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National Fire Prevention Week 10/11/90 [OA 6896]

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**NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK \ ROSE GARDEN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1990 \ 2:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS OF THE FIRE SERVICE COMMUNITY, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, D.C. FIRE MARSHALL BERNARD JOHNSON, FIRE CHIEF RAYFIELD ALFRED AND MY PERSONAL FIREFIGHTERS FROM ENGINE COMPANY 13 AND TOWER 10 -- WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

((AS YOU KNOW, ON OCCASION I'VE GOT A FEW FIRES OF MY OWN TO PUT OUT AROUND HERE.

- 2 -

MAYBE I'LL HAVE THEM FIX IT SO I CAN SLIDE DOWN A POLE STRAIGHT FROM THE LINCOLN BEDROOM TO THE OVAL OFFICE.))

MORE THAN 2,100,000 FIRES BROKE OUT IN THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR, CLAIMING AS MANY AS 6,000 LIVES. FIRES STRIKE THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY. AND IT ALSO STRIKES THE MOST VALIANT AMONG US -- MANY CASUALTIES ARE FIREFIGHTERS WHO LOSE THEIR LIVES IN A LAST-DITCH STRUGGLE TO SAVE OTHERS.

THEN, AFTER THE COST IN LIVES, WE MUST COUNT PROPERTY LOSSES IN EXCESS OF \$8 BILLION. THESE DOLLARS CANNOT ADEQUATELY REPRESENT THE TRAGEDY OF SO MANY BELOVED HOMES, CHURCHES AND BUSINESSES LITERALLY "GONE UP IN SMOKE."

THERE IS AN ARMY OF DEDICATED AMERICANS WHO STAND READY TO FIGHT THESE FIRES, ANY TIME, ANY PLACE -- THE MORE THAN ONE MILLION FIREFIGHTERS OF AMERICA.

THE ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN FIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION. BUT ALL ARE TRUE HEROES, AND THEIR HEROIC ROLE IS ON DISPLAY HERE TODAY FOR NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.

AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION, PART OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, IS THE NATIONAL LEADER IN FIREFIGHTING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

THESE MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE FIRE ADMINISTRATION ARE DEDICATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS TO HELP FIRE DEPARTMENTS, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND EDUCATORS PROMOTE FIRE SAFETY AND AWARENESS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

AT THE STATE LEVEL, MANY DEDICATED AGENCIES LABOR TO PROVIDE TRAINING COURSES FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, ARSON INVESTIGATION SERVICES AND RESEARCH.

AND, OF COURSE, IN VIRTUALLY EVERY COMMUNITY ACROSS THIS GREAT COUNTRY ARE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MAKE UP THE FRONT LINES IN THE BATTLE -- THE FIREFIGHTERS -- BOTH CAREER AND VOLUNTEERS, WHO CONTINUE A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED TRADITION OF FIRE FIGHTING THAT GOES BACK ALL THE WAY TO THE FIRST VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOUNDED BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN 1736.

((I GUESS IF ONE OF OLD BEN'S KITES CAUGHT FIRE, HE WAS READY TO PUT IT OUT.))\ \

CONGRESS ALSO HAS A ROLE TO PLAY THROUGH THE CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS, WHOSE CO-CHAIRMEN ARE SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN AND CONGRESSMAN CURT WELDON. THE CAUCUS BOASTS 370 CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS, MAKING IT THE LARGEST ON CAPITOL HILL.

ALL OF THESE GROUPS -- FROM VOLUNTEERS TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS -- CAN TELL YOU THAT THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT FIRE IS NOT WITH FIRE -- BUT WITH PREVENTION. THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION DOES A GREAT JOB IN THIS ENDEAVOR, WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE SUCH AS SHANTA JONES, THE 1990 NFPA NATIONAL FIRESAFETY POSTER CONTEST CHILD WINNER. IN THIS AND SO MANY OTHER WAYS, THEY ARE GETTING THE WORD OUT ON FIRE PREVENTION.

AS YOU KNOW, TUESDAY MARKED THE ANNIVERSARY OF A KEY EVENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY, THE "GREAT CHICAGO FIRE," A SWEEPING CONFLAGRATION THAT DESTROYED MOST OF THAT GREAT CITY IN 1871. YEARS LATER, OUTRAGE OVER DEVASTATING CITYWIDE FIRES LED TO A NATIONAL EFFORT TO PREVENT FIRES.

TO FOCUS THIS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN, PRESIDENT WILSON PROCLAIMED OCTOBER 9, 1920, AS NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION DAY.

IN 1922, PRESIDENT HARDING MADE IT FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, SAYING THAT FIRE PREVENTION SHOULD BE PRACTICED "BY EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD, NOT ONLY DURING THE WEEK DESIGNATED IN THIS PRONOUNCEMENT, BUT THROUGHOUT EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR."

THAT IS TRUE TODAY. EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY, WE CAN HELP SAVE A LIFE BY PREVENTING A FIRE. AND WE CAN KEEP THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WITH US TODAY FROM HAVING TO RISK THEIR LIVES TO SAVE OURS.



