



The FDR Memorial Legacy Committee 2024 Highlights

Launch of Documentary Short

In May, we released the long-awaited documentary short FDR: Great Abilities at an event with students from Browne Education Campus, a DC public school. Following the viewing, a panel discussion was held with film narrator Nila Morton and disability rights legend Jim Dickson, who was profiled in the documentary. Special thanks to the funders of this project - The National Trust for Historic Preservation Telling the Full History Preservation Fund with support from The National Endowment for the Humanities, The Llura and Gordon Gund Foundation, The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, and The Awesome Foundation. We remain thankful to Kate Hammond and Ben Patterson of Onslot Films for their commitment to this story.



Students from Browne Education Campus join Nila Morton and Jim Dickson following the special screening.

New FDR Memorial Merchandise

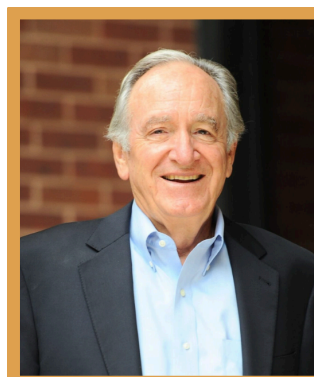
The FDR Committee got into the merch game in 2024 by producing lapel pins and postcards featuring the FDR wheelchair statue. These pins and cards are now available at the FDR Memorial in Washington DC, at the FDR Library in Hyde Park, NY, and at Roosevelt Campbello International Park in Canada.



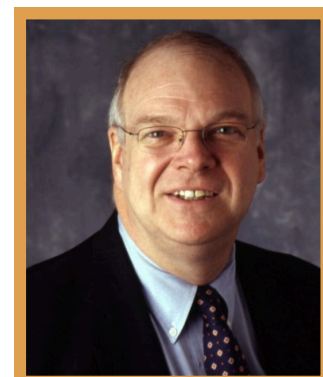
Liv Holmes, former Intern for the FDR Committee, points to the FDR wheelchair statue postcards at the FDR Memorial bookstore.

Harkin and Roosevelt Named Co-Chairs of 2026 Anniversary

2026 will be the 25th anniversary of the addition of the FDR wheelchair statue and Prologue Room, which completed the FDR Memorial. U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (retired) and Jim Roosevelt, grandson of FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt, have agreed to serve as Co-Chairs of the 2026 Anniversary Committee. This dynamic duo will provide leadership for this important commemoration of this beloved Memorial. To learn more about plans for the anniversary, view [the prospectus](#).



U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (retired)



Jim Roosevelt, Jr. Esq.

Introducing New Generations to the FDR Memorial

In September, the Caravan for Disability Freedom and Justice visited the FDR Memorial and brought along special guests from the John R. Lewis High School Leadership Program in Springfield, VA.



People pose around the FDR wheelchair statue.

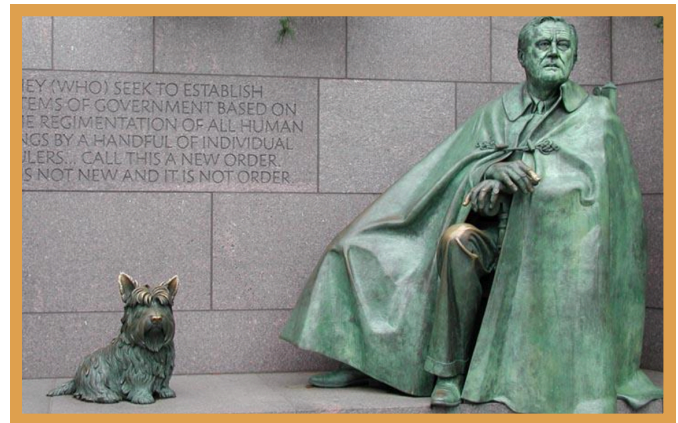
In May, we led students from Life Learning Academy of San Francisco, CA on a history filled tour. It is an honor for us to lead visits to this vital historic site.



Students examine the art in room two.

