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**OA/ID Number:** 13838  
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Firefighters 10/12/92 [OA 7582]

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 10/9

TO: *Carol*

FROM: GREG FITCH  
Office of Public Liaison  
Room 130, OEOP, x7120

- FYI
- Appropriate action
- Let's Discuss
- Per Our Conversation
- Per Your Request
- Please Return

COMMENTS:

*Some background info FYI.  
Diane Harrison is our advance  
person for firefighters event -  
Tim Simonson (sp?) is lead advance  
but is too busy w/ Victory '92 to  
know much. She's been very  
helpful; can be reached through  
SIGNAL today.*

*→*

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## (George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Memo	Greg Fitch to Carol, re: Background FYI; telephone number redacted. (1 pp.)	10/09	P-6, (b)(6)	

**Collection:**

**Record Group:** Bush Presidential Records  
**Office:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File, Backup  
**Subseries:**  
**WHORM Cat.:**  
**File Location:** Firefighters 10/12/92

<b>Date Closed:</b> 12/6/2004	<b>OA/ID Number:</b> 07582
<b>FOIA/SYS Case #:</b>	
<b>Re-review Case #:</b> 2004-2265-S	
<b>P-2/P-5 Review Case #:</b>	

<b>MR Case #:</b>	<b>Appeal Case #:</b>
<b>MR Disposition:</b>	<b>Appeal Disposition:</b>
<b>Disposition Date:</b>	<b>Disposition Date:</b>

### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- (b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

For acknowledgment, I understand  
that Cong. Weldon will speak -  
his local rep, Dennis Lynch,  
was a total joke on the phone  
today - don't know why.  
Maybe you'll need to talk to Weldon  
for more background info.  
log. Mr. expects the bill will be  
delivered in time. Let's hope.

(H) [REDACTED]  
P-61  
(b)(6)

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft One  
October 9, 1992  
PAFIRE

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: BEN FRANKLIN MEMORIAL BILL-SIGNING  
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, PA  
MONDAY, OCT. 9, 1992  
11:50 A.M.

o Acknowledgements. Members of the Fire Service community. And a special salute to the fire-fighter's best friend, Congressman Curt Weldon -- the man responsible for getting this bill through the Congress. It is a great honor to be here with all of you this morning.

o Today I will sign the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial Commemorative Medal and Fire Service Bill of Rights Act -- which authorizes the minting of a medal commemorating Benjamin Franklin's contribution to the advancement of science and the American Fire Service.

o Proceeds from the sale of this medal will benefit the Franklin Institute, as well as various fire-fighting organizations, such as the International Association of Fire Fighters Burn Foundation to aid burn injury research. The proceeds will also go toward creating public education programs on fire-fighting training grants, help design and maintain arson prevention programs, and create a John Heinz Memorial Scholarship Fund.

o The list of causes goes on and on. And so does the courage of America's fire fighters. I know it can be "touch-and-go" in some of the calls you respond to / the danger every

fire fighter faces when entering a burning building or responding to an accident. For your bravery and unfailing dedication, I say: thank you.

o The Fire Service Bill of Rights Act salutes all of you: all heroes. It ensures you will have the necessary tools to do your job to the utmost of your ability, and seeks to protect you from the dangers of emergency response. Your Bill of Rights promotes education, training programs, and asks for greater public awareness of the many hazards of fire-fighting. And it demands that should the ultimate tragedy occur -- your loved ones will be provided for.

o As some of you may know, Teddy Roosevelt is among my favorite Presidents. Let me share with you what his father said to him on the eve of his 16th birthday. He said, "All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is connected with others... We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves."

o You serve not for yourselves alone -- but for the Family called America. May God bless each and every one of you and the great State of Pennsylvania. Now, let's sign that Act.

((SIGN ACT))

# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: STEVEN PROVOST

FROM: CURT SMITH

SUBJECT: FIRE-FIGHTERS EVENT/SPRINGFIELD, PA

On Monday, October 12 at 11:20 a.m., you will sign into law the Ben Franklin National Memorial Commemorative Medal and Fire Service Bill of Rights Act. Your remarks (5 minutes, cards) will be given to an audience of 1,000 volunteer and paid fire-fighters.

**GEORGE BUSH LIBRARY**

**THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
LISTED IN THE WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.**



900 2nd Street, N.E.  
Suite 118  
Washington,  
D.C. 20002  
(202) 371-1277  
FAX 202-682-FIRE

- Congressman Curt Weldon  
Honorary Chairman
- Senator Albert Gore  
Honorary Co-Chairman
- Senator John McCain  
Honorary Co-Chairman
- Senator Richard Bryan  
Honorary Co-Chairman
- Congressman Steny Hoyer  
Honorary Co-Chairman
- Congressman Sherwood Boehlert  
Honorary Co-Chairman
- Congressman Tim Valentine  
Honorary Co-Chairman

Mary McCormack  
Chair, National Advisory  
Committee

Steve Austin  
Vice-Chair

John J. McNichol  
Executive Director

William V. Goodwin  
Director, External Affairs

Ellen Ha  
Administrative Assistant

# CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE

October 9, 1992

Memorandum

To: Diane Harrison  
Fr: Congressman Curt Weldon  
John McNichol

Re: Fire Service VIPs for Bill Signing Ceremony

Listed below are the national fire service leaders planning to attend the signing ceremony. The individuals in Section I should be on stage with the president. The remaining individuals in Section II should at least be admitted to the building.