- 11 -

AGAIN I AM PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU, AND TO SIGN THE
PROCLAMATION DECLARING THIS WEEK AS NATIONAL FIRE
PREVENTION WEEK.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 10, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

CHRISS WINSTON *DA for CW*

FROM:

MARK DAVIS *MD*

SUBJECT:

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

On Thursday, October 11, at 2:30 p.m., you will address members of the firefighting community at a Rose Garden ceremony to sign a proclamation declaring National Fire Prevention Week. Your remarks, approximately six minutes in length, will be on cards.

Davis/Blymire
Title: Fire
Date: Oct. 10, 1990
Draft: Two

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, ROSE GARDEN
2:30 p.m., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1990**

Members of the fire service community, Members of Congress, D.C. Fire Marshall Bernard Johnson, Fire Chief Rayfield Alfred and my personal firefighters from Engine Company 13 and Tower 10 -- welcome to the White House.

((As you know, on occasion I've got a few fires of my own to put out around here.\\ Maybe I'll have them fix it so I can slide down a pole straight from the Lincoln Bedroom to the Oval Office.))\\\

As you know, more than 2,100,000 fires broke out in the United States this year, claiming as many as 6,000 lives. Fires strike the most vulnerable among us, especially children and the elderly. And it also strikes the most valiant among us -- many casualties are firefighters who lose their lives in a last-ditch struggle to save others.

Then, after the cost in lives, we must count property losses in excess of \$8 billion. These dollars cannot adequately represent the tragedy of so many beloved homes, churches and businesses literally "gone up in smoke."

There is an army of dedicated Americans who stand ready to fight these fires, any time, any place -- the more than one million firefighters of America. The organizations involved in fire prevention efforts are too numerous to mention. But all are

true heroes, and their heroic role is on display here today for National Fire Prevention Week.

At the federal level, the United States Fire Administration, part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is the national leader in firefighting and emergency response. These men and women from the Fire Administration are dedicated to the development of effective programs to help fire departments, state and local governments, private business and organizations, and educators promote fire safety and awareness in communities across the country.

At the state level, many dedicated agencies labor to provide training courses for firefighters and emergency medical technicians, arson investigation services and research.

And, of course, in virtually every community across this great country are the men and women who make up the front lines in the battle -- the firefighters -- both career and volunteers, who continue a long and distinguished tradition of fire fighting that goes back all the way to the first volunteer fire company founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1736. ((I guess if one of old Ben's kites caught fire, he was ready to put it out.))\

Congress is also doing its part through the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, whose co-chairmen are Senator John McCain and Congressman Curt Weldon. The caucus boasts 370 congressmen and senators, making it the largest on Capitol Hill. Most of all, Congress recently updated our safety laws in the Hotel-Motel Fire Safety Act, authored by Congressman Sherry Boehlert.

All of these groups -- from volunteers to Members of Congress -- can tell you that the best way to fight fire is not with fire -- but with prevention. The National Fire Protection Association does a great job in this endeavor, working with young people such as Shanta Jones, the 1990 NFPA National Firesafety Poster contest child winner. In this and so many other ways, they are getting the word out on fire prevention.

As you know, Tuesday marked the anniversary of a key event in American history, the "Great Chicago Fire," a sweeping conflagration that destroyed most of that great city in 1871. Years later, outrage over devastating citywide fires led to a national effort to prevent fires.

To focus this national campaign, President Wilson proclaimed October 9, 1920, as National Fire Prevention Day. In 1922, President Harding made it fire prevention week, saying that fire prevention should be practiced "by every man, woman, and child, not only during the week designated in this pronouncement, but throughout every hour of every day of the year."

That was true in 1922, and that is true today. Every hour of every day, we can help save a life by preventing a fire. And we can keep these brave men and women with us today from having to risk their lives to save our own.

Again I am pleased to be with you, and to sign the Proclamation declaring this week as National Fire Prevention Week.

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Davis/Blymire
Title: Fire
Date: Oct. 10, 1990
Draft: One

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, ROSE GARDEN
2:30 p.m., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1990

((Acknowledgements, jokes to come))

Members of the fire service community, members of Congress, Fire Chief Rayfield Alfred and my personal firefighters from Engine Company 13 and Tower 10 -- welcome to the White House.

As you know, more than 2,100,000 fires broke out in the United States this year, claiming as many as 6,000 lives. Fires strike ~~at~~ the most vulnerable among us, especially children and the elderly. And it also strikes ~~at~~ the most valiant among us -- many of the 6,000 casualties were firefighters who lost their lives in a last-ditch struggle to save others.

Then, after the cost in lives, we must count property ~~losses~~ losses in excess of \$10.5 billion. These dollars cannot adequately represent the tragedy of so many beloved homes, churches and businesses literally "going up in smoke."

Well, there is an army of dedicated Americans who stand ready to fight these fires, any time, any place -- America's ~~1.2~~ million firefighters. The organizations involved in fire prevention efforts are too numerous to mention. But all are true heroes, and their heroic role is on display here today for National Fire Prevention Week.

At the federal level, the United States Fire Administration, part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is the national

Fire Mshl. Bernard Johnson

OK w/ Molly

NFPA Patty

CFC T.P.

NFPA Patty
\$10.5 billion

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leader in firefighting. These men and women from FEMA are dedicated to the development of effective programs to help fire departments, state and local governments, private business and organizations, and educators promote fire safety and awareness in communities across the country. All of these people and groups, work together to help keep America safe from fire.

