

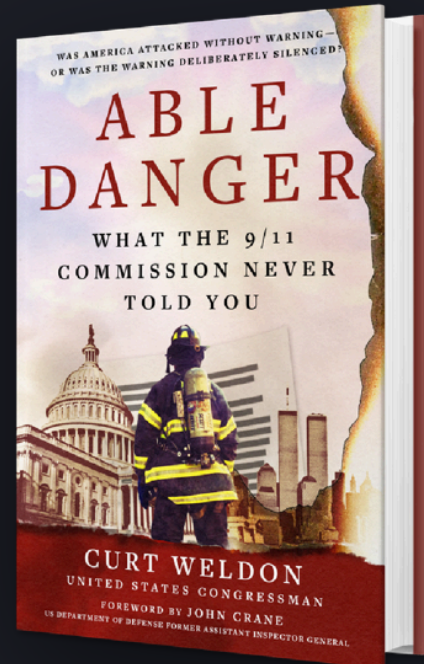
A FIRE CHIEF'S ACCOUNT OF THE WARNING BEFORE 9/11

Able Danger

What the 9/11 Commission Never Told You

by **Curt Weldon** • Firefighter, fire chief & ten-term U.S.
Congressman

Foreword by John Crane — former Assistant Inspector General, U.S.
Department of Defense



*“On September 11, 2001, America lost
three thousand Ray Downeys.”*

— FROM THE BOOK

343

FDNY firefighters lost on September 11

290th

Year of the American fire service

In stores

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Books

THE BOOK

In 1993, Curt Weldon walked the bombed-out garage beneath the World Trade Center with FDNY Rescue Chief Ray Downey. Eight years later, Downey died in the towers — one of 343 firefighters lost. *Able Danger* is Weldon’s tribute to them, and his firsthand account of the U.S. Army intelligence program that, its own analysts say, identified Mohammed Atta inside the United States more than a year before 9/11 — and of the decisions that kept that warning from the FBI.

“Earlier, I said that I kept my promise to Ray Downey. Ray would probably agree. But, in truth, I failed him ... Despite my best efforts, September 11 happened anyway.”

Curt Weldon · from *Able Danger*, p. 24

Endorsed by **Hal Bruno** (ABC News; volunteer firefighter), **Gov. James Gilmore** (Gilmore Commission), **Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn** (former Director, DIA), **Thomas Drake** (NSA) and **Christopher M. Lehman** — page 11.

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS EDITION

- **The book is out.** Published September 22, 2026 — hardcover, 336 pages, at TuckerCarlsonBooks.com and Amazon, with the e-book on Kindle and Apple Books.
- **The fire service comes first.** The book is Curt’s tribute to the 343, and a share of proceeds is intended for the FIRE/EMS 290 agenda. Department and bulk orders run through Skyhorse (page 03).
- **The agenda.** Curt’s proposal for the first White House Conference on Firefighters and EMS and a Presidential Commission on the fire and EMS service — not yet convened (page 04).
- **Watch & listen.** Curt’s interviews, podcasts and keynote footage, with scan-to-watch codes (page 08).

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For the Fire Service & First Responders

Firefighters • EMS • fire chiefs • departments & associations • the industry that supplies and supports them • fire-service & trade press

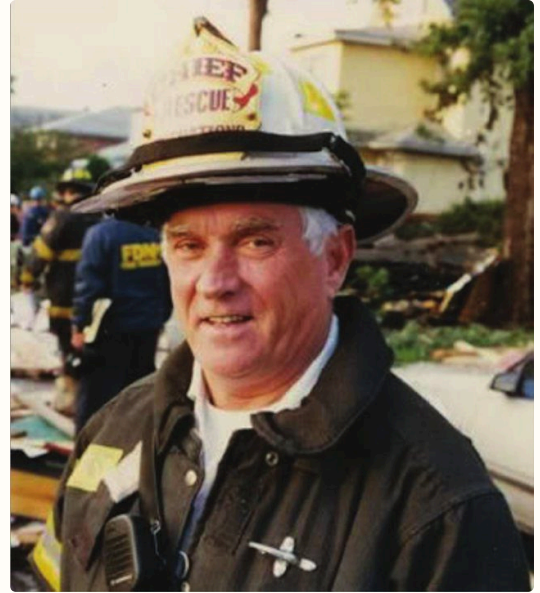
Curt Weldon walked the World Trade Center after the 1993 bombing with FDNY Rescue Chief Ray Downey. Eight years later, Ray Downey died in the towers. **This is that story — told by one of our own.** It is the book the fire service has been waiting for, written by the founder of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus — and it is out now.