### Section I

Olin Greene  
Administrator  
U.S. Fire Administrator

Albert Kirchner  
Superintendent  
National Fire Academy

Ed McCormack  
CEO  
International Society of Fire Service Instructors

Chief Gary Nichols  
President  
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)

Chief Ray Alfred  
District of Columbia Fire Chief and  
Pres., Metro Committee of the IAFC

Romeo Spaulding  
President  
International Assn. of Black Professional Fire Fighters

George Miller  
President  
National Fire Protection Association

David Lucht  
President  
Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Ms. Harrison -- page 2

Section I continued ...

George Miller (different from above)  
National Representative  
National Assn. of State Fire Marshals

Patrick Kennedy  
Washington Liaison to Fire Caucus for  
American Ambulance Association

Lee Fulton  
President  
Board of Certified Fire Protection Specialists

Benjamin Roy  
Executive Secretary  
Fire Marshals Assn. of North America

Steven Austin  
Washington Representative  
International Assn. of Arson Investigators

John Viniello  
President  
National Fire Sprinkler Assn.

Robert McKeon  
Chairman  
National Volunteer Fire Council

William Bruns  
President  
Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Assn.

Roman Kaminski  
President  
International Fire Buffs Assn.

Albert Danilko  
President  
Legislative Federation of PA

Russel Davis  
President  
PA State Firemen's Assn.

Barry Buskey  
President  
Professional Firefighters Assn. of PA

Ms. Harrison -- page 3

Section I continued ...

John Kenny  
President  
PA Fire Police Assn.

Bob Kerns  
President  
Keystone Fire Instructors Assn.

Dave Brubaker  
PA Assn. of Arson Investigators

Les Yost  
President  
Philadelphia Local, IAFF

Representative  
Delco Union Local

## Section II

John McNichol  
Executive Director  
Congressional Fire Services Institute

Doug Ritter  
Administrative Assistant  
U.S. Rep. Curt Weldon

Mrs. Olin Greene  
wife of U.S. Fire Administrator

Mrs. Albert Kirchner  
wife of National Fire Academy Superintendent

Steve Stevenson  
Publisher  
Firefighter and EMS News

Dave Hackett  
Congressional Fire Services Caucus

Nancy White  
Upper Darby Twp. Councilwoman

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
October 10, 1992

*Carol note - as LAM or DD signature yet - but background info may be helpful - Greg*  
**COPY**

SPRINGFIELD FIREFIGHTERS DROP BY

DATE: October 12, 1992  
TIME: 11:20 a.m.  
LOCATION: Springfield Township  
Firehouse, Springfield, PA  
THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST  
FROM: LEIGH ANN METZGER  
GREG FITCH

I. PURPOSE

To sign H.R. 2448, the "Benjamin Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights Act." To salute the nation's volunteer and paid firefighters for their sacrifice and commitment to America's neighborhoods.

II. BACKGROUND

Before Congress adjourned this week, both houses passed H.R. 2448, the "Benjamin Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights Act." Introduced by Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA), the bill authorizes the minting next year of 1.5 million silver medals to help fund several national fire service programs and the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia. Ben Franklin founded the nation's first fire station.

Specifically, proceeds would fund various fire training grants, college scholarships in fire science, burn injury research, arson prevention programs, and scholarships for children and spouses of firefighters and emergency medical personnel killed in duty.

The Bill of Rights component recognizes the nation's approximately 1.2 million volunteer and 300,000 paid firefighters as "our first responder to domestic emergencies" and states that firefighters deserve every protection from the dangers associated with emergency response.

Congressman Weldon, a former volunteer fire chief, is also the founder and chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, an informal bipartisan group of lawmakers backing fire and life safety. You addressed the caucus' first fund-raising dinner in 1989.

On October 11th the U.S. Fire Administrator hosted an annual ceremony at the National Fire Academy in nearby Emmitsburg, Maryland honoring the nation's firefighters killed in duty. Because of this, many national fire service leaders will also be in attendance at this event.

