

# Former FBI Director Airs Warning About Elder Fraud

### Public Service Announcement Reminds Seniors and Their Loved Ones to Be Vigilant

Each year, millions of elderly Americans fall victim to some type of financial fraud or confidence scheme, including romance, lottery, and sweepstakes scams, to name a few. Criminals will gain their targets' trust and may communicate with them directly via computer, phone, and the mail, or indirectly through the TV and radio.

"If it can happen to me, it can happen to you," warns former FBI and CIA Director William Webster in a video message that urges older people and their loved ones to be wary of elder fraud schemes.



No one — not even former FBI and CIA Director William H. Webster — is immune from elder fraud schemes. He hopes the new PSA will remind older people and their families that they need to maintain their guard against sophisticated schemes.

The 98-year-old retired judge and his wife Lynda were prospective marks in a Jamaican lottery scam in 2014 when an unsolicited caller informed Webster he won a sweepstakes. To collect his winnings, Webster was told he needed to pay \$50,000. When the couple declined repeatedly, the caller became abusive and threatening. They called the FBI and worked with special agents in the Washington Field Office to nab the scammer, who is now serving time in prison.

The PSA includes archival images of Webster as a Navy officer in World War II and Korea and later as a federal judge and head of the country's premier intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The scammer who targeted the Websters didn't know this background, just that Judge Webster was older and might therefore be susceptible to cons that prey on traits like trustworthiness and loneliness.

In addition to the new PSA, field offices around the country are sharing information about fraud schemes with older Americans by providing briefings, hosting virtual events, and distributing brochures. Recently, FBI El Paso held one-hour presentations in collaboration with Harvest Christian Center to inform the elderly community about how people are targeted and ways to minimize the

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On June 15, FBI El Paso partnered with the Harvest Christian Center to provide two presentations to the elderly community about fraud schemes that target older people. Special Agent Jeffrey Reisinger shared information to protect against elder abuse.

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risk of becoming a target. More than 500 people attended the sessions to learn what to do if they think they have been victimized.

If you believe you or someone you know may be a victim of elder fraud, contact your local FBI field office or submit a tip online with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at IC3.gov. ■

# Outreach Efforts to Help the FBI Protect and Serve Sikh Communities





FBI Charlotte SAC Robert Wells and other Charlotte employees recently visited the gurdwara in Charlotte. Wells shared information on hate crimes and ways the Bureau can increase diversity within its ranks.

The FBI is making significant strides in reaching out to members of the Sikh community. Staff assigned to the Community Relations Unit at FBI Headquarters have been working with the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, a national Sikh American media, policy, and education organization. SALDEF's mission is to empower Sikh Americans by building dialogue, deepening understanding, promoting civic and political participation, and upholding social justice and religious freedom for all Americans.

In June, personnel from SALDEF traveled to FBI New York to host two cultural awareness training briefings. More than 50 employees attended the in-person presentations, which discussed topics like Sikh articles of faith and cultural and religious considerations when interacting with Sikhs.

Following the training seminar, FBI New York staff were invited to the Sikh gurdwara in Queens. Anyone, Sikh or



On April 29, FBI New Haven community outreach specialist JoAnn Benson and public affairs specialist Charles Grady received the "Outstanding Community Partner" from the World Sikh Parliament in Norwich, Connecticut.

not, can stop by the gurdwara to enjoy a meal. After visiting the gurdwara, FBI staff traveled to a local restaurant, where members of the local Sikh community discussed outreach programs, recruiting, and child internet safety.

Community outreach specialists across the country are also heavily involved in outreach efforts to the Sikh community. Bureau personnel from New Haven attended the Sikh Independence Day Celebration and Flag Raising Ceremony in Norwich, Connecticut. While there, they were honored with the "Outstanding Community Partner" from the World Sikh Parliament.

In Charlotte, SAC Robert Wells and other Bureau employees visited a local gurdwara, where SAC Wells spoke to members of the Sikh community about how the FBI investigates hate crimes. Additionally, the group discussed the Bureau's commitment to maintain a diverse and inclusive workplace that integrates equity across the entire organization. ■

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Summer 2022
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# FBI Headquarters Hosts a Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day Ceremony

On May 5, the Criminal Investigative Division and the Victim Services Division held a special ceremony to honor missing or murdered Indigenous people at FBI Headquarters. More than 100 attendees wore red, and the courtyard fountain lights were turned red in remembrance of the victims.

American Indians and Alaska Natives face some of the highest rates of violence in the country. Indigenous women and girls experience disproportionately high rates of sexual and genderbased violence, while Indigenous men experience higher rates of violence than other demographic groups. Indigenous LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit people are also often targets of violence.

The FBI investigates the most serious crimes in Indian Country and is an active member of the Department of Justice Steering Committee to Address the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons.

The FBI's CID and VSD have dedicated investigative and intelligence personnel and victim specialists to the Indian Country Special Jurisdiction Unit.

