A Woman of Power: Rosalynn Carter and the Mental Health Scene

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ABSTRACT

The rhetorical choices of powerful women, specifically first ladies, are often overlooked. In this article, I examine former first lady Rosalynn Carter's writings, which advocate for mental health care reform. These include one of her books and several newspaper articles. I look at how she was influenced by the societal expectations of a first lady, and how she appealed to those expectations while developing her persona on the rhetorical platform. I examine how her personal life affected her rhetorical choices, and how that led to building a stronger logical, ethical, and more intimate argument.
Every year, the Carter Center’s Mental Health Program gathers together some of the leading policy makers, professionals, and advocates in mental health to discuss a given topic. Led by Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, the program features panel discussions and then working groups to discuss and craft future policy recommendations. This year’s focus of the 28th annual symposium was on the same topic as it was during the first symposium — stigma in mental health. As Mrs. Carter noted, many things have changed in the intervening 27 years. She noted they didn’t even have a person living with men. Global Mental Health Mental Health Research Mental Health Services Mental Health Awareness Mental Illness Recovery Mental Health Disorders Awareness Campaign Smart Women Conflict Resolution. Rosalynn Carter --a leading advocate for numerous causes, perhaps most... Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter are marking their 70th wedding anniversary. The former U.S. president and first lady married on July 7, 1946, in their small hometown of Plains, Georgia. Jimmy Carter, who’s 91, and Rosalynn Carter, 88, told The Associated Press last month that mutual respect makes their long marriage possible. The Carters also said they give each other plenty of space while working on separate projects. Rosalynn Carter served as an active honorary chair of the President’s Commission on Mental Health. On behalf of the Mental Health System Bill, enacted in 1980, she testified before a Senate committee, the second First Lady to appear before the Congress (the first being Eleanor Roosevelt). Of her priorities, mental health was the highest. After leaving the White House, Carter reflected of Washington, “I love this city. I loved living here and being so close to the seat of power, being a part of the political system. When you watched television you knew the people involved, you were familiar with both sides of the issues.”[65]. Equal Rights Amendment[edit].