WHY THIS BOOK BELONGS IN EVERY FIREHOUSE

- **He is one of you.** A career volunteer firefighter, fire chief, and county fire and EMS training director before and during twenty years in Congress.
- **The Ray Downey through-line.** A month after 9/11, Weldon escorted Downey's widow, five children and family to his district; 50,000 people gathered in tribute. Downey's son Joe holds his father's FDNY Rescue Chief post today.
- **A tribute, in print.** Weldon frames the book as his tribute to the 343 and every responder lost — published in the 290th year of the American fire service.
- **It reinvests in the service.** Weldon has indicated he intends to direct a significant share of proceeds to the FIRE/EMS 290 national agenda.
- **It opens a bigger fight.** Curt is pressing for the first White House Conference on Firefighters and EMS and a Presidential Commission, with committees run by the fire service's own organizations (page 04).

WHY NOW

2026 is the **290th year of the American fire service** (Benjamin Franklin's Union Fire Company, 1736), and **Fire Prevention Week runs October 4-10**. More FDNY members have now died of 9/11-related illness than were killed on the day. No other author can speak to that from inside both the firehouse and the Armed Services Committee.



FDNY Rescue Chief Ray Downey — killed in the towers on 9/11. Weldon toured the 1993 WTC attack with him.

THE CHANNEL, IN NUMBERS

~2M

FIREFIGHTERS
& EMS

55K+

STATIONS

370

CAUCUS HE
LED

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Story angles: “one of our own wrote the 9/11 book” • the Ray Downey story told by the man who honored him • why proceeds go back to the service (FIRE/EMS 290) • a White House Conference for the fire service, run by the fire service • 290 years of the American fire service • a fire chief's road to the Armed Services Committee.

A White House Conference and a Presidential Commission for the fire service

PROPOSED • NOT YET CONVENED

In the year the country turns 250, the American fire service turns 290 and twenty-five years have passed since September 11, Curt Weldon is pressing for the **first White House Conference on Firefighters and EMS** in the nation's history and a **Presidential Commission on the state of the fire and EMS service**. Neither has yet been convened; Curt is working to make both happen.

WHAT THE AGENDA COVERS

- **Health, safety and welfare** of firefighters and EMS — cancer above all.
- **A technology directorate** bringing military and intelligence tools into the firehouse, and a Fire/EMS information network reaching all 55,000 stations.
- **Recruitment** from K-12, and financial benefits for young members on the USAA / NewDay model.
- **A national wildfire strategy.**
- **A national EMS mass-casualty readiness standard.**
- **A National Fire and EMS Legacy Center and Museum** in Washington.
- **An international fire, EMS and disaster training center** in Southern California.

“We will dramatically change the paradigm by adding prediction and prevention using technology.”

— Curt Weldon, *International Fire & Safety Journal*, 2025

WHO RUNS IT

The fire service — not the government. A presidential charter would convene the platform. Every committee would be managed, staffed and funded by the fire service's own existing organizations, coordinated through FIRE/EMS 290 and One World For Life.

Committee work is privately funded: no federal payroll and no new appropriation.

WHERE THE BOOK FITS

Able Danger is the case for why the country owes its responders a seat at the table: the warning before 9/11 was buried, and the people who paid for it were the 343 and the thousands of firefighters and EMS personnel still dying of 9/11-related illness. Curt has indicated he intends to direct a significant share of proceeds to the FIRE/EMS 290 agenda.

