



25th Anniversary

2026 | WASHINGTON D.C.



FDR Memorial Wheelchair Statue

"A MONUMENT TO FREEDOM"



Photo: Tom Olin

Dear Friends & Supporters,

We are proud to serve as Co-Chairs of the Planning Committee for the 25th Anniversary of the FDR Memorial Wheelchair Statue, organized by the FDR Memorial Legacy Committee (FDR Committee).

As you review this packet of information and available sponsorship opportunities, we encourage you to support this historic anniversary at which we will celebrate and honor “a Monument to Freedom”, the disabled Americans who fought tirelessly to remove disability from the shadows of history and to enshrine what leadership can look like, and the FDR Memorial itself as a beacon of hope and unyielding dedication to the ideals of our nation.

This is an opportunity for you to not only attach yourself to this historic and iconic Memorial, it’s also an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions around the epic campaign for the wheelchair statue, its impact, and what more we can do to ensure that it is a lasting dedication, not only to President Roosevelt, but to the millions who visit the Memorial each year.

While there will be much to share about this historic gathering in the months to come, we hope that you will take this opportunity to reserve your sponsorship today. **Please contact Mary E. Dolan, FDR Committee, Co-Founder and Executive Director at mary@fdrmemoriallegacy.com or 202-368-1083.**

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (retired)



James Roosevelt, Jr. Esq.

The Dedication

On January 10, 2001, the FDR Wheelchair Statue was Dedicated by President Bill Clinton

- ★ This culminated the six-year fight led by the disability community to include FDR's disability at the Memorial.
- ★ Hundreds of people with disabilities and allies gathered to celebrate what President Clinton called a "monument to freedom".
- ★ Three million people visit the FDR Memorial annually and they are greeted by FDR in his wheelchair.



President Clinton speaks at the dedication.



Friends and allies, including former U.S. Senator Max Cleland (center in a wheelchair) at the statue.



Anne Roosevelt speaks at dedication.



Audience listening to President Clinton at dedication.

Photos: Tom Olin

The Six Year Fight for Representation



Mike Deland (center in a wheelchair) speaks at a rally.



Top: Left to right, Jill Jacobs, Jim Dickson, Kirk Bauer, Eduardo Burkhart, Alan Reich, Joan Challinor behind Alan. Justin Dart.

Bottom: Jim Dickson speaks at a rally with Justin Dart next to him.

- ★ Led by disabled Americans to fight stigma and to ensure that future generations knew that President Roosevelt led the country and the world in a wheelchair.
- ★ Rallies, letter writing campaigns, and protests were held to demand FDR's disability be represented clearly.
- ★ Over 50 disability organizations endorsed the campaign to add the statue of FDR in his wheelchair.
- ★ All of the then living former Presidents lent their support to the campaign.
- ★ 16 grandchildren of President Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt supported the inclusion of a depiction of their grandfather as a person who used a wheelchair writing: "It would be a disservice to history and the public's interest if the impact of polio on the man were to be hidden."

25th Anniversary Events to Include:

★ Ceremony at the FDR Memorial

with government, corporate, community and disability leaders. The ceremony will include a recommitment to the goals of the FDR wheelchair statue - inclusion, accessibility and representation.

★ Panel Discussion

with disability leaders who were part of the FDR wheelchair statue fight to discuss the meaning and impact of their activism and advice for new generations.

★ Reception

to honor and recognize leaders past and present including those who made the FDR Memorial and the wheelchair statue a reality.

★ Public Outreach Events

including docent tours of the Memorial and special screenings of the educational documentary short *FDR: Great Abilities* about the wheelchair statue fight.

★ Webinars and In-Person Discussions on Topics Such As:

- The artistry of the Memorial including Larry Halprin's landscape design as the first memorial to be wheelchair accessible, Robert Graham's statue of a life-sized FDR and the contributions of the other great artists Leonard Baskin, George Segal, Neil Estern and John Benson.
- The impact of FDR's disability experience on his leadership and presidency, including his influence on rehabilitation and independent living of disabled people.
- Historic preservation challenges and opportunities for the FDR Memorial - from protecting bricks and mortar to stories and histories.

