



# Duberstein, Kenneth M.: Files, 1981-1983

## **Finding Aid Type**

White House Staff and Office File Collections

## **Subtitle/Office**

Office of Legislative Affairs, 1981-1983

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## **Record Type**

Textual

## **Biography**

## **Biography**

Kenneth M. Duberstein (1944-2022) was a government official, lobbyist and political consultant.

Duberstein was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 21, 1944. He graduated from Poly Prep Day School and received his B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania. A Franklin and Marshall professor helped Duberstein become a Washington intern for Senator Jacob Javits (R-New York), and during this internship, Duberstein earned a Master's degree in American Political Dynamics from American University. He attended New York Law School for a year, then returned to Franklin and Marshall as an administrative assistant to its president.

Duberstein was hired by the General Services Administration (GSA) in 1970, and became Director of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs for this federal agency in 1972. He left GSA in August 1976 and joined the Department of Labor as a Deputy Under Secretary. After President Ford left office in 1977, Duberstein became a director for the Committee for Economic Development, a Washington public policy organization.

When President Reagan took office in January 1981, Duberstein joined the new administration in the Office of Legislative Affairs. He was the liaison with the House of Representatives. Duberstein became head of Legislative Affairs in December of that year.

In December 1983, Duberstein left the White House and took a position with Timmons & Company Inc., the lobbying and public relations firm headed by former Reagan campaign and transition director William Timmons. Duberstein returned to work for the Committee for Economic Development as Vice-President and Director of Business-Government relations. Duberstein also headed the Congressional Liaison Team for the 1984 Reagan-Bush campaign organization.

In 1987 Duberstein returned to the White House as the deputy to the new Chief of Staff, Howard Baker, with responsibility for most of the White House's day-to-day operations. When Baker announced his resignation in June 1988, he recommended that Duberstein succeed him as Chief of Staff, and this recommendation was followed. Duberstein, who had a reputation as an efficient manager, saw to the

smooth operation of the White House during the last six months of the Reagan Presidency. In addition, he acted as a chief policy adviser to the President, and helped develop and deliver White House support for George Bush's 1988 Presidential campaign. After Election Day, President Reagan appointed Duberstein the chief Administration coordinator for the transition to the incoming Bush Administration.

In January 1989, Duberstein was awarded the President's Citizen's Medal by President Reagan.

Upon leaving the White House, Duberstein founded The Duberstein Group, a Washington, DC planning and consulting firm. He served as Chairman and CEO. In addition, Duberstein maintained an active service life. He was the chairman of the Ethics Committee for the U.S. Olympic Committee and served as vice chairman of the independent Special Bid Oversight Reform Commission for the U.S. Olympics Committee. He also appeared on Bloomberg alongside John Podesta.

Duberstein served on multiple corporate boards included Boeing, ConocoPhillips and the Fleming Companies. He was also on the Board of Governors for the American Stock Exchange and NASD, and served on the Board of Directors of Fannie Mae. He served on the advisory board for Washington, DC based non-profit America Abroad Media.

Duberstein was also a technical consultant for the television series *The West Wing*.

Duberstein suffered from chronic kidney disease and eventually received a kidney transplant from his son in 2014. Duberstein passed away on March 2, 2022 from a long illness. He is survived by his current wife, Jacqueline Fain and four children from his previous two marriages.

## **Scope and Content Note**

### **Scope & Content**

Kenneth Duberstein worked in the Office of Legislative Affairs from 1981-1983 as both Deputy Director and Director. In March 1987, he returned to the Reagan Administration as Deputy Chief of Staff under Chief of Staff Howard Baker and then Chief of Staff (June 1988-January 1989). Please see the separate finding aid for

Duberstein's time in the Chief of Staff office.

