



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

NEWS from Fire Fighters

1750 NEW YORK AVE NW WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 • WWW.IAFF.ORG

For Immediate Release

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Vice President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, Homeland Secretary Napolitano To Address Fire Fighters Union Legislative Conference, Monday, March 16

*The Economy, Homeland Security, First Responder Safety Take Center Stage
March 16-18, Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW*

***ALL MEDIA: Details Below -- DC News Bureaus: 1,000 fire fighters from
across the country available to localize news story***

Washington, DC – Vice President Joe Biden will address more than 1,000 leaders of the fire fighters union Monday at the International Association of Fire Fighters 2009 Legislative Conference, held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill, March 16-18.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, U.S. Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and Senate Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-Maine) are among the list of bipartisan speakers at the conference. The economy, homeland security and first responder issues will be the focus of discussion.

On Tuesday delegates to the conference will be on Capitol Hill visiting with their senators and representatives. Jared Bernstein, chief economist for Vice President Biden, will speak Wednesday.

“The support of fire fighters and this union is a proven, powerful political tool in getting laws passed and good candidates elected,” said IAFF General President Harold A. Schaitberger. More than 90 percent of the candidates endorsed by the IAFF last November were elected. The IAFF also endorsed Barack Obama for president.

“In these tough economic times, many fire departments are facing budget cuts that seriously jeopardize the safety and security of the public, communities and fire fighters,” Schaitberger said. “Fire fighters are already working with the Obama administration and Congress to support critical legislation that ensures adequate resources and protections for first responders in the defense of their communities and our homeland.”

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Full Conference Agenda Below

Monday, March 16

Tentative time and order for confirmed speakers (all times approximate):

9:00 a.m. – IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger
9:30 a.m. – House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
10:20 a.m. – Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
11:00 a.m. – Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT)
11:20 a.m. – Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
11:40 a.m. – Gov. Jon S. Corzine (D-NJ)
12:00 p.m. – Vice President Joe Biden
12:40 p.m. – Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine)
1:00 p.m. – Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
1:30 p.m. – Sen. Kay Hagan (D-NC)
2:05 p.m. – Janet Napolitano, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security

Note to Media:

- *Location: Hyatt Regency Ballroom (lower level), 400 New Jersey Avenue NW*
- *Throw: 55 feet*
- *Camera pre-set time is Sun., 3/15, 6:00- 7:00 p.m. (room will be secured overnight)*
- *Sat truck parking: D Street between 1st St. NW and New Jersey Ave. NW*
- *Internet is not available in the Ballroom. Internet is available in the press file*
- *Fiber is available through Verizon. Please contact Verizon to set up*

Note to Media Covering VP Biden:

- *Press arrival time: 10:30 a.m.*
- *Final press access: 11:30 a.m.*
- *Program start time: 12:00 p.m.*
- *Pool feed will be available*

Tuesday, March 17

Lobby Day on Capitol Hill

Wednesday, March 18

9:00 a.m. - Jared Bernstein, chief economist for Vice President Joe Biden

The IAFF, headquartered in Washington, represents more than 295,000 full-time professional fire fighters and paramedics in 3,200 affiliates in every congressional district in the country. The IAFF is one of the most active lobbying organizations in Washington. Its Political Action Committee, FIREPAC, was the seventh-largest PAC in terms of contributions to federal candidates in the 2008 election cycle and has a record of supporting candidates from both parties. More information is available at www.iaff.org

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