

April 18, 2022



First Lady Bess Truman shopping at a Flower Mart booth in 1950

In 1940 All Hallows Guild hosted the second annual Flower Mart on the Cathedral's Pilgrim Steps. In attendance at the event was White House resident First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt was interested in seeing the wares brought to the "Market" by local farmers' wives. Mrs. Edith Wilson, wife of the 28th President Woodrow Wilson, participated in Flower Mart 1940 by serving as a cashier at one of booths. Mrs. Wilson regularly attend Flower Mart for many years.



Lady Bird Johnson opened Flower Mart in 1962



Bess Truman at Flower Mart 1948



Mamie Eisenhower opening Flower Mart in 1953

Eight First Ladies have opened or attended Flower Mart – several were “Second Ladies” at the time they attended:

Eleanor Roosevelt

Edith Wilson

Bess Truman

Mamie Eisenhower

Pat Nixon

Jackie Kennedy

Lady Bird Johnson

Barbara Bush



Jackie Kennedy at Flower Mart in 1961



Barbara Bush at Flower Mart 1990

Barbara Bush attended Flower Mart in 1990 - the year that the last of the Cathedral's pinnacles was raised. Laura Bush did not personally attend Flower Mart, but visited the Bishop's Garden with her Texas Garden Club. When unable to attend in person, many First Ladies - including Barbara Bush, Laura Bush, Rosalyn Carter, Hillary Clinton, and Nancy Reagan - have sent letters of greeting and congratulations.

This year we are pleased to announce that former First Lady Rosalyn Carter will serve as Honorary Flower Mart Chairperson - along with District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser.



Former First Lady Rosalyn Carter



D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser at Flower Mart 2019