The ceremony included a traditional blessing from an FBI Native American elder, followed by remarks from CID and VSD leaders. The victims and their families were remembered with a moment of silence.

During the ceremony, employees were able to view two traditional ribbon skirts given to an FBI employee in honor of their MMIP advocacy. The skirts are adorned with traditional ribbon work, which a guest speaker said was adopted by Native Americans by the early 19th century. However, some traditional clothing was regulated until Congress enacted the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.

Many tribes believe that red can be seen by their ancestors who have passed on, and it evokes a sense of love, peace, violence, and good luck. During the ceremony, the skirts featured red, as did the programs and memorial



FBI Headquarters held a special ceremony May 5 to honor missing or murdered Indigenous people. Attendees were encouraged to wear red in remembrance of the victims.



Native American and First Nation artists crafted the ribbon skirts for a Bureau employee in honor of their advocacy for missing or murdered Indigenous people. The skirts are embroidered with colors and symbols to show solidarity with MMIPs.

ribbons. At the conclusion of the ceremony, an FBI Native American elder provided a blessing in the Seneca language. ■

# FBI Partners with JROTC to Create Cyber Leaders

Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, the FBI will be partnering with the U.S. Army's Junior Officer Training Corps Cyber Pilot Program to prepare a new generation of cyber professionals considering a career in cybersecurity with the military or in government, academia, or industry.

The program embraces the importance of motivating young people to become better citizens no matter how they choose to serve. Additionally, this program creates a cross-collaborative partnership to support the FBI's overall workforce development strategy as it relates to recruiting future cyber professionals.

On June 16, members of the FBI's Community Relations Unit traveled to Huntsville, Alabama, where they met with JROTC instructors from 11 high schools as well as



As part of a new pilot program, field offices in Albuquerque, Dallas, Indianapolis, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, Richmond, San Antonio, St. Louis, and Washington will host cyber presentations for select JROTC students beginning in the fall.

officials from the U.S. Army and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

# Philadelphia Community Outreach Specialist Graduates from the Philadelphia Civilian Police Academy



Philadelphia Deputy Police Commissioner Christine Coulter and FBI Philadelphia community outreach specialist Milton Barham at the Philadelphia Civilian Police Academy graduation.

**Community Outreach Specialist** Milton Barham from FBI Philadelphia recently graduated from the Philadelphia Civilian Police Academy. This prestigious



program, created in the mid-1990s, is held twice yearly and generally includes 15-30 participants.

The academy encourages Philadelphia residents to learn all about municipal policing. Over eight weeks, attendees discuss a variety of topics including crime scene investigation, urban disorder management, laws of arrest, history and principles of law enforcement, crime prevention, and fear reduction.

"This Civilian Police Academy has given me the opportunity to understand, train, and educate our communities regarding community policing and bring an awareness to the diverse population and neighborhoods of Philadelphia," Barham said.

# Start Your Career with Impact

### The 2023 FBI Honors Internship Program Application Cycle to Open this Summer

As the nation's top law enforcement organization, the FBI offers valuable work experience for students at various education levels. With a variety of programs and internships, we seek students who will bring their knowledge and skills to our diverse workforce.



The Bureau's 10-week Honors Internship Program is the perfect opportunity to set your career in motion. The paid internship can be a direct pipeline to fulltime employment after college for undergraduate students between their junior and senior years and graduate students pursuing a master's degree, JD, or Ph.D. This is a unique opportunity for students to learn and work alongside our professionals.

Honors interns are given challenging and rewarding assignments that expose them to investigative and business operations while growing their professional network.

The 2023 application process is scheduled to start in August. Please visit <u>www.fbijobs.gov</u> for the most up-to-date information.

#### **Minimum Qualifications**

To qualify for the Honors Internship Program, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Attend a U.S.-accredited college or university full-time as an undergraduate, graduate, or post-doctoral student. You are not eligible if you will graduate before the program start date; exceptions are permitted if you are continuing your education in the semester immediately following.
- Have and maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average or better at the time of application, throughout the application process, and for the duration of the internship program.
- Pass all of the FBI employment background investigation requirements and be able to receive a Top Secret Clearance.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING RECRUITING EVENTS



# **Community Outreach in Action**



FBI Buffalo met with students about FBI careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math at Seneca Intermediate School in Salamanca, NY. An alumna from Seneca Intermediate School who now works at FBI Buffalo made a presentation. Approximately one-third of students who attend Seneca Intermediate School are Native American.



FBI Boston hosted its first Community Outreach Symposium for community leaders from diverse groups to continue to build partnerships and strengthen communal understanding. Symposium attendees participated in an interactive presentation on color of law violations and received an explanation of civil rights incidents involving law enforcement officials. Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jason Cromartie (left) and Special Agent in Charge Joseph Bonavolonta attended.



On May 26, FBI Explorers in New York toured the U.S.S. Bataan, which was in town for Fleet Week celebrations. The visit, arranged by the FBI Marine Corps Association, included hands-on activities, the opportunity to meet the men and women serving on the U.S.S. Bataan, and pizza courtesy of the FBI New York Citizens Academy Alumni Association.