But a national effort must begin at the local level, with volunteers. Fortunately, this country has a vigorous tradition of volunteer fire fighting, a tradition that goes back all the way to the first volunteer fire company founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1783. ^{1763?} _{1736?} And today, this proud tradition is stronger than ever before -- volunteers make up 85 percent of our firefighting force.

CFSC
Talking pts.

Congress is also doing its part through the Congressional Fire Service Caucus in 1987; with 370 congressmen and senators, it's the largest caucus on Capitol Hill. Most of all, Congress continues to update our safety laws set out in the Hotel-Motel Fire Safety Act.

Release
CFST

All of these groups -- from volunteers to Members of Congress -- can tell you that **the best way to fight fire is not with fire -- but with prevention.** The National Fire Protection Association does a great job in this endeavor, working with young people such as Shanta Jones, the 1990 NFPA National Firesafety Poster contest child winner. In this and so many other ways, they are getting the word out on fire prevention.

NFPA
617-770-3000
Public Ed.
Patty

Nat'l Fire
Protection
Assn.

As you know, Tuesday marked the anniversary of a key event in American history, the "Great Chicago Fire," a sweeping conflagration that destroyed most of that great city in 1871. Years later, outrage over devastating citywide fires led to a national effort to prevent fires.

To focus this national campaign, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed October 9, 1920, as National Fire Prevention Day. In 1922, President Warren Harding made it fire prevention week, saying that fire prevention should be practiced "by every man, woman, and child, not only during the week designated in this pronouncement, but throughout every hour of every day of the year."

That was true in 1922, and that is true today. Every hour of every day, we can help save a life by preventing a fire. And we can keep these brave men and women with us today from having to risk their lives to save our own.

Again I am pleased to be with you, and to sign the Proclamation declaring this week as National Fire Prevention Week.

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Power Institution
last 6 mos.

ORIENTATION AND INDOCTRINATION

their bags with the valuables, carry them to safety, and then assist in the fire fighting. After the fire, a member would stand guard against pilfering and admit only recognized members and firefighters for salvage work. The fire societies proved valuable, and within a few years, Boston had several neighborhood clubs that held regular meetings and had rules that fixed fines for non-attendance at fires or meetings.



Figure 2.8 in 1736, Ben Franklin organized the first fire department in Philadelphia, the Union Volunteer Fire Company.

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, but moved to Philadelphia, where he became a leader in early American fire protection. Returning from a trip to Boston, he wrote an article on Feb. 2, 1735, about fire protection in his newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, in which he mentioned the Mutual Fire Society of Boston and how this organization was helping fight fires. The following year Franklin and several of his friends organized the first fire organization in Philadelphia, the Union Volunteer Fire Company, patterning it after the Boston Mutual Fire Society (Figure 2.8). In 1752, Franklin and two other businessmen founded the first successful American fire insurance company, the Philadelphia Contributionship of the Assurance of Houses from Loss by Fire. The company's fire mark was called the "hand in hand" because it showed the right hands of four men gripping one another's wrists. Beneath this symbol of unity and strength appeared the number of the insurance policy.

The use of the American fire mark differed from England because American insurance societies did not provide fire fighting brigades. The towns had no permanent firefighters and the American volunteer received no pay. When the alarm sounded, they dropped their work and responded to their firehouse. In towns where fire marks were used, the insuring company would pay the first company to put water on the fire. Other towns would reward their first-in firefighters with a sum paid out of the town treasury. This incentive is blamed for the competition and fierce rivalry that developed among the volunteers.

After the Revolutionary War, the volunteer firefighter idea spread throughout the country. Veterans returned home and joined a fire company, many of which became veterans' organizations with the engine house as their clubroom. The reward for the first-arriving company changed from pay to pride. Companies became better organized, the men and their equipment were more splendidly decorated, and as a result, rivalries increased. Feelings of exhilaration and self-satisfaction over serving one's community and doing a worthwhile job well became theirs. With all the color and excitement of a volunteer firefighter's life, every company had a long list of young hopefuls waiting for an opening in the limited membership. In the past, many famous Americans such as George Washington, John Hancock, Alexander Hamil-

Union
Society
592-5985
Historical

CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS
TALKING POINTS

I THE FIRE SERVICE:

- * 85% of America's firefighters are volunteers, protecting 49% of the population.
- * Benjamin Franklin founded the Union Volunteer Fire Company, the first volunteer fire company, in Philadelphia in 1763.
- * 1.3 million volunteer firefighters and 450,000 paid firefighters in U.S.
- * Firefighters are not just first responders to fires, but to all emergencies including building collapses, transportation accidents, natural disasters, etc.

II THE FIRE PROBLEM:

- * The U.S. has a higher incidence of death and property loss due to fire than any industrialized nation.
- * There are approximately 6,000 deaths and \$10 billion worth of property damage annually as a result of fire.
- * Each year, more than 100 firefighters are killed in the line of duty.

III THE CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS:

- * Focuses Members' attention on all fire, life safety and emergency response issues.
- * Formed by Congressman Curt Weldon in 1987.
- * Largest Caucus on Capitol Hill (370 Members & Senators)
- * Non-partisan. Membership represents both parties equally.