This collection list is based on a preliminary arrangement and description of the Duberstein Legislative Affairs Office Collection done in 1991. It consists of six preliminary series: SERIES I: Memorandums, January 1981-November 1983; SERIES II: Correspondence, 1981-1983; SERIES III: Briefing Memos, January 1981-December 1983; SERIES IV: Subject File: Subseries A: 1983 Budget Files; SERIES IV: Subject File: Subseries B: Alpha File; SERIES V: Personnel, January 1981-November 1983; SERIES VI: Personal Material, December 1981-November 1983.

A small amount of additional Duberstein Office of Legislative Affairs files was found after the completion of the preliminary arrangement. They are in OA 3113 and concern photographs.

## **Series List**

**SERIES I: MEMORANDUMS, January 1981-November 1983**

**SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE, 1981-1983**

**SERIES III: BRIEFING MEMOS, January 1981-December 1983**

**Subseries A: 1983 Budget Files**

**Subseries B: Alpha File**

**SERIES V: PERSONNEL, January 1981-November 1983**

**SERIES VI: PERSONAL, December 1981-November 1983**

**The following material was added to the collection after the completion of the above arrangement**

## **Last Modified Date**

2024-02-26

**SERIES I: MEMORANDUMS, January 1981-November 1983**

**OA 6026**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - January 1981
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - February 1981 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - March 1981 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - April 1981 (1)(2)
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - May 1981
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - June 1981
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - July 1981
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - August 1981
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - September 1981 (1)(2)
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - October 1981 (1)(2)
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - November 1981
OPEN	Friedersdorf Memos - December 1981

**OA 12430**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	1981 Staff Memos January 1981-June 1981 (1)-(4)
CLOSED	Staff Memos June 1981-December 1981 (1)-(4)
OPEN	November/December [Memos to Friedersdorf, 1981] (1)(2)
OPEN	October [Memos to Friedersdorf, 1981] (1)(2)
OPEN	September [Memos to Friedersdorf, 1981] (1)-(3)
OPEN	August Memos to Friedersdorf [1981]
OPEN	July Memos to Friedersdorf [1981] (1)(2)
OPEN	June Memos to Friedersdorf [1981] May Memos to Friedersdorf [1981]
OPEN	April Memos to Friedersdorf [1981]
OPEN	March Memos to Friedersdorf [1981]
OPEN	February Memos to Friedersdorf [1981]
OPEN	January Memos to Friedersdorf [1981]
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] A
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] B
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] C
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] E
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] F

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] G
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] H
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] K
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] N
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] P
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] R
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] S
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] T
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] V
CLOSED	[Alpha Memo File 1981] W

**OA 8348**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Memos from Duberstein (January 1982-December 1982) (1)-(3)
OPEN	January - Duberstein Memos 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - February 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - March 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - April 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - May 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - June 1982 (1)-(2)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - July 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - August 1982
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - September 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - October 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - November, 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos - December, 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Staff Memos-January 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Staff Memos-February 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Staff Memos-March 1982 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Staff Memos-April 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Staff Memos-May 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Staff Memos-June 1982 (1)-(3)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Staff Memos-July 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Staff Memos-August 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Staff Memos-September 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Staff Memos-October 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Staff Memos-November 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Staff Memos-December 1982

### **OA 8615**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Legislative Affairs-Weekly Update (1)-(5)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos-January 1983 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos-February 1983 (1)-(5)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos-March 1983 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos-April 1983 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos-May 1983 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos-June 1983 (1)-(5)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos-July 1983 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos-August 1983 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Duberstein Memos-September 1983 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Duberstein Memos-October 1983] (1)-(11)
OPEN	[Duberstein Memos-November 1983] (1)-(8)
OPEN	[General Correspondence-1982] (1)(2)
OPEN	Staff Memos January 1983 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Staff Memos February 1983
OPEN	Staff Memos March 1983
OPEN	Staff Memos April 1983
OPEN	Staff Memos May 1983
OPEN	Staff Memos June 1983 (1)(2)
OPEN	Staff Memos July 1983
OPEN	Staff Memos August 1983
OPEN	Staff Memos September 1983
OPEN	Staff Memos October 1983
OPEN	Staff Memos November 1983