Note to editors: this is an agenda Curt Weldon is advocating. No conference date, executive order or commission membership has been announced. Please describe it as proposed. Curt is glad to discuss it on the record.

For the 343: Fire Chief and Former Congressman Curt Weldon Tells the Story of the Warning Before 9/11

Able Danger: What the 9/11 Commission Never Told You (Skyhorse Publishing) is on sale now — in the 290th year of the American fire service, and ahead of Fire Prevention Week, October 4–10.

On September 11, 2001, FDNY Rescue Chief Ray Downey was killed in the towers — one of 343 New York firefighters lost that morning. Eight years earlier, he had walked Curt Weldon through the bombed-out garage beneath the World Trade Center. Weldon, a lifelong volunteer firefighter and fire chief who founded the 370-member Congressional Fire Services Caucus, has now told their story.

In ***Able Danger: What the 9/11 Commission Never Told You*** (Skyhorse Publishing), Weldon writes of the friends he lost that day — and of the warning that might have saved them. A classified U.S. Army intelligence program, its own analysts say, identified Mohammed Atta and elements of al-Qaeda inside the United States more than a year before the attacks. Its findings never reached the FBI. Weldon, who held top clearances as Vice Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, spent years pressing both parties' administrations for answers.

"A debt that can never be repaid."

— Hal Bruno, Political Director, ABC News; volunteer firefighter

The book is built on sworn affidavits, congressional letters and testimony from military and intelligence officers, with a foreword by John Crane, former Assistant Inspector General of the Department of Defense. It is endorsed by Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, former DIA Director; Gov. James Gilmore, chairman of the Gilmore Commission, on which Downey served; and NSA whistleblower Thomas Drake.

Weldon has indicated he intends to direct a significant share of proceeds to the FIRE/EMS 290 agenda. He is also pressing for the **first White House Conference on Firefighters and EMS** and a **Presidential Commission on the state of the fire and EMS service** — neither has yet been convened — with every committee managed, staffed and privately funded by the fire service's own organizations rather than by government. The agenda puts firefighter cancer first: more FDNY members have now died of 9/11-related illness than were killed on the day.

Able Danger is available now at **TuckerCarlsonBooks.com** and **Amazon**, and as an e-book on Kindle and Apple Books. Fire departments, academies and associations can order in volume through Skyhorse Publishing: bbellemore@skyhorsepublishing.com.

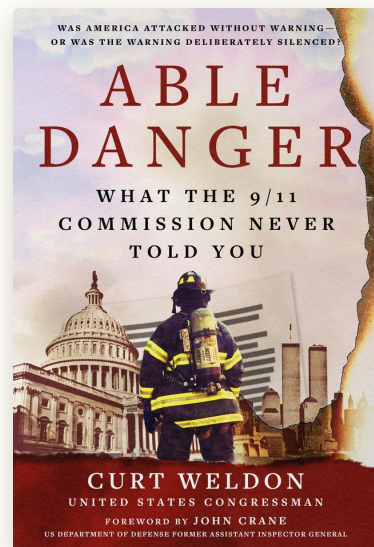
About the author: A lifelong volunteer firefighter and former fire chief, Curt Weldon represented Pennsylvania's 7th District in Congress for two decades, serving as Vice Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. *Congressional Quarterly* named him one of the "Fifty Most Effective Members of Congress." He is a Gusi Peace Prize laureate.