III. PARTICIPANTS

On Stage

The President and Mrs. Bush  
See Attached List

Audience

Approximately 1,000 local uniformed volunteer and paid  
firefighters

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

See Advance Scenario

VI. REMARKS

Remarks to be provided by Speechwriting

**PARTICIPANTS ON STAGE  
SPRINGFIELD FIREFIGHTERS DROP BY  
OCTOBER 12, 1992 -- 11:20 A.M.  
SPRINGFIELD, PA**

Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA)  
Olin Greene, Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration (FEMA)  
Albert Kirchner, Superintendent, National Fire Academy  
Ed McCormack, CEO, International Society of Fire Service  
Instructors  
Chief Gary Nichols, International Association of Fire Chiefs  
(IAFC)  
Chief Ray Alfred, District of Columbia Fire Chief and  
President, Metro Committee of the IAFC  
Romeo Spaulding, President, International Association of  
Black Professional Fire Fighters  
George Miller, President, National Fire Protection  
Association  
David Lucht, President, Society of Fire Protection Engineers  
George Miller, National Representative, National Association  
of State Fire Marshals  
Patrick Kennedy, Washington Liaison to Fire Caucus for the  
American Ambulance Association  
Lee Fulton, President, Board of Certified Fire Protection  
Specialists  
Benjamin Roy, Executive Secretary, Fire Marshals Association  
of North America  
Steven Austin, Washington Representative, International  
Association of Arson Investigators  
John Viniello, President, National Fire Sprinkler  
Association  
Robert McKeon, Chairman, National Volunteer Fire Council  
William Bruns, President, Fire Apparatus Manufacturers  
Association  
Roman Kaminski, President, International Fire Buffs  
Association  
Albert Danilko, President, Legislative Federation of  
Pennsylvania  
Russel Davis, President, Pennsylvania State Firemen's  
Association  
Barry Buskey, President, Professional Firefighters  
Association of Pennsylvania  
John Kenny, President, President, Pennsylvania Fire Police  
Association  
Bob Kerns, President, Keystone Fire Instructors Association  
Dave Brubaker, Pennsylvania Association of Arson  
Investigators  
Les Yost, President, Philadelphia Local, International  
Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)

LEVEL 1 - 6 OF 67 STORIES

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GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

September 27, 1992, Sunday

LENGTH: 1832 words

HEADLINE: PA. LAWMAKER SHOWS HOW CONGRESS REALLY OPERATES

BYLINE: CHRIS COLLINS; Gannett News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: HOUSE-CAUCUSMAIN

## BODY:

Chances are you've never heard of Curt Weldon, a junior Republican congressman from Pennsylvania. But:

- He has a vast national constituency, with well-placed representatives in virtually every town.

- He can collect \$ 400,000-plus in one night for his cause, which is supported by four-fifths of Congress.

- His appeal is bipartisan: Democratic vice presidential candidate Albert Gore lends his name to Weldon's cause, and a top House Democratic leader last year declared "we love you" to Weldon as thousands listened.

Forget your textbook lessons about Democrats vs. Republicans, the congressional seniority system and how a bill becomes law. This is how Congress really operates - and how corporate America might influence its operations.

Weldon's clout stems not from his party affiliation (the GOP minority), his congressional seniority (low) or his committee chairmanships (nonexistent).

Instead, Weldon, a former volunteer fire chief, has built his influence by becoming Capitol Hill's chief firefighter: founder of both the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, an informal bipartisan group of lawmakers backing "fire and life safety," and an affiliated private institute.

Weldon's caucus and institute tap into a politically potent national force: America's 1.5 million firefighters, 85 percent of whom are volunteers whose fire houses often are towns' social and political hubs.

"What better mom-and-apple-pie issue than fire services?" asks John McNichol, head of the Congressional Fire Services Institute Weldon also founded.

But more than mom and apple pie are at issue.

Almost six years after becoming a representative, Weldon still is on leave from his pre-Congress position with insurance giant CIGNA Corp. CIGNA and a related company are the major financial backers of the fire services institute. And Weldon has used his caucus to push for legislation backed by CIGNA and others in the insurance industry.

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE, September 27, 1992

Weldon says that, although "you could make a connection that, well, he's trying to help CIGNA out, that's clearly not my intent." The suggestion of a conflict of interest between his CIGNA connections and his congressional work is "offensive" and "stretching it," he says: "There is no way I would ever compromise what I am doing to benefit one company."

Weldon, who came to the House in 1987, a year later created the fire services caucus. It quickly became the largest of about 120 unofficial, unfunded groups of lawmakers that have proliferated on Capitol Hill.

Then Weldon - following a pattern established by other such caucuses - created its private affiliate, the tax-exempt Congressional Fire Services Institute, mostly funded by industries. The institute "educates" politicians about fire and emergency service issues.

Weldon's institute ties are tight: Executive director McNichol is a former Weldon legislative aide and the son of the top political boss in Weldon's GOP-machine home district; its unpaid president is Weldon's chief House aide; Weldon is its honorary chairman. Even its tax returns are prepared by a Pennsylvania firm founded by Weldon's former campaign treasurer.

The institute's most generous supporters are CIGNA and an insurance agency closely linked to CIGNA: the Glatfelter Insurance Group of York, Pa., and its subsidiary, Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services Inc.

About 65 percent of the nation's volunteer fire companies and ambulance squads buy insurance through VFIS, founded by Arthur J. Glatfelter. CIGNA says Glatfelter's agency generates nearly \$ 100 million a year in premium for CIGNA.

