
Material noted in bold within this collection is currently available for research use. If a folder is available for research use it may still have withdrawn material due to Freedom of Information Act restrictions. Most frequent withdrawn material is national security classified material, personal privacy, protection of the President, etc. Any non-bolded folder is closed for research.

The non-bolded folders are subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

If you are interested in submitting a FOIA request for access to any of the unavailable records or have any questions about these collections or series, please contact our archival staff at 1-800-410-8354, outside the US at 1-805-577-4012, or email reagan.library@nara.gov

FITZWARTE, M. MARLIN: Files, 1987-88

Press Secretary, Office of: Acting Press Secretary

Biography

Max Marlin Fitzwater was White House Press Secretary for six years under Presidents Ronald Reagan & George H.W. Bush. He is currently a media consultant and author.

Marlin Fitzwater was born in a Salina, Kansas hospital in 1942. His family owned a farm in Dickinson County, Kansas. Fitzwater was educated in Kansas graduating from Kansas State University in 1965. As a college student he began writing for various newspapers and moved to Washington, DC upon graduation.

In Washington, Fitzwater served in Public Affairs offices at various federal agencies, including the Appalachian Regional Commission (1965–1967), the U.S. Department of Transportation (1970–1972) and the Environmental Protection Agency (1972–1981). He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the Department of the Treasury from 1981 to 1983. Fitzwater headed to the White House in 1983, serving as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary for Domestic Affairs. He served as Vice President Bush's Press Secretary from 1985 to 1987.

After being shot in the March 1981 assassination attempt on President Reagan, James Brady retained the title of White House Press Secretary as an honorific for the entire 8 years of the Reagan Administration Fitzwater was promoted to Acting White House Press Secretary when Larry Speakes left the White House in March 1987. He served until the end of the Reagan Administration and then became White House Press Secretary for President George H.W. Bush for his entire administration.
Fitzwater became one of three Press Secretaries to serve two presidents (Stephen Early and Pierre Salinger are the other two). In addition, he is one of the longest-serving Press Secretaries (six years).

After leaving the White House, Fitzwater has been a consultant and lecturer on media relations, most notably to the television show, *The West Wing*. He is also the author of two books: *Call the Briefing* and *Esther’s Pillow*.

This collection is arranged into four series: SERIES I: Alphabetical Correspondence File; SERIES II: Subject File; SERIES III: Schedule Proposals and Briefing Papers and SERIES IV: Daily Files.

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3/11/2020. Bolded folders are available for use TODAY. No need to FOIA.
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