

## A LETTER FROM BEN'S DESCENDENT

By Fred Hobbs

To the Editor, Philadelphia Inquirer

From: Benjamin Franklin IV

Before your newspaper disappears as so many daily papers have already done, I am writing to implore you to right a grievous wrong inflicted upon my ancestor, Benjamin Franklin the First. Not only newspapers, but other publications (except the famous *Poor Richard's Almanack*) have embraced the misguided decision to choose the eagle as a preeminent symbol of the United States of America.

I find it shameful that this brutish tetrapod vertebrate should have been chosen to appear on the nation's currency and even the very official Great Seal of our land. My great, great, great grandfather rightly called the eagle, "a bird of bad moral character; a lazy thief." What a travesty that my ancestor's choice as the national bird, the stately turkey, was rejected. So, I call upon the Inquirer, as the hometown paper of the Franklin family, to henceforth replace all now common positive references to the eagle with the word, turkey.

To expedite this important change in the American idiom, I offer the following examples:

- The highest level of attainment in the Boy Scouts of America shall now be called
- Turkey Scouts.
- Our city's very own professional football team shall be known as the Philadelphia Turkeys.
- When one has superior vision he or she shall be said to be turkey-eyed.
- When a golfer finishes a hole at two strokes under par, that player will have scored a turkey.
- Future astronauts will travel to distant planets in spacecraft not by honoring disreputable birds such as the eagle, but will be proud to proclaim: "the turkey has landed."
- The American Grammy-award winning rock band of the 70s that recorded such hits as "Desparado" and "Tequila Sunrise" will be renamed "The Turkeys."
- Aviators will fly "where turkeys dare."

As Thanksgiving approaches, I urge your readers to honor the sacrifice of the millions of turkeys, who give their lives in order to play such a significant role in the celebration of the holiday. Since 1621 when the Plymouth colonists and Native Americans of the Wampanoag tribe gathered together to feast in honor of the first successful corn harvest in the new colony, the turkey with appropriate trimmings, has remained a prominent fixture at the Thanksgiving table.

And, on Thanksgiving Day, as you munch on that turkey leg or bite into that big chunk of white meat, just think of how awful an eagle claw would taste.