These firms' complex association with Weldon's groups go back to the caucus' beginning:

- VFIS sponsored the caucus' April 1988 kickoff reception on Capitol Hill.
- Glatfelter, who Weldon says he has known for 20 years, has been the institute's unpaid treasurer since its start.
- Of \$ 1.3 million the institute received between March 1989, when it was incorporated, and Sept. 30, 1991, at least \$ 46,800 came from CIGNA and \$ 56,000 from Glatfelter's firms. Companies that make firefighting or fire safety products and equipment provided most of the rest.
- CIGNA lent the institute an executive for a year and sponsors fund-raising golf tournaments with it at a CIGNA-owned resort.

Weldon, who said CIGNA still gives the institute \$ 20,000 to \$ 25,000 annually, said he "leaned on" CIGNA to support the fledgling institute.

CIGNA spokesman David A. Willis, however, said CIGNA contributes as a favor to Glatfelter: "It made sense from a business point to do this. We support endeavors that are important to major customer groups."

At the institute's 1991 dinner, in fact, CIGNA announced it was honoring Glatfelter with a college scholarship in his name.

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE, September 27, 1992

Weldon receives "no pay or benefits" from CIGNA, according to his latest financial disclosure report. And, he says, his leave of absence was not a special favor.

When Weldon was elected in 1986, CIGNA policy was to offer all employees who enter public service open-ended unpaid leaves. Beginning in 1991, the leaves are limited to two years, Willis said. Weldon, formerly director of training and manpower, is one of "very few" employees on such leaves, Willis said.

This year, Weldon lobbied for legislation in which CIGNA has a substantial stake.

In February, Weldon - writing on Congressional Fire Services Caucus stationery - asked House members to support a bill that would protect the insurance industry from the full financial fallout of a catastrophic earthquake.

The earthquake legislation was drafted by a consortium of 350 trade associations and companies in the property/casualty insurance industry. CIGNA is among the 10 members of the consortium's steering committee.

In August, Weldon testified for the earthquake bill before a subcommittee led by Rep. Rick Boucher, D-Va., a member of his caucus. Until recently, the subcommittee aide handling the bill was an unpaid officer of Weldon's institute.

Weldon, speaking "as the chairman of the largest caucus on Capitol Hill," urged the subcommittee "to make sure that the federal government takes its proper place in backing up the insurance industry and the emergency responders...."

In an interview, Weldon said CIGNA "has never asked for anything, in terms of issues" and that he "never gave it a thought about CIGNA being a prime sponsor or a prime supporter of a bill like that ... and then giving money to the institute. Maybe I should have, but that's never even crossed my mind."

Weldon said his testimony and the letter were "nothing less than I would do for any other issue" with general fire service support and bipartisan backing.

He provided copies of nine letters he wrote this year to House colleagues on caucus stationery lobbying for five other legislative efforts: a House disaster action committee; tax-exempt bond issues by volunteer emergency groups; commemorative coins benefiting fire services; sprinkler systems in new or updated federal offices; and "National Firefighters Day."

Weldon also said he knew last year - before he pushed the earthquake bill - that his CIGNA leave would expire at the end of 1992. Willis says CIGNA was not "involved at all" in Weldon's efforts for the bill.

The caucus and its parallel outside institute have forged alliances that allow Weldon to defy the textbook rules about what constitutes political clout.

Among the caucus' six co-chairs and the institute's honorary co-chairs is Gore, the Democratic vice presidential candidate. In August, the International Association of Fire Fighters endorsed the Clinton-Gore ticket, noting Gore's involvement in the fire services caucus.

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE, September 27, 1992

Another caucus co-chair and institute honorary co-chair is Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, chairman of the House's Democratic Caucus. In January, Weldon plans to turn over leadership of his caucus to Hoyer, who declared to Weldon at the institute's 1991 dinner that "we love you for the commitment you have shown."

Weldon's political savvy - he's been an elected official since 1977 - contributed to the quick growth of his caucus and his clout.

Rather than nag his congressional colleagues to join the caucus, for example, Weldon encouraged fire service groups to ask politicians if they were caucus members - and if not, why they weren't supporting fire safety.

Lawmakers found it easy to support the caucus: It accepts everyone, its full membership never meets, and it doesn't charge dues.

Serendipity also played a role. In May 1988, Weldon and McNichol, then a Weldon legislative aide, were the first to arrive at an early evening fire in a vacant House office assigned to then-Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas.

The fire, attributed to an electrical short, made a priceless contribution to Weldon's cause by thrusting him into the national media limelight.

Newspapers had "three-inch headlines: 'WELDON PUTS OUT BLAZE IN SPEAKER'S OFFICE,' " McNichol said in a speech tape recorded during a later institute workshop. Lawmakers' response, McNichol said, was: "Wow, I want to get some of that!" Caucus membership soared.

The institute also started with a bang. In April 1989, more than 2,000 diners paid a stunning \$ 412,479 to attend its first fund-raising dinner. Weldon introduced keynote speaker George Bush - an incredible catch for a month-old institute.