IV THE CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE:

- * Founded in 1989 to provide information on fire, life safety and emergency response issues to Members of Congress, the fire service community, and the public.
- * Supported by fire service organizations and industries associated with fire prevention and the emergency services.

Fire Prevention Week

- came up w/ the concept

Sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Fire Prevention Week (FPW) is always the full week — Sunday through Saturday — that includes the date of October 9.

The ninth of October marks the anniversary of the "Great Chicago Fire of 1871" which killed 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed 17,430 buildings and blackened 2,100 acres at a cost of \$168 million. A national interest in fire prevention as well as fire fighting emerged as a result of this fire. The ideas of using building materials that wouldn't catch fire quickly, separating buildings, and widening streets to prevent fire from spreading easily soon developed.

In 1911, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (now the Fire Marshals Section of NFPA) suggested that the 40th anniversary of the Chicago fire be set aside as a time to advise the general public about the need for fire prevention. The Fire Marshals Association sponsored the first Fire Prevention Day on October 9, 1911.

President Woodrow Wilson issued the first national Fire Prevention Day proclamation on October 9, 1920.

Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been the Sunday-through-Saturday period including the date of October 9, and since that year NFPA has been the sponsor of FPW. President Warren G. Harding proclaimed the first Fire Prevention Week, October 2-9, 1922, to be observed "by every man, woman, and child, not only during the week designated in this pronouncement but throughout every hour of every day of the year."

Each year, NFPA selects an official Fire Prevention Week slogan and produces the official FPW poster. Activities to observe FPW are conducted at the local level, and are usually sponsored by the Fire Department, Chamber of Commerce, and/or other community organizations. Popular activities include parades, open house at the fire stations, exhibits, essay and poster contests conducted in the schools and in Scouts and other youth groups, and door-to-door home fire inspections accompanied by handouts of fire prevention literature.

Since 1966, Operation EDITH (Exit Drills In the Home) has been an important part of Fire Prevention Week in many communities. EDITH encourages families to plan ahead for escape in case of fire, and to join their neighbors in a simultaneous "rehearsal" of their escape plans. EDITH generally is scheduled for 8 o'clock p.m. on the Wednesday in Fire Prevention Week.

EDITH was introduced in Kansas City, MO in 1958. Since 1966, it has been sponsored by the Fire Marshals Association of North America, the Fire Marshals Section of NFPA.

Canada traditionally observes FPW at the same time the United States does, with a national proclamation issued each year by an official of the Canadian government.

Materials to support local FPW activities are available from NFPA around the first of June each year. The Marketing Division provides the FPW Promotion Kit that contains current poster, other print and audiovisual materials for audiences of all ages, and quantity prices. The Public Affairs Division distributes the free Media Kit of sample articles for newspapers and magazines and the free Public Service Announcements Kit of "spots" for use on radio and as scripts for TV.

Write to both Marketing and Public Affairs at NFPA, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269, or telephone (617) 328-9290. Orders for Fire Prevention Week materials are taken by the Publications Sales Division, (617) 328-9230.

Future Fire Prevention Week Dates at a Glance

- 1984 - October 7-13
- 1985 - October 8-12
- 1986 - October 5-11
- 1987 - October 4-10
- 1988 - October 9-15
- 1989 - October 8-14
- 1990 - October 7-13

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The 9th of October marks the anniversary of the "Great Chicago Fire", a sweeping conflagration which destroyed most of that city in 1871. Because of the significance of the disaster in generating a national interest in fire prevention and firefighting, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that October 9, 1920 would be observed as National Fire Prevention Day. In 1922, President Warren G. Harding extended the observance to be the Sunday through Saturday period that includes the date of October 9, thus creating National Fire Prevention Week.

In proclaiming the first National Fire Prevention Week, President Harding said that fire prevention should be practiced "by every man, woman, and child, not only during the week designated in this pronouncement but throughout every hour of every day of the year." This is still vital to ensure the safety of yourself, your loved ones, and the people around you. Last year, there were more than 2,100,000 fires in the United States; approximately 6,000 people were killed in these fires. Many of these were children, many were elderly, many were firefighters who were called upon to fight these fires. Property losses due to fire last year exceeded \$ 10.5 Billion. With the Federal budget crisis the way it is today, it is painful to realize how much money literally "goes up in smoke."

Our Nation's 1.2 million firefighters are the critical link to fire prevention activities nationwide. The organizations that are involved in fire prevention efforts are too numerous to

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ment, but also serve as a crucial part of National Fire Prevention Week. (At the Federal level, the United States Fire Administration is the focal point dealing with the Nation's fire problem, and is dedicated to the development of innovative, effective programs to enable fire departments, state and local governments, private businesses and organizations, and educators to promote fire safety and awareness to communities across the country. All of these individuals and groups, working together during National Fire Prevention Week and the rest of the year, will help create and maintain a fire-safe America.



NEWS from

THE CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE

John J. McNichol, Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 1990

Contact: John McNichol
Phone: (202) 371-1277

HOTEL-MOTEL FIRE SAFETY ACT SENT TO PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, Yesterday, the House unanimously passed an amended Senate version of the Hotel-Motel Fire Safety Act (H.R. 94). This action clears the way for the Hotel-Motel Fire Safety Act to be sent to president Bush for signing.

The Senate bill amendments change the original bill slightly to exclude those hotels and motels three stories or less, the original bill excluded only one and two story hotels and motels.