Sponsorship Opportunities

DIAMOND SPONSOR

\$100,000

- Reserved premiere speaking opportunity at multiple events
- Invitations for you and guests to meet and greet with VIP guests
- Prominent name and logo recognition on website and on materials for all events
- Joint social media promotions around anniversary events
- Verbal recognition at events
- Blog opportunities
- Feature mention in press release including a quote
- Dedicated staff liaison for anniversary events
- FDR Committee leadership available to speak or present at corporate, foundation or non-profit event

PLATINUM SPONSOR

\$50,000

- Reserved speaking opportunity at an events
- Invitations for you and guests to meet and greet with VIP guests
- Prominent name and logo recognition on website and on materials for all events
- Joint social media promotions around anniversary events
- Verbal recognition at events
- Dedicated staff liaison for anniversary events

Sponsorship Opportunities

 GOLD
SPONSOR 
\$25,000

- Select number of invitations to special invite only event
- Name and logo recognition on materials for select event
- Verbal recognition at event

 SILVER
SPONSOR 
\$10,000

- Select number of invitations to special invite only event
- Name and logo recognition on event material
- Verbal recognition at events

 BRONZE
SPONSOR 
\$5,000

- Two invitations to invite-only event
- Name and logo recognition

❧ Your Sponsorship ❧

Will Support the Work of the FDR Memorial Legacy Committee



- Funding the commemorative and educational events for the 2026 anniversary.
- Ongoing preservation advocacy and monitoring to protect this great Memorial.
- Engaging with youth groups and schools in leadership opportunities at the Memorial and providing lesson plans and instructional support to teachers to educate a new generation.
- Promoting ongoing improvements in inclusion and accessibility at the FDR Memorial.

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**Posthumous Emeritus

❧ Honoring Our History ❧



Larry Halprin, landscape architect of the memorial, speaking at event following dedication.



Justin and Yoshiko Dart sit at dedication in 2001.



Peter Kovler receives a maquette of the FDR Wheelchair Statue from Alan Reich (left).



Gordon and Llura Gund (center) are presented with a Braille Plaque at the wheelchair statue dedication in 2001. Alan Reich (left), Kelly Douglas (right) holding plaque.



Secretary of Transportation in Clinton Administration, Rodney Slater (right) and Secretary of HHS, Donna Shalala (center).



Hollywood legend Lauren Bacall at the dedication of the wheelchair statue in 2001.



Former Congressman Jim Langevin (left), Marca Bristo, (right of FDR) and Anne Roosevelt (right).



I King Jordan, Ph.D. speaks at campaign rally for representation of FDR in a wheelchair.

❧ Honoring Our History ❧



FDR Wheelchair Statue sculptor Robert Graham speaks at 2001 dedication of the FDR wheelchair statue.



John Kemp (left), Judy Heuman (center), Dr. I King Jordan (right) at FDR wheelchair statue dedication.



Jane Deland (right) and Dr. Young Woo Kang (left) at FDR wheelchair statue dedication.



Hugh Gallagher speaking at rally for FDR wheelchair statue.



Evan Kemp (center) protests with other individuals at the rally.



Alan Reich at rally for representation of the wheelchair statue at the FDR Memorial.



Judy Heumann, and Marca Bristo with Anne Roosevelt at the dedication.



Former DC Mayor Marion Barry (right) with Justin Dart (left).

Archives

Chronicling the History of the Fight for Disability Representation at the FDR Memorial

DON'T HIDE FDR's DISABILITY

The FDR Memorial Commission spent \$42 million dollars of taxpayer money and REFUSES TO SHOW FDR IN A WHEELCHAIR.

Rally in protest!

