

A Letter from Bill Clinton to Alan Reich and Mike Deland

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 4, 1997

Mr. Michael R. Deland

Mr. Alan A. Reich

National Organization on Disability

910 16th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Michael and Alan:

On Thursday, July 24, 1997, I was honored to sign Senate Joint Resolution 29, which orders an addition to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial of a depiction of President Roosevelt in his wheelchair. I know this important legislation would not have succeeded without your leadership, and I want to extend my gratitude to the coalition of people -- led by the National Organization on Disability -- who so effectively communicated the importance of this issue to the American public.

Not only was Franklin Delano Roosevelt a great President, but he was also a great President with a disability. From his wheelchair, President Roosevelt guided this country with vision and faith and led our nation out of the Great Depression and on toward ultimate victory in World War II.

This legislation symbolizes much of what is best about our nation. It is especially important because it says to people with disabilities that in America anyone -- with or without a disability -- can achieve almost anything. Memorials show us how a nation sees itself and how it wishes to be seen. By depicting President Roosevelt as he was, we show the world that Americans treasure one another by who they are and what they have accomplished.

Thank you again for your leadership. I look forward to seeing a depiction of FDR in his wheelchair added to the Memorial in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton