

Sept. 12 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

Memorandum on Excused Absence and Assistance to Federal Employees
Affected by the Attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon
September 12, 2001

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

Subject: Excused Absence and Assistance
to Federal Employees Affected by the
Attacks at the World Trade Center and the
Pentagon

I am deeply saddened and outraged by the loss of life and suffering caused by the attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. I convey my deepest sympathy and heartfelt sorrow to our fellow Americans and their families who have been affected by these senseless acts of violence. Many parts of the Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this tragedy.

As part of this effort, I ask the heads of executive departments and agencies having Federal civilian employees in the affected areas to excuse from duty, without charge to leave or loss of pay, any such employee who is prevented from reporting to work or faced with a personal emergency because of the terrorist attacks and who

can be spared from his or her usual responsibilities. This policy should also be applied to any employee who is needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or recovery efforts authorized by Federal, State, or local officials having jurisdiction.

I have directed the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Department of Labor to establish teams of specialists to assist with Federal benefits and workers' compensation claims of those employees who were injured or killed in the attacks.

Finally, I have directed OPM to establish an emergency leave transfer program to assist employees affected by this major disaster. The emergency leave transfer program will permit employees in an executive agency to donate unused annual leave for transfer to employees of the same or other agencies who have been adversely affected by the attacks and who need additional time off from work without having to use their own paid leave.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting
Supplemental Appropriations To Address the September 11 Terrorist
Attacks
September 12, 2001

Sir:

Yesterday, evil and despicable acts of terror were perpetrated against our fellow citizens. Our way of life, indeed our very freedom, came under attack. Our first priority is to respond swiftly and surely. We need to do so in a way that will make Americans proud, especially those heroes who are struggling so valiantly to deal with yesterday's tragedy.

Immediate steps are being taken to protect our citizens at home and around the world. I implemented our Government's emergency response plans, and the functions of our Government continue without interruption. I have directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice.

Now Congress must act. I ask the Congress to immediately pass and send to me the enclosed request for \$20,000,000,000 in FY 2001 emergency appropriations to provide resources to address the terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, and the consequences of such attacks. Passing this supplemental appropriations bill without delay will send a powerful signal of unity to our fellow Americans and to the world. If additional resources are necessary, I will forward another request for additional funding.

I designate the entire amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 13. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the request for \$20 billion in fiscal year 2001 emergency appropriations.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With New York City Mayor
Rudolph W. Giuliani and New York Governor George E. Pataki and an
Exchange With Reporters
September 13, 2001

President Bush. Good morning, men.

Mayor Giuliani. Good morning, Mr. President.

Governor Pataki. Good morning, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you all very much for taking my phone call. First of all, I can't tell you how sad I am, and America is, for the people of New York City and the tristate area. I want to let you know there is a quiet anger in America that really is real.

Also, though, I can't tell you how proud I am of the good citizens of your part of the world and the extraordinary job you all are doing. You're doing, really, a great job on behalf of the citizens of New York City, New York State, and in the tristate area. So I want to thank you very much for your leadership and dedication.

Mayor Giuliani. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Secondly, I've been in touch with you all. You've extended me a kind invitation to come to New York City.

I accept. I'll be there tomorrow afternoon, after the prayer service at the National Cathedral. I look forward to joining with both of you in thanking the police and fire, the construction trade workers, the restaurant owners, the volunteers—all of whom have really made a huge display for the world to see of the compassion of America and the bravery of America and the strength of America.

Every world leader I've talked to in recent days has been impressed by what they have seen about our Nation and the fabric of our Nation. And I want to thank everybody when I come, so thank you for your hospitality.

Governor Pataki. Well, Mr. President, thank you for coming to New York. I'm sure it's going to be a great inspiration to all of us and particularly those thousands of men and women still downtown trying to help us with the rescue efforts.

I also want to thank you for all the help we've gotten from the Federal Government—it's been tremendous—and for your