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Able Danger, at a glance

TITLE	Able Danger: What the 9/11 Commission Never Told You
SUBTITLE	<i>The Warning Before 9/11 and the Intelligence They Buried</i> (jacket)
AUTHOR	Curt Weldon — U.S. Congressman (PA-07, 1987–2007); former fire chief
FOREWORD	John Crane — former Assistant Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense (with his sworn affidavit)
PUBLISHER	Skyhorse Publishing • New York
PUBLISHED	September 22, 2026 — the 290th year of the American fire service
FORMAT	Hardcover, 336 pages • US \$32.99 / Can \$44.99 • e-book
ISBN	978-1-68358-556-5
WHERE TO BUY	TuckerCarlsonBooks.com (hardcover & e-book) • Amazon (hardcover & Kindle) • Apple Books (e-book)
BULK ORDERS	Departments, station libraries, academies, associations: Beth Bellemore, Skyhorse Publishing • bbellemore@skyhorsepublishing.com
CATEGORY	Politics • Intelligence & Espionage • September 11
COMPARABLE TO	<i>The Looming Tower</i> • <i>Ghost Wars</i> — the participant's account beside the journalists'



DESCRIPTION

Former Congressman Curt Weldon presents a deeply personal account of a classified U.S. Army intelligence program that identified Mohammed Atta and elements of al-Qaeda inside the United States more than a year before 9/11 — and of the bureaucratic decisions that kept it from the FBI. Drawing on sworn affidavits, congressional letters, classified briefings and testimony from military and intelligence officials, Weldon argues the warning was not missed but buried — by fear, politics and self-protection across multiple administrations.

WHY NOW — AFTER TWENTY YEARS

Weldon completed a first version of this manuscript in 2006. He says he was warned off publishing after federal agents raided his daughter's home three weeks before that year's election — an action he describes as intended to stop his rise to the chairmanship of the House Armed Services Committee. He has published it now as a tribute to the 343 and to the roughly 2 million firefighters and EMS personnel who serve from 55,000+ stations, in the 290th year of the American fire service.

Asked for a comment by CNN reporter Judy Woodruff, I said, "Today our government failed the American people." I never said anything with greater sincerity.

— from the book, p. 141

Curt Weldon

Firefighter · Fire Chief · Ten-term Congressman · Author

SHORT BIO — FOR INTRODUCTIONS & RUN-OF-SHOW

Curt Weldon served two decades in the U.S. House of Representatives (1987–2007), rising to Vice Chairman of the Armed Services Committee and chairing oversight of Department of Defense research, development and intelligence funding. *Congressional Quarterly* named him one of the “Fifty Most Effective Members of Congress.” A lifelong volunteer firefighter and fire chief, he founded and chaired the 370-member Congressional Fire Services Caucus and was on scene at the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and on September 11, 2001. A Gusi Peace Prize laureate, he is the author of *Able Danger: What the 9/11 Commission Never Told You* (Skyhorse, 2026).

LONG BIO — FOR PRESS & PROGRAM PAGES

Recognized by *Congressional Quarterly* as one of the “Fifty Most Effective Members of Congress,” Curt Weldon devoted more than thirty years to public service — as an elected mayor, county chair, public educator, corporate risk-management leader, lifelong volunteer firefighter and fire chief, county fire and EMS training director, and twenty-year Member of Congress representing Pennsylvania’s 7th District.

As Vice Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and chairman overseeing the Pentagon’s research, development and intelligence funding, he challenged politicized intelligence and, two years before 9/11, proposed a national intelligence-fusion capability known as NOAH — an initiative blocked following CIA objections. In 2007, President George H. W. Bush honored Weldon with a personal tribute before more than 2,000 leaders in Washington.

He never stopped being a firefighter. He founded the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the Congressional Fire Services Institute, and responded on scene to major U.S. disasters, working directly with FDNY leadership — including at the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, which he toured with Rescue Chief Ray Downey. A month after 9/11, Weldon brought Downey’s widow and family to his district, where 50,000 people gathered in tribute.

Today he leads FIRE/EMS 290 and One World For Life, and is pressing for the first White House Conference on Firefighters and EMS. His books include *Able Danger* (2026), *Countdown to Terror* and *Awakening the Sleeping Giant*.



Weldon on scene with first responders, Valdez, Alaska (1989).