Serendipity and political savvy again had come to Weldon's aid: Repeated appeals to the White House for Bush or Vice President Dan Quayle to attend the dinner had been rebuffed when it was discovered that Bush's chief scheduler was a volunteer firefighter. Weldon had lunch with him; a few days later, both Bush and Quayle accepted.

"Few other groups are able to turn out 2,000 strong for an event in Washington, receive the president and the vice president, and entertain over 70 members of the House and Senate," Weldon bragged in a "Fire Chief" magazine article. "...This has given the fire service an opening to Congress that it has never before had."

Since then, the caucus has backed such successful legislative efforts as requiring hotels and motels doing federal business to install fire sprinklers and smoke detectors; relaxing weight restrictions for fire and emergency service vehicles on federal highways and exempting some fire extinguishers from specific Clean Air Act requirements.

The caucus and institute have yet to make Weldon a household name, but they have propelled him to firehouse fame. Last year, Weldon reported 15 expense-paid trips, most to speak to fire-related groups or businesses; his staff says he turns down five for each he accepts.

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE, September 27, 1992

An American University professor is writing a book about Weldon's political techniques. His institute dinners attract Hollywood stars. State-level caucuses mimic the national one.

"Curt has developed the seeds of something that could bloom for him," McNichol says. "... He just never thinks about it."

SUBJECT: CONGRESS; ETHICS; PENNSYLVANI; HOUSE SPENDING

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 67 STORIES

Copyright 1992 States News Service  
States News Service

October 8, 1992, Thursday

LENGTH: 405 words

HEADLINE: Weldon's Fire Service Bill Of Rights Makes It Through Congress

BYLINE: By Jennifer Babson, States News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: fire

## BODY:

A fire service 'Bill of Rights' and commemorative medal bill pushed by Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Aston, passed Congress late Wednesday and now awaits the signature of President George Bush -- who will be stopping in Delaware County Monday.

Bush will be appearing behind the Springfield Township Building on Pell Road at 10:00 am Monday morning, county GOP Chairman Tom Judge announced at a press conference Thursday.

Police are expecting 3,000 to 5,000 people will show up to greet the President, who is expected to use the occasion to sign Weldon's bill into law.

First introduced by Weldon in October 1989, the measure authorizes the minting next year of 1,500,000 silver medals to help fund seven national fire service programs and the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

An "ecstatic" Weldon said Thursday he's excited about Bush's visit and passage of the bill: "It's the first time in the history of America that the emergency responders of this country have been recognized," Weldon said.

The 10-statement 'Bill Of Rights' contained in the legislation asserts that the "Fire Service should be acknowledged as our first responders to domestic emergencies" and commends the fire service for its role as "America's domestic defenders," among other things.

Although the bill passed through Congress without opposition, some lawmakers expressed skepticism over the purpose and function of printing yet another congressional medal.

"Experience has shown us that the most successful commemorative medals are used to mark something in American history that have touched all of us," said Rep. Alfred McCandless, R-Calif., when the bill reached the floor of the House late Saturday.

Minted to observe the "203rd anniversary of the death of Franklin or the 256th anniversary of the first American fire station, it would seem to me that we are stretching it a bit," McCandless complained. "Today our most successful medal program has only sold 600,000 medals."

States News Service, October 8, 1972

After attaching an amendment that "would not make taxpayers pay for the cost of the medal" if it bombs, McCandless threw his support to the bill with a caveat: "If it is a failure then we should eliminate this kind of program."

Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, Weldon said he envisions a brighter fate for the medal: "I predict it will be a sellout," he said. "We have a ready, captive audience of 3 million (fire service) people."

→ language is included in finding section

(not bound by law)

~~not bound by law~~

→

**CURT WELDON**

7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3807

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CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN

The Office of Congressman Curt Weldon

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: **CAROL**

FROM: Doug Ritter \_\_\_\_\_ Nancy Lifset \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Barbera  Abby Page \_\_\_\_\_  
Eunice Groark \_\_\_\_\_ Andy Weis \_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Hackett \_\_\_\_\_ Susan Damico \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# OF PAGES (including cover) **2**

If you have any questions concerning this fax, please call  
(202)225-2011. Thank you.

"The Benjamin Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights"

o Authorizes the minting of 1,500,000 silver medals beginning on July 1, 1993.