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Memos to Ken From the White House Staff (Outside Legislative Affairs) [November 1983-February 1982] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Memos From Bob Thompson January 1982-March 1982
OPEN	Memos From Bob Thompson April 1982-June 1982
OPEN	Memos From Bob Thompson July 1982-September 1982
OPEN	Memo From Leg. Affairs to Member of W. H. Staff [1981, 1983] (1)-(4)
OPEN	Memos to Bob Thompson From Legislative Affairs
OPEN	Memos to Loesje Edwards

**SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE, 1981-1983**

**OA 6027**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	1981 Special Congressional Correspondence (1)-(6)
OPEN	Presidential Letters [1982] (1)-(5)
CLOSED	Signing Pen Letters [1982-1983]

**SERIES III: BRIEFING MEMOS, January 1981-December 1983**

**OA 6027**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Briefing Memos-Transition [Presidential 1981]
OPEN	Briefing Memos-January [Presidential 1981]
OPEN	Briefing Memos-February [Presidential 1981](1)(2)
OPEN	Briefing Memos-March [Presidential 1981] (1)-(4)
OPEN	Briefing Memos-April [Presidential 1981]
OPEN	Briefing Memos-May [Presidential 1981] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Briefing Memos-June [Presidential 1981] (1)(2)
OPEN	Briefing Memos-July [Presidential 1981] (1)-(5)
OPEN	Briefing Memos-August [Presidential 1981]
OPEN	Briefing Memos-September [Presidential 1981]
OPEN	Briefing Memos-October [Presidential 1981] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Briefing Memos-November [Presidential 1981]
OPEN	Briefing Memos-December, 1980 [1981] [Presidential 1981]
OPEN	Presidential Memorandums [1981] (1)-(3)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	V.P. Memorandums
OPEN	Schedule Proposals January-June [Presidential 1981] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Schedule Proposals July-December [Presidential 1981] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Schedule Proposals Disapproved [Presidential January 1981-March 1981]
OPEN	Schedule Requests [Presidential 1981] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Schedule Requests, Disapproved [Presidential 1981]
OPEN	Telephone Calls, Recommended July 1981-December 1981 [Presidential] (1)-(6)
OPEN	Telephone Calls, Recommended January 1981-June 1981 [Presidential] (1)-(4)

### **OA 12433**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing Memorandum - January 1982
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing [Memorandum] - February 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing [Memorandum] - March 1982
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing [Memorandum] - April 1982
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing Memorandum - May 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing Memorandum - June 1982
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing Memorandum - July 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing Memorandum - August 1982 (1)-(5)
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing Memorandum - September 1982
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing Memorandum - October 1982
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing [Memorandum] - November 1982
OPEN	[Presidential] Briefing Memorandum - December 1982 (1)(2)
OPEN	Presidential Memorandums 1982 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Vice-Presidential Memorandum 1982 (1)-(5)
OPEN	Schedule Proposals July 1982-December 1982 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Schedule Proposals January 1982-June 1982 (1)-(4)
OPEN	Schedule Requests January 1982-June 1982

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Recommended Telephone Calls July 1982-December 1982 (1)-(9)
OPEN	Recommended Telephone Calls January 1982-June 1982 (1)-(6)

