**Did You Know the Popular Statesman, James A. Baker, had a Love for Pimento Cheese?**

A little bit of insight into the Washington insider, **James A. Baker**, that has nothing to do with politics, so to speak! It goes back to food being a gateway to conversations or just pure comfort for one's pleasure to stay connected to oneself! It 's probably not far off to say that within the 7 years that the literary duo team, **Peter Baker** and **Susan Glasser,**penned the recently published book, ***The Man Who Ran Washington***, that this statesman was well on his way to pick up his secret stash of**Pimento Cheese.**

**Here's a great story that could be told** *(the journalist this time)* as an add on to the discussion of Baker and Glasser's book which is the talk of the town! What a fun insider story to share. Please, read below.

*Starting in 2012, every other week, Bayou Bakery, Coffee Bar & Eatery in Arlington, Virginia would receive a phone call for a special order of a quart of Pimento Cheese. At the time, Bayou Bakery was not doing special large orders to go, but the convincing person on the phone had them make an exception. After that first year went by, owner and chef David Guas intercepted the phone call and asked to meet this mystery person the next time they picked up their order. That gentle voice became a reality and much to his surprise, was the personal assistant to the Honorable James Addison Baker III, who served as White House Chief of Staff and United States Secretary of the Treasury under President Ronald Reagan, and as U.S. Secretary of State and White House Chief of Staff under President George H. W. Bush. Over the course of 5 years, the minute Mr. Baker touched down in Washington, DC, he and his assistant would drive straight to Bayou Bakery [15 minutes from Ronald Reagan Airport] to pick up the Pimento Cheese, which he referred to as the best in the country. During his last visits to Washington, DC he stated, "No need to put the Ritz Cracker’s in the bag. Just make sure there’s a spoon!"*

*Due to Mr. Baker’s patronage over the years, chef David Guas of Bayou Bakery, Coffee Bar & Eatery, has renamed the Pimento Cheese,****J. Baker Pimento Cheese. [P.S. When the Bush family flew on Air Force One to their patriarch's funeral the Pimento Cheese went along for the ride, by way of Bush's granddaughter, to get into the hands of James A. Baker - a gift of comfort and thanks.]***