8:30 - 11 am, Friday, May 2, 1997
at the FDR Memorial
Ohio Drive, West Potomac Park
(see map on other side)

(This rally is taking place during the opening ceremonies of the FDR Memorial)



For information, call (202) 293-5960, TDD (202) 293-5968 or FAX (202) 293-7999
FDR in a Wheelchair Campaign, at the National Organization on Disability
910 16th Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006

4/3/97

"And he did it all from his wheelchair..."

Tomorrow President Clinton will dedicate the statue of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his wheelchair at the FDR Memorial in the nation's capital. Taking its place in the company of the memorials to Presidents Jefferson and Lincoln, this magnificent statue depicts FDR in the wheelchair he used daily during the 12 years of his presidency.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt led America and the world through the gravest crises of the last century. FDR's disability experience was the source of his great leadership qualities: courage, determination, patience and compassion. He inspired people worldwide, with and without disabilities, to triumph over adversity. Through this statue, he will continue to do so.

The NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY, which initiated, raised the funds for, and led the six-year *Rendezvous with Destiny* campaign for the statue, gratefully acknowledges and thanks the many people who joined with us to bring it to reality. They include, among others:

- Advocates and demonstrators with disabilities from all across America
- 62 supporting disability organizations
- Funders of the statue: major contributors (the Peter Kovler and Gordon Gund families) and many other donors, from schoolchildren to FDR-era polio survivors
- Sculptor Robert Graham and supervising architect Lawrence Halprin
- Hugh Gallagher, Doris Kearns Goodwin and other FDR historians
- The Roosevelt family
- President Clinton and former Presidents Bush, Carter and Ford
- Senators Cleland, Gregg, Harkin, Inouye, and Stevens; Congressmen Hinchey and Regula; and other Members of Congress
- The Department of Interior and The National Park Service
- Members of the print and broadcast media

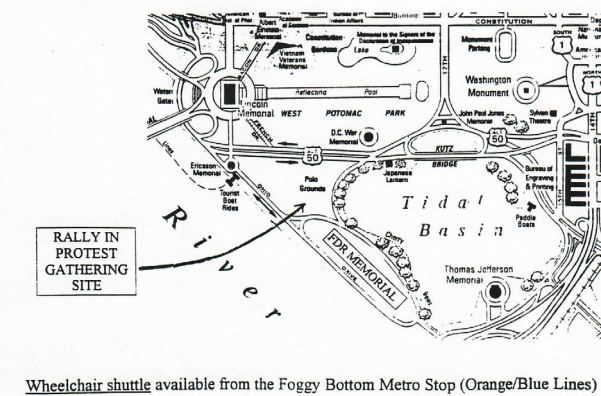
Michael R. Deland, Chairman Alan A. Reich, President

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY
www.nod.org

910 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006 • (202) 293-5960

It's ability, not disability, that counts

Organizations supporting the FDR in a Wheelchair Campaign
ADAPT—American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today, American Council of the Blind, America's Disabled to Work, Americans with Disabilities Vote, ASHA—American Speech-Language Hearing Association, Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems, Bay State Council of the Blind, Berkshire Power, Blind Veterans Association, Center for People with Disabilities, Coalition of Montanans Concerned with Disability, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Disability Rights in Voter Empowerment, Disabled American Veterans, Disability Rights Council, Disability Rights Action Committee, Disabled Sports USA, DREDF—Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Easter Seal Society, Evan Kemp Associates, Justice for All, Legislative Council for the Disabled Senior Citizens of Michigan, Massachusetts Assistive Technology Partnership, Massachusetts Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, National Alliance of the Disabled, National Association of Americans with Disabilities, National Association of Developmental Disabilities Council, National Association of People with AIDS, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of the Deaf, National Coalition of Students with Disabilities Education and Legal Defense Fund, National Council of Citizens with Low Vision, National Council on Disability, National Council on Independent Living, National Institute of Health Sciences, National Organization on Disability, National Therapeutic Recreation Society, Paralyzed Veterans of America, People to People Committee on Disability, Research Institute for Independent Living, Rhode Island Governor's Committee on Disability, Spinal Cord Injury Network, The Institute on Disability Culture, The Disability Institute, TASH—The Association for the Severely Handicapped, Unique People's Voting Project, United Cerebral Palsy Association, Volunteers for the Visually Handicapped, World Committee on Disability



