



Dunlop, Becky Norton.: Files, 1981-1982

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Office of Presidential Personnel

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

Becky Norton Dunlop was born in 1951 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. At a young age, her family moved to Columbus, Ohio where she grew up and went to school. Dunlop's father was a Baptist minister and her mother was a registered nurse who interrupted her work to raise her children.

Dunlop recalls being a conservative at a young age, and being the only person backing Barry Goldwater for president in 1964 at her middle school. She was introduced to Goldwater by reading *The Conscience of a Conservative*, a gift from her brother. Her father introduced her to Phyllis Schafley with *A Choice not an Echo* around the same time.

Dunlop went on to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she was active in the College Republicans. She graduated from Miami in 1973, majoring in political science with a minor in history.

After college, Dunlop's first job was with the American Conservative Union from 1973-1980, completing her service as assistant executive director and consultant to the board. It was through ACU that she started doing "grass-roots" campaigning for the unsuccessful presidential bid of Ronald Reagan in 1976. She was also at the beginnings of the ACU sponsored C-PAC annual convention.

In 1977 she founded Century Communications, Inc., which focused on strategic planning, communications and managing for results.

Dunlop continued her involvement with the Reagan Presidential Campaign in 1980. Dunlop met Pen James through the campaign and was recommended to assist sorting out resumes and finding qualified Reagan supporters for Reagan Administration posts. She was first a volunteer and then a "Service by Agreement" employee within the Office of Presidential Personnel, 1981-1982. In early 1982 she was given a permanent position at the White House as Special Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Cabinet Affairs handling the day-to-day coordination of Reagan Administration policy with Cabinet level appointees and managing the staff of the office.

In June 1983, Dunlop returned to the Office of Presidential Personnel as Deputy Assistant to the President and remained in that position until early 1985. She served

in the Department of Justice in 1985-1986 as Senior Special Assistant to Attorney General Edwin Meese managing Cabinet level domestic policy issues including environment, family policy, federalism, tort reform, privatization and welfare reform.

During 1987-1989, she was Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior and Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. President Reagan also appointed her to head the Interagency Committee for Women's Business Ownership, a U.S. Commissioner to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and as his Personal Representative to the Northern Marianas.

In the 1990s Dunlop served as the Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Cabinet of Governor (later Senator) George Allen. Her responsibilities included the Departments of Environmental Quality, Historic Resources, Game and Inland Fisheries, Conservation and Recreation, the Marine Resources Commission, the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department and the Natural History Museum. She was the principal environmental policy advisory to the Governor and held this post from 1994 to 1998. During her tenure, the agencies were stream-lined, decentralized and down-sized. Governor Allen also appointed Mrs. Dunlop to serve as co-chair of the Governor's Council on Self-Determination and Federalism and Vice-Chair of his Commission on Environmental Stewardship. Dunlop is one of the few "free-market environmentalists" to have headed a government agency and put ideas into action. Her book, *Clearing the Air: How the People of Virginia Improved the State's Air and Water Despite the EPA*, (Tocqueville Institution, 2000) chronicles her experiences.

Dunlop also served in the administration of President George W. Bush. In 2002, Bush appointed her to a part-time post as chairwoman of the Federal Services Impasse Panel, which resolves disputes between agencies and labor unions.

In 1998, Becky Norton Dunlop joined the senior management team of The Heritage Foundation as Vice President for External Relations. Her responsibilities included the departments engaged in strategic outreach and communication to conservative public policy institutions and other leadership organizations, international, state and local government officials, business leaders and conservative policy activists. She represented Heritage and presented conservative policies and views in national and international venues.

In May 2016, Dunlop was appointed the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Fellow at the Heritage Foundation. She succeeds Edwin Meese who took *emeritus* status in 2016. In this position Dunlop focuses on keeping the legacy of President Reagan's principles and practices alive for modern conservatives.

In addition, Dunlop is a frequent speaker in the United States and internationally and writes and is a contributor to electronic and print media. Dunlop serves on a multitude of boards and foundations including the National Wilderness Institute, Defenders of Property Rights, the Family Foundation of Virginia, the Virginia Institute of Public Policy, the American Conservative Union, the Association of American Educators, the Institute for 21st Century Agriculture and the Reagan Alumni Association, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, the American Conservation Union and the Phillips Foundation.

She is on the Advisory Council for the Landmark Legal Foundation and Hunters for the Hungry, a member of the Philanthropy Roundtable and a Fellow with the Atlas Foundation. She recently served as an appointee of the Senate Majority Leader on the Women's Progress Commemoration Commission. She was a 15-year member of the Board of Governors of the Reagan Ranch, Rancho del Cielo, in Santa Barbara, California.

Dunlop resides in Arlington, Va., with her husband, George S. Dunlop. Mr. Dunlop's former employer, Senator Jesse Helms gave Mrs. Dunlop away at their wedding.

Scope and Content Note

The material in this collection covers Dunlop's first stint with the Office of Presidential Personnel beginning in March, 1981. During this time period she was a "Service By Agreement" employee at the White House. In March 1982 she took a permanent position at the White House, appointed to the Office of Cabinet Affairs, as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Cabinet Affairs. Within the the two Reagan Library collections for Dunlop, a small amount of material is intermingled.

In 1983, Dunlop returned to the Office of Presidential Personnel as a Deputy Assistant to the President. The Library currently does not have a Dunlop collection for this position. This may change at some point as the Library has not completed a

review of all of the boxes of the Office of Presidential Personnel.

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

CFOA 138

Status	Title
CLOSED	Chrons, 03/01/1982-03/14/1982
CLOSED	Chrons, 03/15/1982-04/19/1982

OA 4118

Status	Title
CLOSED	Chron Files, 04/01/1981-06/22/1981
CLOSED	Chron Files, 06/23/1981-08/15/1981
CLOSED	Chron Files, 08/16/1981-10/31/1981
CLOSED	Chron Files, 11/01/1981-12/13/1981
CLOSED	Chron Files, 12/14/1981-12/31/1981

OA 4833

Status	Title
CLOSED	Chron Files, 01/01/1982-01/18/1982
CLOSED	Chron Files, 01/19/1982-02/11/1982
CLOSED	Chron Files, 02/12/1982-02/28/1982

OA 7701

Status	Title
CLOSED	Miscellaneous Material Including: Press Releases, PAS Lists, Staffing Memos, Etc.

OA 14718

Status	Title
CLOSED	Code Information
CLOSED	DOT - Transportation [Personnel Schedule C and SES]
CLOSED	DOS - State [Personnel Schedule C and SES]
CLOSED	DOL - Labor [Personnel Schedule C and SES]
CLOSED	DOI - Interior [Personnel Schedule C and SES]
CLOSED	DOE - Education [Personnel Schedule C and SES]
CLOSED	HUD - Exception Memos

Status	Title
CLOSED	Schedule C and SES Status Reports
CLOSED	Clearance Policy Memoranda
CLOSED	Detailees
CLOSED	Personnel Record Payroll / Clearance Project
CLOSED	DOE - Energy [Personnel Schedule C and SES]
CLOSED	DOD - Defense [Personnel Schedule C and SES]
CLOSED	DOC - Commerce [Personnel Schedule C and SES]
CLOSED	DOA - Agriculture [Personnel Schedule C & SES]
CLOSED	FERC / Personnel / Records / Interview Forms
CLOSED	HHS - Health and Human Services [Personnel Schedule C & SES]
CLOSED	DTR - Treasury [Personnel Schedule C & SES]