Under the bill, federally funded conferences would have to be held at sprinklered properties, and within seven years of enactment, at least 90 per cent of all federal travel nights would have to be spent in hotels that have sprinklers and smoke detectors. This encourages hotels to install fire sprinklers by steering federal travel business to sprinklered hotels.

The President is expected to sign H.R. 94 into law before the November elections.

Remarks to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Rescue Squad in Bethesda, Maryland
April 25, 1990

Thank you all very much. From George to George, thank you. [Laughter] President Giebel, thank you very much, and Chief Dwyer and members of this marvelous Bethesda-Chevy Chase Volunteer Rescue Squad. And of course, I want to pay my respects to our county executive, Sidney Kramer—thank him for being with us today. Congressman Curt Weldon, an old friend of mine, a current Member of the United States Congress, is the founder of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus, one of the most rapidly growing caucuses in the Congress and one that really has unanimous, across-the-aisle support. So, Curt, I'm delighted to be with you.

And of course, I don't need to say to you, her constituents, too much about my friend, your own friend, and our Representative in the United States Congress, Connie Morella. I will tell you, coming out, she wanted to be sure—you know Connie—she wanted to be sure I knew absolutely everything I needed to know; so she was telling me that it was—and she said it not in a partisan sense, but in a sense of civic commitment—that this is the heart and soul of the community. And she said that it enthusiastically let her have her announcement here, her victory celebration and, indeed, even her son's wedding reception here. [Laughter]

So, in addition to other good works, I salute this organization for being the heart and soul, as Connie said, of the community. This is the organization that I spoke to as a Vice Presidential nominee in 1980, and I'm certainly glad to be back.

One reason that I'm so pleased to be here is that if my speech is a disaster, relief is at hand. [Laughter] Then, too, there's another point that Curt and Connie and I were talking about coming out here: This week—it is National Volunteer Week, which celebrates the selfless character of the American people. National Volunteer Week salutes what I call this nation's Points of Light, this vast galaxy of individuals and businesses and schools and churches and synagogues, unions and voluntary associations working

together to solve problems. This rescue squad really is a Point of Light; it is also a source of life.

Many people don't realize that fully 80 percent of America's fire protection and emergency medical service is supplied by volunteers—an amazing total, absolutely amazing. And here's the point: Volunteers who meet local emergencies—risking lives to save the lives of others, just as America's firefighters have done for more than 200 years.

You know, being here today reminds me of a story that I heard, which happened a number of years ago. It seems that 25 of Boston's top Prohibition bootleggers were rounded up in a surprise raid. And as they were being arraigned, the judge asked the usual question about occupation. The first 24 men were engaged in the same profession—each claimed to be a firefighter. Well, naturally, the judge asked the last prisoner, "And what are you?" "Your honor," he said, "I'm a bootlegger." Surprised, the judge laughed and asked, "And how's business?" He said, "Well, it would be a hell of a lot better if there weren't so many firefighters around." [Laughter]

Well, you get the gist. Even back in Prohibition, your numbers turned the tide. Then, as now, volunteers like you were the first responder not only to fire but also to accidents and floods and cave-ins and collapsed buildings. Then, as now, you acted as the backbone of America, showing that any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

National volunteer work—it embodies that definition, as do your 50 years of service to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase community. Talk about variety: cats rescued from treetops; children from smashed automobiles; helping victims of heart attacks; and senior citizens, alone and vulnerable, after falls within their own home. Young kids and retirees, executives and laborers—each of you, to quote the squad's original motto, has "answered the call."

Listen to an anonymous letter that appeared on your bulletin board. It talked of the comfort the B-CC Rescue Squad provides. "You can watch people's faces begin

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Note: The Presic
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by George Gieb
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to relax just by your presence. And that gives you a special feeling." And look at the man with me here, David Dwyer, chief of the squad for the past 21 years. He's one of the heroes responsible for that feeling. And by day, he works at the NIH [National Institutes of Health]; at night, he's a volunteer—anywhere there is a need, anytime he is needed.

So, by risking your lives to save others, you are on the front lines. And those who directly take up the fight against drug abuse, illiteracy, homelessness, hunger, environmental decay, and AIDS are also on the front lines. Like you, they are finding the meaning and the adventure that all of us seek in our own lives.

We know that life itself means nothing without a cause larger than ourselves. Fire-fighting was such a cause when, in 1736, Ben Franklin founded one of the first volunteer companies. And so it is in 1990, with firefighters and EMS [emergency medical service] personnel today 1 million strong. I salute you, as does your community. We respect and admire you for a job well done. Today America is grateful for your special brand of skill and courage, the courage to put another's life before one's own.

Let me close with a Bible verse that defines your lives: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." You and countless thousands of others like you around this great country serve strangers. You save lives, and you walk the path of engagement in the lives of those in need. And this really is the heartbeat of America and the true meaning of serving others.

Thank you for what you've done. I simply wanted to come out, down the street—through the skies, I will confess—[laughter]—but to say thank you from the bottom of a grateful heart. And I will try to continue to tell America how grateful we are for those who serve others. Thank you very, very much, and God bless you all.

Note: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. outside the station house. He was introduced by George Giebel, president of the rescue squad.