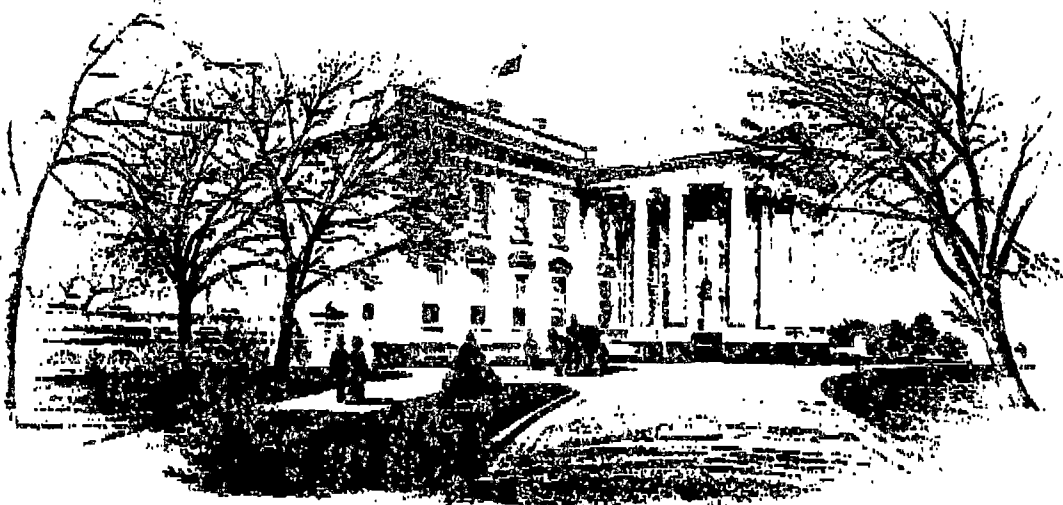
o Proceeds from the sale of the coin will be divided equally between the following:

- The Franklin Institute, to renovate and restore the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial.
- The Institute of Life Safety Technology and Emergency Management Education, to provide grants to colleges and universities for fire training courses.
- The International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation to award scholarships for college level courses in fire safety and related fields.
- The International Association of Fire Fighters Burn Foundation for burn injury reasearch at hospital burn centers.
- The National Fire Protection Association's "Learn Not to Burn" Foundation to deliver public education programs on fire safety.
- The National Volunteer Fire Council to establish fire fighter health and safety programs.
- The National Association of State Fire Marshals to establish a "John Heinz Memorial Scholarship Fund."
- The International Association of Arson Investigators Educational Foundation to design and maintain arson prevention programs.

THE FIRE SERVICE BILL OF RIGHTS

- \* America's fire service should be acknowledged as our first responders to domestic emergencies.
- \* Members of America's fire service deserve every protection from the dangers associated with emergency response.
- \* Family members of those in the fire service should be provided for in the event of the service-connected loss or disability of a family member.
- \* Members of fire services should be educated in the latest fire and life safety sciences and should have access to ongoing training programs to be able to take full advantage of the latest information.
- \* Fire services should be provided with state of the art equipment and apparatus to handle all emergency situations.
- \* America's fire services deserve to have access to up to date fire and life safety programs to enable them to protect the public with minimal risk to the safety of their members.
- \* Responding fire services have a right to know the kind of danger presented by hazardous materials.
- \* Fire services should be fully informed of the threat of infectious diseases their members face during the course of life safety.
- \* America's fire services have the right to expect that the American people will be full partners in the struggle to preserve life and property.
- \* The history of American fire services and the sacrifices their members have made to protect lives and property in communities across the nation deserve to commended and honored.

Executive Office of the President  
Office of Legislative Affairs



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COMMENTS per your request

FROM Becky Anderson

FAX NUMBER 6718

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H.R. 2448 by Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA)  
Benjamin Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights Act; Benjamin Franklin  
National Memorial Commemorative Coin Act; Fire Service Bill of Rights Act;  
Benjamin Franklin National Memorial Commemorative Medal and Fire Service Bill  
of Rights Act

Official Title (Caption):

A bill to provide for the minting of coins in commemoration of Benjamin  
Franklin and to enact a fire service bill of rights.

Introduced on Thursday, May 23, 1991

Overview and Outlook Copyright (c) 1992 Legi-Slate, Inc.

OVERVIEW: The bill [H.R.2448] would direct the secretary of the Treasury to  
mint medals commemorating Benjamin Franklin's contribution to the advancement  
of science and to the American Fire Service.  
Proceeds from the silver medals would benefit the Benjamin Franklin National  
Memorial, as well as various firefighting organizations for fire training  
grants; college scholarships in fire science; burn injury research; arson  
prevention programs; and scholarships for children and spouses of firefighters  
and emergency medical personnel killed in duty.

The House Banking Committee's Consumer Affairs and Coinage Subcommittee  
deleted a provision stipulating that coins be minted. Also taken out was a  
fire service bill of rights, establishing the right of firefighters to know  
the danger they face from hazardous materials and infectious diseases. Members  
felt such a provision wasn't within the jurisdiction of the banking committee  
or Congress.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., is controversial because  
opponents fear that commemorative medals for fraternal organizations or  
nonprofit groups will open the flood gates to groups representing police  
officers, teachers, medical technicians and others. Coins were changed to  
medals to alleviate those concerns, but they still exist.

"I can see demands rising for a teacher commemorative, a police officer  
commemorative," said Rep. Larry LaRocco, D-Idaho, the sole vote against the  
bill when it was marked up by the subcommittee on June 9, 1992. The vote was  
15-1.

The House Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs approved the bill  
on June 18, 1992. The House passed the bill on Oct. 3, 1992.

**Abstract**

(from Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress)

Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins to commemorate the contribution of Benjamin Franklin to the advancement of science and to the American Fire Service.