Wheelchair shuttle available from the Foggy Bottom Metro Stop (Orange/Blue Lines)

Highlighted sections could use some further background / materials To: Artz From: Rth cc: BT, BT 1/2/01

DATE	EVENT / ARTICLE
3/6/95	Hugh Sidey's Time article, "Where's His Wheelchair?" - mentions N.O.D.
4/11/95	FERI Board Warm Springs Resolution to urge addition of depiction of FDR's disability to FDR Memorial
5/2/96	Maureen Dowd's NYT Op-Ed, "Not-So-Splendid Deception" - mentions N.O.D.
5/9/96	George Will's WP article, "Don't Hide His Source of Strength"
5/6/96	N.O.D. sends letter to FDR Memorial Commission restating its 1995 request for a depiction of FDR's disability
5/13/96	(N.O.D. press release) "Change Design of \$42 Million Federally Funded FDR Memorial to Portray His Disability, Say National Organization on Disability Leaders"
5/20/96	Hugh Sidey's Time article, "Truth in Memory" - mentions N.O.D.
6/8/96	Bergen Record article, "Reshaping FDR's Image; Students Want True Memorial" - mentions N.O.D.
6/18/96	(N.O.D. press release) "Students...FDR Memorial Should Show His Disability"
6/18/96	N.O.D./Harris Survey results show that 73% of Americans support the depiction of FDR's disability at the FDR Memorial (N.O.D. press release)
"late '96"	N.O.D. establishes the FDR in a Wheelchair Campaign, appointing Jim Dickson Director. LETTERS, ACTIVITIES?
2/27/97	Demonstration by the FDR in a Wheelchair Campaign (approx. 150 in attendance) at FDR Memorial site

NATIONAL

Roosevelt monument to include wheelchair

by Susan Henington

Franklin D. Roosevelt, who never left a wheelchair in public, has always been depicted in the FDR Memorial as a man who walked. The statue of the president, which will be dedicated in front of a wall of the relief statues.

The FDR Memorial has become a favorite site for visitors to Washington, D.C. "Nevertheless, a 1995 nationwide poll showed that 73 percent of the respondents believed the disability should be depicted in the statue. President Clinton agreed and submitted legislation calling for the addition to the memorial.

"This is going to be the most of the day, and it is going to be the most of the day," said Hugh Sidey, a writer for the Washington Post. "The statue of the president, which will be dedicated in front of a wall of the relief statues, will be the most of the day."

The \$48 million memorial, which is the largest statue of a president in a chair, has been conceived by the National Organization on Disability, some of whom lobbied for the statue to be in a wheelchair. President Clinton has said he wants the statue to be in a wheelchair. The FDR Memorial opened May 2, 1997. The National Park Service says it is among the most popular sites.

Wash. Times Weekly
July 6-12, 1998

Rendezvous with Destiny Campaign

FDR Wheelchair Statue Fund
910 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Completing the FDR Memorial by adding a statue of President Roosevelt in his wheelchair
Celebrating FDR's source of strength - his disability

FDR's Triumph over Adversity

"Franklin's illness gave him strength and courage he had not had before" - Eleanor Roosevelt

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt challenged his generation of Americans to a "rendezvous with destiny", inspiring them to persevere through the Great Depression and World War II. FDR had his own "rendezvous with destiny" beginning in 1921 when, at age 39, he contracted polio. He never took another step unassisted and used a wheelchair every day.