Nomination of Peter Jon de Vos To Be United States Ambassador to Liberia *April 25, 1990*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Peter Jon de Vos, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Liberia. He would succeed James Keough Bishop.

Since 1989 Mr. de Vos has served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Prior to this, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Science and Technology, 1987–1989; Ambassador to the People's Republic of Mozambique, 1983–1987; Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and to the Republic of Cape Verde, 1980–1983; Deputy Director of Southern African Affairs at the Department of State, 1979–1980; National War College, 1978–1979; political officer in Athens, Greece, 1975–1978; Special Assistant for the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs at the Department of State, 1973–1975; political officer in Brasilia, Brazil, 1971–1973; political officer in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1970–1971; deputy principal officer in Luanda, Angola, 1968–1970; political officer in Naples, Italy, 1966–1968; desk officer for Brazil, 1964–1966; and a Foreign Service officer general in Recife, Brazil, 1962–1964.

Mr. de Vos graduated from Princeton University (B.A., 1960) and Johns Hopkins University (M.A., 1962). He was born December 24, 1938, in San Diego, CA. He is married and resides in Cabin John, MD.

Memorandum on Senior Executive Service Positions in the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration

April 25, 1990

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Subject: Delegation of Authority to Allocate

Proclamation 5967—National Maritime Day, 1989
May 2, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In the pages of our Nation's history, merchant seafarers rightly occupy an honored place. The American merchant marine has not only made important contributions to our economic development, but has also helped our country make effective responses to military challenges.

The value of merchant craft in wartime operations was first demonstrated during the Revolution, when they supplemented the 34 ships of the small Continental Navy. These vessels wrought havoc on enemy shipping, capturing or sinking some 600 British merchant vessels. Those losses intensified the mounting pressure on Parliament to end the war.

In this century, their support has been crucial—and their sacrifices heroic—in many armed conflicts. During World War II alone, despite enemy attacks which sank more than 700 U.S.-flag merchant ships and claimed the lives of more than 6,000 civilian seafarers, they transported the troops and kept open the supply lines that led ultimately to victory.

Clearly we owe our valiant merchant mariners an enormous debt of gratitude. Last year I joined millions of Americans in welcoming the news that these seafarers had finally received the official recognition they deserve as veterans of war.

In recognition of the importance of the U.S. merchant marine, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance. This date was chosen to commemorate the day in 1819 when the SS *Savannah* left Savannah, Georgia, on the first transatlantic steamship voyage.

Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 1989, as National Maritime Day. I urge the people of the

United States to observe this day by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places, and I request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

George Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:33 p.m., May 3, 1989]

Note: The proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 3.

Proclamation 5968—Fire Prevention Week, 1989
May 2, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During the past year, fire claimed the lives of almost 6,000 of our fellow citizens. Many thousands more were severely injured by fire, and billions of dollars of property was destroyed. Eighty-five percent of the deaths caused by fire last year occurred in residential properties. Fire is especially devastating to the most vulnerable members of our society: children and the elderly.

This year, the United States Fire Administration has launched a campaign aimed at the very young entitled "Curious Kids Set Fires." The National Fire Prevention Association, the originator of Fire Prevention Week, has selected a companion theme: "Big Fires Start Small: Keep matches and lighters in the right hands." Complementary these efforts is a private sector initiative, "Plan To Get Out Alive," a house escape planning program developed with

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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO Mollie Osborne
Public Liaison Officer

LOCATION The White House - Washington, D.C.

FAX# 202-456-6218 VOICE# _____

FROM Russell E. Sanders, Fire Chief

LOCATION LOUISVILLE DIVISION OF FIRE

FAX# (502) 625-2929 VOICE# (502) 625-3701

DATE 10 / 9 / 90

TIME 1 : 00 AM

PAGE COUNT 2
(INCLUDING COVER)

If you need any other information, please contact my secretary, Lolita Adams (502) 625-2909, and she can get in touch with me.

- FOR YOUR INFORMATION
- FOR INFORMATION YOU REQUESTED
- PLEASE COMMENT
- PLEASE NOTIFY SENDER OF RECEIPT
- IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
- CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

LOUISVILLE DIVISION OF FIRE
 WEST JEFFERSON STREET
 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40203





City of Louisville

DIVISION OF FIRE

1135 W. Jefferson Street • Louisville, KY 40203-1899
(502)625-3701/625-3711

JERRY E. ABRAMSON
MAYOR

THOMAS T. KUSTER
DIRECTOR OF SAFETY

RUSSELL E. SANDERS
CHIEF

October 5, 1990

The Honorable George H. W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

It is an honor for me to accept the White House invitation to join you for the signing of the National Fire Prevention Proclamation on October 11, 1990, at 2:30 p.m.

The timing of this event is very significant to the City of Louisville. After the tragic deaths of six children on July 4, 1989, Mayor Jerry Abramson initiated an aggressive fire prevention/public education program for the City of Louisville. Due to this effort, the City of Louisville is currently positioned to make local history in 1990 by breaking the all time record low of six fire deaths for any one calendar year. As of this date, we have experienced only three fire deaths as compared to 14 on this same date last year.

I believe the Louisville experience represents the spirit of the proclamation you will sign in the Rose Garden on Thursday. I look forward to representing the Louisville Division of Fire, as well as the 119 other largest fire departments in the United States and abroad, at this historic event.

