move of three Carter families into the White House on Inauguration Day, the first White House visit of the Pope, a plane crash on the South Lawn, a nearly minute-by-minute account of what was going on at the White House on September 11, 2001, and the behind-the-scenes activities of numerous State Dinners and entertainments. But the book offers so much more. It provides insights into the issues facing the presidency in an increasingly complex era—overseas conflicts, domestic issues from inflation to energy conservation, privacy issues, and security threats from assassination attempts to terrorist attacks.

Woven throughout the book are heavily illustrated photo sections opened by a quote from Walters on some aspect of his service. One such section asks: *What does a Chief Usher Do?*, to which he is quoted as saying: "I think Chief Usher J.B. West who served the presidency from 1941 to 1969, gave the most succinct answer: 'I do what I am told to do!' His answer is still appropriate today, and I use it myself." While witnessing many of the most consequential events of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, Gary attended to the needs of Democrats and Republics with equal dedication.

In the book's Preface Walters writes, "All the first families I have had the honor to serve have been wonderful to me and they have different attributes that have amazed and surprised me. I do not believe that most Americans understand the difficulties the presidency brings to a man and his family. Every president I worked for was unbelievably driven and tireless in his attempts to do what he thought was best for the country."

Given the duration of his service and the history he witnessed, Walters's memoir stands out from other memoirs of former chief ushers. "Gary Walters's memoir is a timeless gift, offering an intimate glimpse into White House life for readers today and scholars of tomorrow. He himself *is* White House history," writes Stewart D. McLaurin, President, White House Historical Association.

Purchase this book on shop.whitehousehistory.org, \$39.95.

About the Author: Gary J. Walters is a former chief usher of the Executive Residence at the White House. He has more than thirty years of service to the White House.

About the White House Historical Association

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy envisioned a restored White House that conveyed a sense of history through its decorative and fine arts. She sought to inspire Americans, especially children, to explore and engage with American history and its presidents. In 1961, the nonprofit, nonpartisan White House Historical Association was established to support her vision to preserve and share the Executive Mansion's legacy for generations to come. Supported entirely by private resources, the Association's mission is to assist in the preservation of the state and public rooms, fund acquisitions for the White House permanent collection, and educate the public on the history of the White House. Since its founding, the Association has given more than \$115 million to the White House in fulfillment of its mission.