



White House Historical Association Announces Marlyne Sexton Chair in White House History

Holding the Chair is Dr. Matthew Goetz

August 14, 2025 (Washington, D.C.) – The White House Historical Association has announced the new occupant of the endowed position, the Marlyne Sexton Chair in White House History, which honors the late [Marlyne Sexton](#), former cabinet member on the [National Council for White House History](#). The endowment provides financial support for the Chair in perpetuity. [Marlyne Sexton](#) was an Indianapolis business leader and philanthropist. Marlyne and her late husband, Joe, built the Sexton Companies, developing multifamily housing throughout the Midwest and South.

Dr. Matthew Goetz will hold the Chair while conducting research and writing about the White House and the American presidency. He will contribute new historical content across the Association's platforms and publications, as well as assist with programming, educational initiatives, and mentoring fellows and interns within the David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History.

"It is a great honor to see this endowed chair position continue to support our mission as well as Marlyne's legacy," said Stewart McLaurin, president of The White House Historical Association. "Marlyne's passion for White House history and civic education was apparent and with the Marlyne Sexton Chair in White House History, the Association will make larger strides while fulfilling our mission."

The National Council on White House History was established in 2017 and is made up of 113 members in 30 states and 71 cities who serve as ambassadors to the Association by supporting the Association's non-profit nonpartisan mission in the areas of preservation, education, and providing public access to America's Executive Mansion.

For media inquiries, please contact press@whha.org.

About Marlyne Sexton

[The late Marlyne Sexton](#) was an Indianapolis business leader and philanthropist. Marlyne and her late husband, Joe, built the Sexton Companies, developing multifamily housing throughout the Midwest and South. Marlyne Sexton was a visionary leader and generous supporter of the White House Historical Association. A Founding Member of the National Council on White House History, her commitment touched nearly every aspect of the organization's mission. In 2023, her leadership investment to establish the Sexton Chair in White House History created the first named, endowed position at the White House Historical Association. Marlyne's daughters, Nicole Sexton and Tracy Copeland, continue Marlyne's legacy through their support for the White House Historical Association.

About Dr. Matthew Goetz

Matthew earned his doctorate in history from The George Washington University (GW) in Spring 2023. His dissertation focused on how the Barbary Wars (1785-1815) impacted domestic politics in early America. Before joining the White House Historical Association, Matthew taught American history at George Washington University, Georgetown University, and at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Matthew has also worked with multiple public history institutions and educational non-profits including the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the College Board, and as an intern at the White House Historical Association.

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. In 1961, the 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 White House Historical Association has contributed more than \$115 million in fulfillment of its mission. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit www.whitehousehistory.org.

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