Very respectfully yours,

Russell E. Sanders, Colonel
Chief, Louisville Division of Fire
Chairman, Metropolitan Section, IAFC

RES/la

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES P. 08

Draft Letter for Curt Weldon

October 4, 1990

RE: National Fire Prevention Week
October 7-13, 1990

Dear Colleague:

Collectively, the states and districts we represent suffer one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. Our constituents are experiencing devastating losses to fire. And they are dying in places they should feel safest -- their homes. Most home fire deaths could be prevented by identifying fire hazards and risky behaviors and removing or changing them.

One way to help reduce the number of fire deaths in this country is through education -- a proven tool and a life saver.

Fire Prevention Week is held each October to highlight the importance of fire prevention and firesafety education. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting safety from fire, has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for nearly 70 years. The NFPA has established "Make Your Place Firesafe: Hunt for Home Hazards" as the theme for this year's campaign. This theme encompasses a broad spectrum of key firesafety messages, and focuses attention on the need for pro-active fire prevention and firesafety measures by all of us. I hope you'll join the NFPA and me in observing this important week, which begins next Sunday, October 7. I also hope you'll share this valuable tool -- fire prevention -- with your constituents.

We must make a commitment to firesafety education throughout the year, not just during Fire Prevention Week. At the local level, help is available from fire departments and fire marshals across the country. In addition, as developer of the lifesaving *Learn Not to Burn® Curriculum* for elementary schools, NFPA has a trained staff of firesafety education professionals who can assist you and your constituents in developing educational strategies to address local fire issues. You can reach them by calling NFPA's Public Education Division at (617)984-7285.

I urge you to place National Fire Prevention Week high on your list of priorities next week. And, on a personal note, I ask you to check your own home for fire hazards, and establish a home fire escape plan for you and your family. Remember: "Make Your Place Firesafe: Hunt for Home Hazards."

Sincerely,

MEMO September 11, 1990

TO: Fred McClure, Assistant to the President

FROM: Rep. Sherwood Boehlert

SUBJECT: Recommended Presidential Signing Ceremony for
Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act (H.R. 94)

Yesterday the House voted to suspend the rules and agree to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 94, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to allow for the development and issuance of guidelines concerning the use and installation of automatic sprinkler systems and smoke detectors in places of public accommodation affecting commerce -- clearing the measure for the President.

The Administration supported the action.

The fire services community nationally was a strong proponent of my measure.

I recommend for your consideration a modest Roosevelt Room signing ceremony with representation from the nation's major fire services organizations like the International Association of Firefighters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, etc.

The Congressional Fire Services Caucus is now the largest caucus in Congress. Rep. Curt Weldon is chairman. Rep. Doug Walgren, Senators Al Gore and John McCain and I are co-chairs. The President and Vice President have addressed our annual dinner (more than 2,000 each of the two years).

The Congressional Fire Services Institute is a non-profit spin off of the Caucus. It has a professional staff which would be pleased to work with the White House in coordinating the signing ceremony. A video of the signing ceremony would be an ideal highlight of our next annual dinner, in the spring. A photograph of the President signing this significant fire safety legislation would be a perfect cover shot for the program.

This bill is a Republican initiative. Mine. Rep. Weldon and Senator McCain are most interested in a signing ceremony which should, in addition to the co-chairs of the Fire Services Caucus, should also include Senator Bryan who spearheaded Senate action on the measure.

Here is a chance to please a lot of people and groups with a modest ceremony and give us all bragging rights for a safety/consumer protection measure.

Apr. 12 / Administration of George Bush, 1989

[former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs], who sat in on that meeting. And having said that, every attorney that advises the President has advised me not to do something that inadvertently would cause a mistrial or would disturb the process that is underway. And so, I don't like reading charges that I happen to feel are untrue, but I have to stand on that. And that just goes with the territory. And I am confident that the process that has gone on, and the process that undoubtedly will go on after this trial is over, will say that anything I have heretofore said is correct. But I do not want to be pushed into doing something for self-aggrandizement that would be ruled by some judge to have aborted a trial that is underway.

Well, thank you all very much.

Note: The President spoke at 1:35 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. He was introduced by John Seigenthaler, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Remarks at the Annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Dinner April 12, 1989

The President. Members of the fire service community and ladies and gentlemen and friends, what a wonderful evening this is. Let me say, it's a great privilege to be, as Yogi Berra might say, in such extinguished company—[laughter]—all fired up. [Laughter] I want to thank you, though, for that warmth of your reception here and for your kindness. And let me just first congratulate some who are responsible for this first, massively successful event. I'm referring, of course, to the International Associations of Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services. And I want to also salute the individual representatives of the fire service community and then the members of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus, now the third-largest, I believe, technically. But if I know

Congressman Curt Weldon, you're going to be number one. Let me salute the members of Congress that are gathered here, and particularly singling out not only the firefighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon—he talked about a sleeping giant awakened; you try sleeping—[laughter]—with Curt Weldon on your case, giving you a hot foot—but Congressman Doug Walgren here and Sherry Boehlert on this side here at the head table. I single them out for their special leadership and interest in the affairs that bind us all together tonight here.