The FDR Memorial gets Special Recognition on PBS NewsHour

If you watched PBS NewsHour in 2024 and stayed for the credits, you would have seen the statue of FDR and Fala from the FDR Memorial. This is thanks to the Judy and Peter Blum Kovler Foundation. As a major contributor to PBS NewsHour, the Foundation was given the opportunity to include a logo at the end of the program and chose this image from the FDR Memorial. Peter Kovler, who leads the Foundation, explained that this is a way to build public awareness of the FDR Memorial and to serve as a reminder of the perseverance and determination needed to confront challenging times. We couldn't agree more! The Blum Kovler Foundation is the biggest benefactor to the FDR Memorial and a major donor to the FDR Committee.



Neil Estern's sculpture of FDR and Fala.

Celebrating the 100th Year Anniversary of FDR's First Visit to Warm Springs, GA

FDR Committee representatives participated in the 100th anniversary celebration of FDR's first visit to Warm Springs, GA in 1924. The events paid tribute to FDR's profound connection to the town, where he sought therapy for polio in October 1924. This centennial marked a significant moment for both the town and the legacy of one of America's most iconic presidents.



(Left to Right) Jane Deland, Board Vice Chair; Mary E. Dolan, Executive Director; Arlene King-Berry, Board Member; and Dr. Rosalie Boone, Education Consultant, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the restoration of the historic pools in Warm Springs.

New Opportunities for the Mike Deland Internship Program

The Mike Deland Internship Program provides paid internships for young people with disabilities. The 2024 Interns provided invaluable support to two important initiatives. Tewelde Semere, from the University of the District of Columbia, continued working on a food insecurity project focused on DC. Liv Holmes, from Kalamazoo College, spent a semester in DC with The Washington Center and worked on FDR Committee social media, archived historical documents, and supported our anniversary celebration in December. Donate to this program [here](#).

Celebrating Eleanor Roosevelt's 140th Birthday

In October, we recognized Eleanor Roosevelt's 140th birthday with a discussion at the FDR Memorial about the former First Lady's remarkable life and accomplishments. We were joined by local Girl and Boy Scouts who participated in a day of service at the Memorial.



A group gathers at the Eleanor Roosevelt statue in celebration of the former First Lady's 140th birthday.

\$100,000 Fundraising Challenge Match Met and New Challenge Match Announced

In June, we met the goal of raising \$100,000 to unlock a matching grant of \$100,000 from the Llura and Gordon Gund Foundation. We are incredibly grateful to all of our donors who helped us reach this goal and especially to Gordon Gund for funding this matching program.

The Llura and Gordon Gund Foundation has given us another \$100,000 fundraising challenge match for 2025. Please consider supporting us so we can meet this target as soon as possible. Donors who give \$125 or more will receive a lapel pin of FDR.

[Donate](#)

Marking the 5th Anniversary of the FDR Committee

On December 12, 2024, we celebrated the 5th anniversary of the FDR Committee and recognized important people who have made major contributions to the success of the organization.

- Jim Dickson, Co-Founder and Advisory Board Member, FDR Committee
 - Jen Epstein, National Park Service Ranger and Education Specialist
 - Gordon Gund of the Llura and Gordon Gund Foundation
 - Peter Kovler of the Judy and Peter Blum Kovler Foundation
- Special thanks to Verizon for donating event space for this celebration.



Peter Kovler (right) receives the "Rendezvous with Destiny Award" from Jane Deland (left) and Senator Tom Harkin (center).



Judy Kovler (left) with Alexandra Reeve Givens, Board of Directors, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation (right).



Jim Dickson (left) receives the "Don't Mourn, Organize Award" from Bob Williams (right).

Your donations fund our mission to promote education about the FDR Memorial, improve inclusion and accessibility so all visitors can experience the Memorial, and preserve the Memorial for future generations. Thanks to the Llura and Gordon Gund Foundation your donation can be doubled. While supplies last, donors who give \$125 or more will receive a FDR lapel pin as a special thank you.

DONATE