FAST FACTS

- U.S. Congressman, PA-07, 1987–2007
- Vice Chairman, House Armed Services
- Chaired oversight of DoD R&D and intelligence funding
- CQ “50 Most Effective Members of Congress”
- Founder, 370-member Congressional Fire Services Caucus & the Congressional Fire Services Institute
- On scene: WTC 1993 & 9/11, with FDNY
- Proposed the NOAH intel-fusion capability (1999)
- 2007 tribute from Pres. George H. W. Bush
- Gusi Peace Prize laureate
- Author: *Able Danger*; *Countdown to Terror*; *Awakening the Sleeping Giant*

Interviews, podcasts and keynotes — scan a code or follow the link. Broadcast-quality clips and permissions go through the rights-holders; we link rather than re-host.

NATIONAL INTERVIEWS & PODCASTS



“They’ll Have to Kill Me. I’m Not Going to Be Silenced” – Curt Weldon on 9/11

tuckercarlson.com/tucker-show-curt-weldon-081826



Rep. Curt Weldon: It's Time to Finally Tell the Truth About 9-11

[open.spotify.com](https://open.spotify.com/album/383033081) • The Tucker Carlson Show



Able Danger, with Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer & Maj. Eric Kleinsmith

open.spotify.com · PBD Podcast, Ep. 586

KEYNOTES & THE RECORD



9/11 Keynote – Honoring Our Heroes

[linkedin.com](#) • Curt Weldon

President George H. W. Bush honors Curt Weldon

abledangerbook.com/press



Able Danger and Intelligence Sharing – news conference

c-span.org • program 149958



Able Danger and Intelligence Information Sharing – hearing transcript

govinfo.gov · S. Hrg. 109-311



Rep. Weldon with pre-9/11 al-Qaeda link charts. Able Danger hearing (2005).

For National Media & News

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What did the government know before September 11 — and why did the 9/11 Commission leave it out? Able Danger's own analysts say they identified Mohammed Atta. A senior congressman with full clearances spent years trying to surface it. The book is now published — the first inside record of what they found, who blocked it, and why.

“Two of the most consequential and suppressed intelligence programs in modern American history ... could have prevented the 9/11 attacks. Curt Weldon’s extraordinary book forces a long overdue reckoning.”

— Thomas Drake, NSA Senior Executive • Program Manager for ThinThread

WHY IT’S CREDIBLE — A SOURCED, FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT

- **Foreword by John Crane**, former Assistant IG of the DoD, with his sworn affidavit on officials blocked from warning the Justice Department.
- **Named national-security endorsers:** Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn (ex-DIA), Gov. James Gilmore (Gilmore Commission), Thomas Drake (NSA / ThinThread).
- **A participant’s standing:** Weldon held the clearances and chaired the oversight — testimony, not speculation.
- **Bipartisan by construction:** the story implicates actors across two administrations, not one party.

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Q.** What did Able Danger’s analysts actually identify before 9/11 — and how do you know?
- Q.** Why did that intelligence never reach the FBI, and why was it left out of the Commission report?
- Q.** You proposed the NOAH fusion capability in 1999. What happened to it?
- Q.** Why publish now — and what happened to your family in 2006?
- Q.** Why won’t the government release the remaining 9/11 files?
- Q.** You’re calling for a White House Conference and a Presidential Commission on the fire service. Why should the fire service, not government, run it?

Note to editors: the book advances specific, contested claims about pre-9/11 intelligence. It is strongest presented as a sourced, firsthand account — corroborated by named officials, a DoD Inspector General affidavit and the contemporaneous record. Curt is glad to discuss sourcing directly.



Rep. Weldon with pre-9/11 al-Qaeda link charts, Able Danger hearing (2005).

BOOKING ESSENTIALS

Availability: national TV, radio, print & podcast — in-studio, remote, long-form.

Seen & heard on: The Tucker Carlson Show • PBD Podcast • C-SPAN. Links on page 08.

Review copies & excerpts: on request — page 12.

