Extent

17 folders, approximately 167 pages

Summary

This collection consists of material pertaining to John Parsons “Jack” Wheeler. Serving as chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund from 1979-1989, Wheeler was instrumental in the 1982 opening of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. During the Clinton Administration, Wheeler was an advocate for veterans. While he supported the President, Wheel eventually turned against the administration due to what he perceived as a trail of broken promises. The collection contains correspondence, memoranda, newspaper articles, emails, and resumes.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in 2017-0087-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. John Parsons Wheeler, III (also known as “Jack”) , served as chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund from 1979-1989. This organization provided the appropriations necessary for the opening in 1982 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A 1966 graduate from West Point, Wheeler was part of a graduating class that lost thirty of its members in the Vietnam War. His military career is examined in detail in the bestselling book The Long Gray Line: The American Journey of West Point’s Class of 1966 by Rick Atkinson. Wheeler’s memoirs, Touched with Fire: The Future of the Vietnam Generation, were published in 1984. Wheeler died at the age of 66 and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on April 29, 2011. The records in the WHORM [White House Office of Records Management] – Subject File – General encompass correspondence, resumes, newspaper articles, and memoranda that focus on two matters— John Wheeler’s attempts to gain employment within the Clinton administration and, to a lesser extent, his complaints about the failure of the President and his staff to get veterans involved in the everyday affairs of running the

government. The papers of Anne McGuire in Cabinet Affairs contain memoranda, newspaper articles, and a listing of all political appointments requiring Senate confirmation. Memos, most of which are dated April and May 1995, originate within the OPM [Office of Personnel Management] and deal with how the administration should respond to charges by Wheeler concerning the lack of veterans in the federal government. Public Liaison accounts for approximately half of the records in this particular FOIA case. In the files of Alexis Herman and Ruby Moy there can be found a memo from late 1995 outlining the particulars of the entire episode involving Wheeler. The papers of Steve Hilton contain newspaper articles, correspondence, memoranda, and lists. There is an editorial appearing in The Stars and Stripes, the nation's oldest national veterans publication entitled "President Clinton and the Veterans." The article asserted that "in the field of veterans affairs, where we can claim a degree of knowledge and expertise, we have found little to criticize." Unclassified electronic records consist of four emails about Jack Wheeler, two emails in an exchange with Jack Wheeler, one White House database (WHODB) entry, and one WAVES (White House entry database) entry. The NSC emails consist of details of the President's schedule related to his appearance at the opening of the Pan-Am flight 103 memorial cairn at Arlington National Cemetery in March of 1993, and the President's October 1995 remarks concerning hiring veterans for federal jobs.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Subject Files, Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files, Clinton Presidential Records: ARMS Emails, Clinton Presidential Records: Electronic Waves Files, Clinton Presidential Records: WHODB, and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) contains a variety of series created to organize and track documents and correspondence. The WHORM Subject File was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series

of categories designated by a letter/number combination. Staff and Office files are maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. WHORM files are processed at the document level; whereas, Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email. The ARMS database is comprised of six sub-series of email records called "buckets." The buckets generally represent a specific White House office. The buckets are titled: OPD for Office of Policy Development and WHO for White House Office. The OPD bucket contains email created or received by an individual with an Office of Policy Development (OPD) White House user account. The WHO bucket contains email created or received by an individual with an Executive Office of the President White House user account not identified as CEA, NPR, or OPD. ARMS emails are arranged by topic, there-under by bucket, and there-under chronologically by creation date. The White House database (WHODB) is a database of White House events and individuals that attended those events. The database also includes a log of individuals that received White House greeting correspondence. Data was entered and maintained by the Office of Correspondence, Social Office, and Office of Public Liaison. WHODB records are printed and arranged by Event Type or Individual, and further arranged chronologically by appointment date. The Electronic WAVES Search System is a log of visitors/appointments to the White House and is arranged by name of visitor there-under by date. FOIA 2017-0087-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: [FG006-01] [White House Office] [PE002] [Employment – Appointments] [PP] [Presidential Personal] [PR005-01] [Photographs Granted – Presidential] [PU001-07] [Clippings to the President] [SP554] [Vietnam Veterans Memorial, D.C., 5/31/93]

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore

records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United Ststes (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act.

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2016. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2017-05-30

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to 2017-0087-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject Files
Category Case Number
FG006-01 063452CU
PE002 105401 [Folder 13] [John Wheeler]

PP 021503SS
PR005-01 125153
PU001-07 151223SS
SP554 030158
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Cabinet Affairs
McGuire, Anne
John Wheeler [OA/ID 13171]
Public Liaison
Herman, Alexis & Moy, Ruby
Folder #8 – Note re: John Wheeler [Vietnam Veterans] [OA/ID 6659]
Hilton, Steve
[John] Wheeler [OA/ID 5688]
[John] Wheeler: [John] Wheeler [OA/ID 5688]
Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]
OPD [OA/ID 250000]
[Jack Wheeler]
[03/08/2000]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Jack Wheeler]
[10/25/1995 – 11/06/2000]
Clinton Presidential Records: Electronic Waves Search System
WAVES
[Jack Wheeler]
[12/10/1993] [OA/ID 180000]
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Database (WHODB)
[Individual Search]
[Jack Wheeler]
[ID: 155590] [OA/ID 160000]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Email
A1-Record (Jan 93-Sept 94) [OA/ID 570000]
[Jack Wheeler]
[03/26/1993 – 05/10/1994]
MSMail-Record (Sept 94-Sept 97) [OA/ID 590000]
[Jack Wheeler]
[10/09/1995]

MSMail-Non-Record (Sept 94-Sept 97) [OA/ID 605000]
[Jack Wheeler]
[10/03/1995]