FDR often kept his disability out of the public eye as a reaction to the negative attitudes toward people with disabilities at that time. However, there were times when FDR fully revealed his disability. He remained in his wheelchair while touring hospitals full of Americans wounded in battle in World War II and when addressing the Howard University student body (a group also facing formidable barriers).

FDR gave most of his personal wealth to create the Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center in Georgia, which continues to attract many tourists each year. FDR visited Warm Springs regularly throughout his presidency, exercising with and encouraging the patients as they pursued their rehabilitation. Patients at Warm Springs were so moved by his interest and help that they referred to him as "Dr. Roosevelt." FDR developed a system both to measure the strength of muscles and to determine how to use that strength most effectively. This muscle strength chart is displayed in FDR's Warm Springs cottage, "The Little White House."

FDR's disability experience was profound. It challenged him to fight the odds and to triumph over adversity. Out of his experience with disability came his leadership qualities: strength, courage, determination and compassion. He inspired people throughout the world-disabled and non-disabled alike-to triumph over their own adversity.

As President, he called on the nation; itself paralyzed by depression, to overcome grave difficulties. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," he counseled a country of weary and hungry people. As a world leader he led our nation out of the Great Depression, commanded the mightiest fighting force in history to victory in World War II, and established the United Nations.

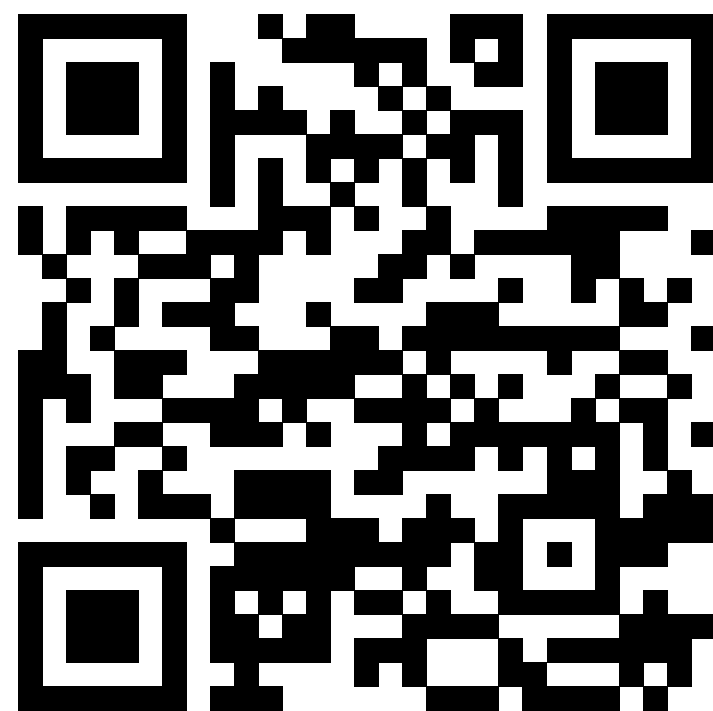
Moreover, he did it all from his wheelchair!

202-293-5960 voice 202-293-7999 fax 202-293-5968 TDD

The FDR Memorial Legacy Committee (FDR Committee) was founded in 2019, and operates as the friends group for the FDR Memorial in Washington, DC. The mission of the FDR Committee is to promote education about the FDR Memorial, to improve inclusion and accessibility so all visitors can experience the Memorial and to preserve the Memorial for future generations. The organization, borne out of the successful disability led campaign in the 1990s for disability representation at the Memorial, is committed to sharing the diverse perspectives of the Roosevelt era and that era's legacy today.

TO DONATE VISIT:
<https://fdrmemoriallegacy.com/giving/>

OR SCAN THIS QR CODE



For sponsorship information contact
Mary E. Dolan,
Co-Founder and Executive Director,
FDR Memorial Legacy Committee
202-368-1083
mary@fdrmemoriallegacy.com

1629 K Street, #300, Washington, DC 20006
<https://fdrmemoriallegacy.com/>