For Speaking & Appearances

Corporate & association stages • leadership & executive events • national-security forums • universities • conference & commemorative programs

The leadership keynote with a story no one else can tell. Curt Weldon ran toward crisis his whole life — as a firefighter and fire chief, and as the congressman who carried a warning to Washington before 9/11 and stood alone against his own government. He turns that hard-won experience into courage, integrity and decision-making your leaders can use.

SIGNATURE TALKS

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- **What the 9/11 Commission Never Told You.** The intelligence that was found, buried and left out — and why the files are still sealed.
- **One of Our Own.** Ray Downey, the 343, and a fire chief's fight for the service — the fire-service and commemorative keynote.
- **Prediction and Prevention.** Bringing military and intelligence technology into disaster response — and the case for a White House Conference on Firefighters and EMS.

FORMATS

Keynote • leadership breakout / team session • fireside chat & moderated Q&A • panel • commemorative & anniversary programs. In person or virtual. A “keynote + a copy for every attendee” package is available through Skyhorse.

WATCH CURT

Interview and keynote footage on page 08; demo reel and recent keynote footage on request. A separate three-page speaker kit is available.

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COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMS

CREDENTIALS THAT SELL THE STAGE

- 20-year U.S. Congressman; Armed Services Vice Chair
- Crisis leadership across 35 years of national disasters
- CQ “50 Most Effective Members of Congress”
- Career fire chief & training director
- Gusi Peace Prize laureate
- Author, *Able Danger* (Skyhorse, 2026)

BOOKING

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What they're saying

Named endorsements from across the national-security, intelligence and fire-service worlds.

"Former Congressman Curt Weldon is as courageous as he is determined... Curt was politically punished for being one of the foremost truth tellers in America. He is the epitome of one who runs into the flames while others cower due to fear. Curt lives the phrase 'bravery under fire.'"

— **Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, US Army (Ret.)**

Former Director, Defense Intelligence Agency; former National Security Advisor

"This is a very important book that tells the truth about the events surrounding 9/11. Congressman Weldon was at the center of the formation of the Gilmore Commission that warned of the danger before the 9/11 attacks... This book should be read by everyone who cares about the future safety of America."

— **Gov. James S. Gilmore III**

Chairman, the Gilmore Commission; former Governor of Virginia

"Curt Weldon has written the definitive book on 9/11 that tells the truth in a way that hurts... Readers will find definitive proof of a cover-up where former government officials and certain 9/11 Commission staff conspired to hide the truth."

— **Christopher M. Lehman, PhD**

Former Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

"Two of the most consequential and suppressed intelligence programs in modern American history, the Pentagon's Able Danger and the NSA's ThinThread... could have prevented the 9/11 attacks. Curt Weldon's extraordinary book forces a long overdue reckoning."

— **Thomas Drake**

NSA Senior Executive; Program Manager for ThinThread

"A debt that can never be repaid."

— **Hal Bruno**

Political Director, ABC News; volunteer firefighter

THE RECORD — PROOF POINTS

- Foreword & sworn affidavit by former DoD Assistant IG John Crane
- Built on affidavits, congressional letters & classified briefings
- Author held top clearances; chaired DoD / intelligence funding oversight
- Senate Judiciary hearing on Able Danger, Sept. 21, 2005

Endorsements excerpted from the book jacket; full quotations available on request. Reader and fire-service reviews are being added as they come in.

Media & booking contacts

Media requests and speaking inquiries each have their own address. Volume orders go straight to the publisher.

MEDIA CONTACT

press@abledangerbook.com

512.677.4947

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- Speaker kit, topics and fee inquiry

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BOOK AT A GLANCE

Able Danger: What the 9/11 Commission Never Told You

by Curt Weldon · Foreword by John Crane

Skyhorse Publishing · Hardcover, 336 pages · US \$32.99

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“On September 11, Ray Downey died as he lived, a hero.”

— CURT WELDON, *ABLE DANGER*, P. 135