

# A Tradition to Celebrate: White House Ornaments

by Robert Sberna

While you may never have had a Christmas tree quite resembling the 18-foot Fraser Fir that graces the White House each holiday season, you can decorate your tree with an official White House Christmas ornament. Even if you're late

for this year, you can get yours now for next year.

The commemorative ornaments, which are commissioned by the White House Historical Association, have been produced for the past 25 years by NAM member ChemArt.

Each year, the ornament honors a U.S. president or historic landmark or event. The 2005 White House ornament honored the nation's 20th president, James A. Garfield, and includes an illustration of the South Front of the White House.

The Lincoln, Rhode Island-based ChemArt is a leader in the design and manufacture of ornaments and other high-quality collectibles. Founded in 1976, the firm produces a wide array of commemorative collectibles for fund-raising events, government



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agencies, universities, museums, military organizations and other nonprofit and corporate entities.

ChemArt utilizes a photochemical machining process and state-of-the-art etching equipment to form their precision collectibles.

Recently, the firm was featured on the "Made in America" TV show, hosted by John Ratzenberger, who played Cliff on "Cheers." Ratzenberger travels the country profiling quality American manufacturers. The ChemArt segment focused on the design and manufac-

ture of the White House ornament. During the show, Dick Beaupre, founder and CEO of ChemArt, noted, "Less than 10 percent of ornaments produced are still made in the U.S."

To learn more about purchasing the White House Christmas ornament, visit [www.whitehousehistory.org](http://www.whitehousehistory.org).

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## Combating the Frigid Cold

**A**s winter nights become increasingly frigid, the hats, scarves and mittens produced by Schuessler Knitting Mills,



Inc., once again are providing a much-needed respite from the cold. For more than 90 years, the NAM member has been making outerwear — prized throughout the U.S. and distributed in more than 20 countries — in its Chicago factories.

Schuessler started as a tiny knit shop in the back of a candy store in 1913, where passersby would stop to watch the twirling knitting machines. The firm moved to a new location in 1938 and eventually expanded its manufacturing space to 100,000 square feet to accommodate growing demand from a wide range of customers, including sportsmen, hunters, fitness and recreation enthusiasts, and the U.S. military. Schuessler currently employs 150.

In addition to Schuessler's Igloos<sup>TM</sup>, attaboy<sup>®</sup> and Puffin Down<sup>®</sup> brands, the firm also manufactures private label products for L.L. Bean, Eddie Bauer, REI and The Sports Authority. So when the cold winds of winter hit, most likely Schuessler makes what you're looking for.