FBI Newark hosted a youth awareness day for Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and students from St. Benedict's Preparatory School. Attendees learned the basics about the FBI, heard details about sextortion, and watched a protective equipment demonstration. With assistance from the FBI Newark Citizen Academy Alumni Association, students also visited the American Dream mall for lunch and an amusement park.



On Ash Wednesday, members of the FBI New York Citizens Academy Alumni Association, FBI New York employees, and FBI Explorers joined Cardinal Timothy Michael Dolan to give out food and blessing bags to the homeless at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in New York.





Twelve girls participated in the first-ever FBI Philadelphia Girl Scouts event June 12. Participants learned about fingerprinting, evidence recovery, and forensics. They also played a game that encouraged the girls to find differences in cards with photos of evidence. Attendees earned their "Fun with Forensics" badge.

# **Community Outreach in Action**



FBI Tampa, with help from the local Citizens Academy Alumni Association chapter, donated more than 2,000 toys as part of their Christmas in July festivities. Santa made special deliveries to six area hospitals, arriving via a Bearcat armored vehicle along with the FBI SWAT team and other Bureau personnel.



Executives and students from the U.S. Army War College visited FBI Newark on May 19. The group received a tour of the office and an overview of FBI operations, white-collar crimes, public corruption, mission support, counterterrorism, domestic terrorism, counterintelligence, and cyber crime.



The FBI's Washington Field Office recently held a ceremony for the 34 graduates of its latest Citizens Academy. The group toured Hogan's Alley, a mock town at the FBI Academy where new FBI agents and their law enforcement partners learn the ropes through a series of realistic and often stressful scenarios.



FBI Charlotte participated in PrideLife Expo 2022 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Bureau personnel spoke to members of the LGBTQ+ community about careers in the FBI and how to report federal civil rights crimes. The PrideLife Expo featured agencies, organizations, businesses, health care providers, housing providers, and non-profits in the Triangle area that welcome, respect, serve, and support the LGBTQ+ community.



On June 21, FBI Denver hosted a five-hour Cybersecurity Teen Boot Camp. Attendees heard presentations on cyber security and privacy. Additionally, the teens got hands-on training with a MacBook Pro, virtual Windows 10 PC, iPhone 11, and a Google phone. A second boot camp is planned for later this summer.



On June 12, the Community Relations Unit at FBI Headquarters coordinated a briefing about hate crimes and protecting houses of worship for members of the Hindu American Foundation in south Florida. Unit Chief Ron Reed from the Criminal Investigative Division's Civil Rights Unit led the presentation.



### WHAT WE DO

The better we know our communities, the better we can protect them. **FBI community outreach specialists in field offices across the country** create and strengthen relationships locally and nationally with minority groups, religious and civic organizations, schools, non-profits, and the American people.

**The Community Relations Unit at FBI Headquarters** in Washington, D.C., partners with national organizations to share information, support threat awareness, and develop meaningful initiatives.

## WHY WE DO

These partnerships have led to a host of crime prevention programs, enabling families to stay safe from fraudsters and cyber predators, businesses to protect themselves from hackers and economic espionage, schools, and workplaces to safeguard against violence and illegal drugs, and all citizens to become alert to potential acts of terrorism.

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## **OUR PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

#### **Citizens Academy**

The Citizens Academy Program fosters a greater understanding of the role of federal law enforcement in the community through frank discussion and education. Business, religious, civic and community leaders participate in a 10-session program, giving them an inside look at the FBI.

#### Multi-Cultural Engagement Councils

These Councils are generally composed of community ethnic, religious, and minority leaders who help the FBI better understand the cultures and committees they represent. Participants discuss issues and concerns within their communities and collaborate with the FBI to identify solutions.

#### Youth, Teen, & Collegiate Academies

Middle school, high school, and college students are provided presentations on topics including terrorism, cybercrime, public corruption, polygraph exams, evidence response, SWAT, and the day-to-day operations of a typical FBI office. Students also learn about career paths and internship opportunities.

#### **Junior Special Agents**

The Junior Special Agent Program aims to provide elementary school students with the information, skills, and discipline necessary to stay away from gangs, drugs, and crime. Students also take a course in civics and learn about the FBI and ways in which law enforcement helps to serve and their communities.

#### Community Awareness Presentations

This shorter, more focused version of the FBI Citizens Academy program is conducted in partnership with a specific community group. Community groups identify topics that are of concern to their organization for FBI subject matter experts to address.

#### Director's Community Leadership Award

Since 1990, the Director's Community Leadership Award has been the principal means for the FBI to recognize individuals and organizations that make extraordinary contributions to education and the prevention of crime in their communities.

There are FBI outreach specialists in your community eager to partner with you. Contact them today by visiting <u>FBI.gov/contact-us/field-offices</u>.

Call your local FBI field office and ask to speak with a community outreach specialist.