And finally, I want to say that you've chosen a wonderful time of year to hold this first annual Congressional Fire Services Institute dinner. After all, just think of it. Spring is in the air. Washington is alive with visitors. Baseball's Orioles are still in the pennant race—something we couldn't have said last year at this time—[laughter]—the season's a week old. [Laughter] Our dog has had her puppies. [Laughter] And my wife got a nice clean bill of health today out of Walter Reed Hospital.

So, we meet together in a special week, for this is Volunteer Week, a time which celebrates the selfless character of the American people. And looking toward tonight, I was struck by the fact that 85 percent of our nation's fire protection is indeed supplied by volunteers. And it occurred to me that both you and your paid colleagues—professionals—for both give time and of yourselves, provide the definition of a successful life. For any definition of a successful life, it seems to me, must include serving others. A successful life means that we're partners, not islands unto ourselves, the sum not of our possessions but of how we treat our neighbors. For more than 200 years, firefighters have been this nation's neighbor in word and deed, the backbone of America. And you've met local emergency agencies through volunteer and paid fire and emergency service networks. And today, you meet them still—three million members strong.

And you know, being here tonight reminds me of a story that I heard which happened back in Prohibition days. It seems that 25 of Boston's top bootleggers were rounded up in a surprise raid. And as they

were being arraigned, the usual question asked the first 24 men were profession: Each claimed honor. Well, naturally, a prisoner, "And with Honor," he replied. And surprised, he asked, "Well, how?" "Well, it'd be a honor weren't so many?" [Laughter]

What I'm getting at is, your contribution, your participation, your role in the fire service must, too, in the future way since Benjamin Franklin of the first volume in 1736. And now, let's achieve your goal: more firesafe America.

Let me just share with you, and then you'll have dinner. First, this is the fire service network Government which has its place in the community. Almost every municipality has an emergency fire organization or July celebration or the fire service is the centers and service centers there. And when fire the fire service was when you become the only to fire but to act as cave-ins and collapses serve the Government administration, you have

Second, this administration, you deserve the Government. Ten years ago, the Fire and Control Administration to ensure that you heard by every level intend for those concerned tonight, I commend the administration for pursuing a role as the fire service and for providing a national deal with these firefighters want the National Fire Service its prominence as a national And like the previous

were being arraigned, the judge asked the usual question about occupation. And the first 24 men were engaged in the same profession: Each claimed to be a firefighter. Well, naturally, the judge asked the last prisoner, "And what are you?" And "Your Honor," he replied, "I'm a bootlegger." And surprised, the judge laughed and asked, "Well, how's business?" The guy said, "Well, it'd be a hell of a lot better if there weren't so many firefighters around." [Laughter]

What I'm getting at—even back in Prohibition, your numbers turned the tide. [Laughter] And so, they can today, and must, too, in the future. We've come a long way since Benjamin Franklin founded one of the first volunteer fire companies in 1736. And now, let's go forward and help achieve your goal: a better, more secure, more firesafe America.

Let me just share a few thoughts with you, and then you can get on with the dinner. First, this administration believes the fire service network deserves a Federal Government which understands and values its place in the American community. Almost every municipality has some sort of emergency fire organization. At the 4th of July celebration or Memorial Day parade, the fire service is there. At senior citizens centers and service clubs, the fire service is there. And when fire raged at Yellowstone, the fire service was there. And so, too, when you become the first responder not only to fire but to accidents and floods and cave-ins and collapsed buildings, you deserve the Government's respect. And in my administration, you have it.

Second, this administration believes that you deserve the Government's support. Fifteen years ago, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created to ensure that your concerns would be heard by every level of government. I intend for those concerns to be heard. And tonight, I commend the U.S. Fire Administration for pursuing with vigor its rightful role as the fire services Federal advocate and for providing a national clearinghouse to deal with these fire service issues. We want the National Fire Academy to retain its prominence as a national training center. And like the previous administration, we

want the original intent of the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be maintained.

You know, every profession—you know this and I know it—every profession has its ups and downs. And perhaps former hockey coach Harry Neale put it best: "Last season we couldn't win at home, and we were losing on the road." He said, "My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of any place else to play." [Laughter]

Well, the difference is that few professions display that special brand of skill and heroism that is found in the fire service. I'm thinking, for example, of how last May, Richard Shiah, an off-duty battalion chief, arrived at the scene of a burning pickup truck that was overturned in a ditch. And with no protective clothing on, risked his life—suffered second-degree burns on his face and wrists, to save a father and two sons. Chief Shiah shows, like every firefighter, that heroism American-style is not going out of style, and tonight let us pledge that it never will. And to achieve that goal, let us act specifically to help the fire services in protecting our citizens from loss of life and property.

Each year, more than 6,000 lives are lost in fires, and over \$10 billion lost in property damage. And to combat such tragedy, we must foster greater public awareness of fire problems by supporting the Federal fire safety program. But we must also act when tragedy does occur. And toward that end, last year, as part of the Omnibus Drug Act of 1988, we raised the death benefit for fallen firefighters from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

We've done much, but we must do more. And as we do, we'll show how voluntarism can join hands with government to renew the promise of America. And that's why I have opened at the White House the Office of National Service. This office is leading my administration's community and national service efforts. And yesterday, I saluted the 18 recipients of the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards. And soon, I will announce our administration's Y-E-S, or YES Program, Youth Entering Service. And this program will encourage all young Americans to get involved in community service, to reignite the concept of one young person helping another.