



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 5, 2024

It is my honor to join in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Mann Gulch Fire.

I have often said that God made man, and then He made firefighters. They embody the very best of America—putting their own lives on the line to protect all of us. That was especially true of those who fought against the Mann Gulch Fire. Those brave men were confronted with unimaginable danger—a rapidly expanding wildfire which engulfed nearly 3,000 acres of land within minutes. Despite the risks they faced, they responded with unflinching courage and unshakable conviction, fighting through thick smoke and towering flames in an effort to extinguish the danger. Their heroism saved lives, and our Nation owes them and their families a debt of gratitude that we can never fully repay.

As a country, we have a duty to honor and remember the sacrifices these heroes made. In doing so, we preserve the extraordinary legacy they left behind—a legacy which instilled in our Nation lasting lessons on fire prevention and response, inspired research and innovation in firefighting techniques, and continues to inform firefighters to this day.

To everyone gathered in Helena, Montana, to mark this solemn occasion, please accept my heartfelt greetings. May we all pray for the 13 men lost and their loved ones. And may we all recommit to remaining vigilant to prevent catastrophes like this from happening again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".