Sets forth a fire service bill of rights.

**Digest**

(from Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress)

**Benjamin Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights Act -**

**Title I: Minting of Benjamin Franklin National Memorial Commemorative Coin**

**Benjamin Franklin National Memorial Commemorative Coin Act - Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to issue: (1) five dollar gold coins emblematic of Benjamin Franklin's contributions to the advancement of science; (2) one dollar silver coins emblematic of Benjamin Franklin's contributions to the American Fire Service. Sets forth sale and issuance guidelines, including a general waiver of procurement regulations and surcharge distributions.**

**Title II: Fire Service Bill of Rights**

**Fire Service Bill of Rights Act - Amends the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to set forth a fire service bill of rights, including the right of responding fire services to: (1) know the kind of danger presented by hazardous materials they face in emergency responses; and (2) be fully informed of infectious diseases their members face during the course of life safety activities. Declares that the bill of rights does not create any private right of action.**

# One Hundred Second Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Friday, the third day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two*

## An Act

To provide for the minting of medals in commemoration of Benjamin Franklin and to enact a fire service bill of rights.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Benjamin Franklin National Memorial Commemorative Medal and Fire Service Bill of Rights Act".

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) America's fire services should be acknowledged as our first responder to domestic emergencies.

(2) Members of America's fire services deserve every protection from the dangers associated with emergency response.

(3) Family members of those in the fire services should be provided for in the event of the service-connected loss or disability of any member of a fire service.

(4) Members of fire services should be educated in the latest fire and life safety sciences, and should have access to ongoing training programs to be able to take full advantage of the latest information.

(5) Fire services should be provided with state-of-the-art equipment and apparatus to handle all emergency situations.

(6) America's fire services deserve to have access to up-to-date fire and life safety programs to enable them to protect the public with minimal risk to the safety of their members.

(7) Responding fire services have a right to know the kind of danger presented by hazardous materials they face in all emergency responses.

(8) Fire services should be fully informed of the threat of infectious diseases their members face during the course of life safety activities.

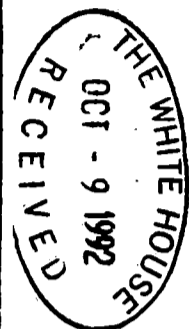
(9) America's fire services have the right to expect that the American people will be full partners in the struggle to preserve life and property from the ravages of fire and other disasters.

(10) The history of American fire services and the sacrifices their members have made to protect lives and property in communities across the Nation deserve to be commemorated and honored.

(11) A commemorative medal would help recognize the achievements and needs of America's fire services.

### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION.

(a) ISSUANCE.—The Secretary of the Treasury (in this title referred to as the "Secretary") shall issue not more than 1,500,000 medals each of which shall contain 1 ounce of silver.



(b) **DESIGN.**—The design of the medals shall contain suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions in commemoration of Benjamin Franklin's contributions to the American Fire Service. Such design shall be selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Chairman of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial at the Franklin Institute, the Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Institute, and the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts.

(c) **NATIONAL MEDALS.**—The medals issued under subsection (a) are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

**SEC. 4. SOURCES OF BULLION.**

The Secretary shall obtain silver for the medals authorized under section 3 from stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Minerals Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98 et seq.).

**SEC. 5. SALE OF MEDALS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The medals authorized under section 3 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the cost of production, plus the cost of designing and issuing such medals (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses), and the surcharge provided for in subsection (d).

(b) **BULK SALES.**—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the medals authorized under section 3 at a reasonable discount.

(c) **PREPAID ORDERS.**—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the medals authorized under section 3 prior to the issuance of such medals. Sales under this subsection shall be at a reasonable discount to reflect the benefit of prepayment.

(d) **SURCHARGES.**—All sales of the medals authorized under section 3 shall include a surcharge of \$15 per medal.

**SEC. 6. MARKETING.**

The Secretary shall develop a domestic marketing program to promote and sell the medals authorized under section 3 in the United States.

**SEC. 7. ISSUANCE OF MEDALS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The medals authorized under section 3 may be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities, except that not more than 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality.

(b) **COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may issue the medals authorized under section 3 beginning on July 1, 1993.

(c) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—No medals authorized under section 3 may be minted after June 30, 1994.

**SEC. 8. GENERAL WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), no provision of law governing procurement or public contracts shall be applicable to the procurement of goods or services necessary for issuing the medals authorized under section 3.

(b) **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.**—Subsection (a) shall not relieve any person entering into a contract under the authority of this title from complying with any law relating to equal employment opportunity.

**SEC. 9. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in section 11, all surcharges described in section 5(d) which are received by the Secretary shall be promptly paid by the Secretary as follows:

(1) **AMOUNTS PAID FOR THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NATIONAL MEMORIAL.**—Subject to section 10, the Secretary shall pay to the Franklin Institute (custodian of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial) 12.5 percent of the amount of such surcharges received. Such amounts shall be used—

(A) to restore and renovate the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial (in this section referred to as the "Memorial");

(B) for exhibits and programs in the Memorial or in the adjoining areas of the Franklin Institute relating to the Memorial, Benjamin Franklin, or to science and education;

(C) for funds for the acquisition and preservation of artifacts relating to Benjamin Franklin; and

(D) to establish, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, an endowment in an amount determined sufficient for the Memorial, to ensure the continued upkeep and maintenance of the Memorial.

