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News Release

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THE PAST AND THE PRESENT MEET AS THE PUBLIC PRINTER OF THE UNITED STATES TOURS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S LAND

PUBLIC PRINTER BRUCE JAMES TO VISIT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Washington, DC—Forward-thinking, innovative and passionate about technology. Those are just three of the qualities the 24th Public Printer of the United States Bruce James has in common with America's first public printer, Benjamin Franklin.

This Friday, October 31, Public Printer James along with staff from the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), will meet with various members of The Franklin Institute and several other organizations in Philadelphia to talk about how the GPO can support the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary observances being planned for 2006.

When: Friday, October 31 at 2 p.m.

Where: The Franklin Institute
Benjamin Franklin National Memorial
20th and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

What: *Photo op: Today's Public Printer Bruce James at the Common Printing Press (replica), ca. 1720's on loan from the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. The press is a replica of the type of printing press that Benjamin Franklin apprenticed on when he went to be*

trained and worked for his half-brother, James Franklin, in Boston.

About Benjamin Franklin:

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most extraordinary men of the generation that founded the United States. Around the world, he remains one of the best-known Americans who ever lived. Benjamin Franklin's achievements include his literary work, his creation of philanthropic and educational institutions, his significant scientific explorations, and his service to the Nation as statesman and diplomat. He is considered the founding father of printing in America. Benjamin Franklin was the only American to sign all 5 enabling documents of the United States. January 17, 2006, is the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

About The Franklin Institute:

Founded in honor of America's first scientist, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute is one of America's premier centers of science education and development. Today, the Institute continues its dedication to public education and creating a passion for science by serving the public through its museum, outreach programs, and curatorial work. Through its annual awards program The Franklin Institute recognizes outstanding achievements in science throughout the world. Currently undergoing a major renaissance, thanks to the \$60 million Opening Young Minds capital campaign, The Franklin Institute is launching nine new, interactive, theme-based, state-of-the-art exhibits through 2006, as well as renovating its theaters, retail store, and public area. The mission of The Franklin Institute Science Museum is to stimulate interest in science, to promote public understanding of science, and to strengthen science education. The Franklin Institute also serves to perpetuate the legacy of Benjamin Franklin.

About The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO):

Headquartered in Washington, DC, and under the leadership of Public Printer of the United States Bruce R. James, the GPO is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government. In addition to its own production facilities, the GPO contracts with thousands of private sector vendors across the country to produce print and other information products for the Federal Government ranging from Supreme Court decisions to IRS tax forms. The GPO also distributes Government publications to the public via through Federal depository libraries nationwide and a variety of other means. The GPO's Web site, *GPO Access*, at www.gpoaccess.gov, provides online public access to more than 250,000 Federal Government titles and is used by the public to retrieve nearly 35 million documents every month.