**OA 12434**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Briefing Memos January, 1983 [Presidential] (1)(2)
OPEN	Briefing Memos February, 1983 [Presidential] (1)(2)
OPEN	Briefing Memos March, 1983 [Presidential] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Briefing Memorandums April, 1983 [Presidential] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Briefing Papers-May 1983 [Presidential] (1-3)
OPEN	Briefing Papers-June 1983 [Presidential] (1)(2)
OPEN	Briefing Papers-July 1983 [Presidential] (1)(2)
OPEN	Briefing Papers-August 1983 [Presidential] (1)(2)
OPEN	Briefing Papers-September 1983 [Presidential] (1)(2)
OPEN	Briefing Papers-October 1983 [Presidential] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Briefing Papers-November 1983 [Presidential] (1)(2)
OPEN	Schedule Proposals January 1983-June 1983 [Presidential] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Recommended Telephone Calls V.P. July 1983-November 1983 [Presidential] (1)-(3)
OPEN	Recommended Telephone Calls V.P. February 1983-July 1983] (1)(2)
OPEN	Recommended Phone Calls-January 1983-June 1983 [Presidential] (1)-(9)
OPEN	Recommended Phone Calls- July 1983-December 1983 [Presidential] (1)-(8)
OPEN	[Recommended Phone Calls] Not sent forward [1983-Presidential]

**SERIES IV: SUBJECT FILE. 1981-1983.**

**Subseries A: 1983 Budget Files**

**OA 6029**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
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OPEN	Tax Bill (1)-(15)
OPEN	Budget Material (1)-(14)
OPEN	[Budget Calls] (1)-(4)
OPEN	The Gang [Group] of 17 (1)-(3)
OPEN	Budget Conference Report
OPEN	Urgent Supplemental (1)(2)
OPEN	[Supplemental Appropriations] (1)-(4)
OPEN	[Summary Allocations]
OPEN	Supplemental Appropriations

**Subseries B: Alpha File**

**OA 12432**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Departmental CGR Meetings
OPEN	Department CGR memos (1)-(4)
OPEN	Potential CGR Invitations
OPEN	Decontrol of Natural Gas (1)-(4)
OPEN	Ray Donovan
OPEN	ELF [Extremely Low Frequency] Communication System
OPEN	Fundraising Requests (1)-(3)
OPEN	Highway User Fees
OPEN	Jobs Training Bill (1)-(5)
OPEN	Judicial Appointments - Federal Judges, U.S. Attorneys and Marshals
OPEN	Kennedy Center [1981]
OPEN	Legal Service Corporation
OPEN	Legislative Affairs Weekly Update
OPEN	Legislative Strategy Agenda
OPEN	Long Term Grain Agreement (1)(2)
OPEN	GOP Leadership Meetings [1981]
OPEN	Leadership Meetings - House [1981]
OPEN	Leadership Meetings - Senate [1981]
OPEN	Military Sales to Saudi Arabia (1)-(4)
OPEN	Nominations (1)-(11)

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
OPEN	Nuclear Arms Resolution
OPEN	Nuclear Power Initiative
OPEN / DIGITIZED	<a href="#">Judge Sandra O'Connor</a>
OPEN	Out Reach Strategy Group (1)(2)

**OA 14829**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	George Schultz Nomination
OPEN	Synthetic Fuels
OPEN	Social Security (1)(2)
CLOSED	Standby Petroleum Allocation
OPEN	Telecommunication Reforms
CLOSED	CGR Travel
CLOSED	Codel Travel
CLOSED	[Presidential] Travel
OPEN	Voting Rights (1)-(4)

**SERIES V: PERSONNEL, January 1981-November 1983**

**OA 14829, cont.**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	Travel 1981 [Friedersdorf]
CLOSED	KMD's Travel [Duberstein March 1982-November 1983]
CLOSED	Personnel Announcements 1981-1982 (1)(2)

**SERIES VI: PERSONAL, December 1981-November 1983**

**OA 14829, cont,**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	Duberstein Personal

**The following material was added to the collection after the completion of the above arrangement**

**OA 3113**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	February 1981 Photos
CLOSED	March 1981 Photos
CLOSED	April 1981 Photos

<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>
CLOSED	May 1981 Photos
CLOSED	June 1981 Photos
CLOSED	July 1981 Photos
CLOSED	August 1981 Photos
CLOSED	September 1981 Photos
CLOSED	October 1981 Photos
CLOSED	November 1981 Photos
CLOSED	December 1981 Photos