(2) **AMOUNTS PAID FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**—Subject to section 10, the Secretary shall pay, of the amount of the surcharges received—

(A) 12.5 percent to the Institute of Life Safety Technology and Emergency Management Education to provide grants to colleges and universities for fire training courses at no cost to participants (such Institute shall not require the use of specific course materials as a condition for the receipt of a grant by a college or university);

(B) 12.5 percent to the International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation to award scholarships for college level courses in fire science, engineering, and related fields;

(C) 12.5 percent to the International Association of Fire Fighters Burn Foundation for burn injury research at hospital burn centers and other qualified medical research organizations;

(D) 12.5 percent to the National Fire Protection Associations' Learn Not To Burn Foundation to deliver public education programs and resources to low income residents in rural and urban communities which have high fire injury and death rates;

(E) 12.5 percent to the National Volunteer Fire Council Foundation to establish and maintain programs to promote the health and safety of all firefighters;

(F) 12.5 percent to the National Association of State Fire Marshals to establish and maintain the "John Heinz Memorial Scholarship Fund" to provide educational scholarships to the surviving children and spouses of fallen firefighters and emergency medical personnel as qualified under the Public Safety Officers Benefit Program; and

(G) 12.5 percent to the International Association of Arson Investigators Educational Foundation to design and maintain arson prevention programs.

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF LIST OF SURVIVING CHILDREN AND SPOUSES TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS.**—For purposes

of providing educational scholarships described in subsection (a)(2)(F), the Attorney General shall make a list of surviving children and spouses referred to in such subsection available to the National Association of State Fire Marshals on a timely basis.

**SEC. 10. AUDITS.**

(a) **FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.**—As a condition for receiving the proceeds of the surcharges pursuant to section 9(a)(1), the Franklin Institute shall allow the Comptroller General to examine such books, records, documents, and other data of the Institute as may be related to the expenditure of amounts paid, and the management and expenditures of the endowment established under subparagraph (F) of such section.

(b) **INSTITUTE OF LIFE SAFETY TECHNOLOGY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EDUCATION, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS, AND THE FIVE FIRE SERVICE FOUNDATIONS.**—As a condition for receiving the proceeds of the surcharges pursuant to section 9(a)(2), the Institute of Life Safety Technology and Emergency Management Education, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the 5 fire service foundations described in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), (E), and (G) of section 9(a)(2), shall allow the Comptroller General to examine such books, records, documents, and other data as may be related to the expenditure of amounts paid.

(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE, OVERHEAD, OR OTHER EXPENSES PROHIBITED.**—No funds received under section 9, and no interest accruing on any such funds, may be used for administrative purposes, overhead expenses, or for any other purpose not described in such section.

**SEC. 11. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

(a) **NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.**—The Secretary shall take all actions necessary to ensure that the issuance of the medals authorized under section 3 shall result in no net cost to the Federal Government.

(b) **RECOVERY OF COSTS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—

(1) **RELEASE OF SURCHARGES UPON RECEIPT OF FUNDS.**—The Secretary shall not distribute the amount of any surcharge under section 9 until the Secretary has received funds, either from the sale of medals authorized under this Act or from private donations, sufficient to ensure that the issuance of medals under this Act shall result in no net cost to the Federal Government.

(2) **RECOVERY OF EXPENSES FROM SURCHARGES.**—If all costs to the Federal Government in connection with the issuance of medals under this Act are not recovered from the sale of such medals or from private donations as of the termination of the program in accordance with section 7, the Secretary shall reduce the amount of the surcharges retained pursuant to paragraph (1) by the amount of such shortfall and apply such amount to the cost of issuing such medals.

(3) **DISTRIBUTION OF BALANCE OF SURCHARGES.**—Any surcharges remaining after any reduction in the amount of such surcharges pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be distributed in accordance with section 9.

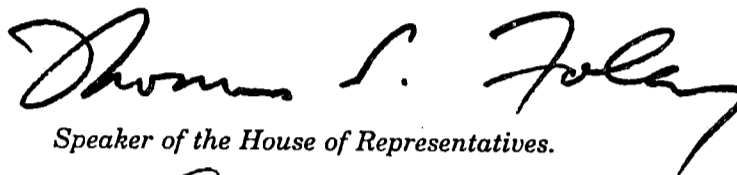
(c) **PAYMENT FOR MEDALS.**—No medal authorized under section 3 shall be issued unless the Secretary has received—


(1) full payment, as determined under section 5;

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(2) security satisfactory to the Secretary to indemnify the United States for full payment; or

(3) a guarantee of full payment satisfactory to the Secretary from a depository institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration Board.

  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

  
*Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.*