

A Letter from Gerald Ford to Bill Clinton

GERALD R. FORD

June 13, 1996

President William J. Clinton
Honorary Chairman of the FDR Memorial Commission
President of the United States

The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I have become aware recently that the plans for the FDR Memorial do not call for depicting the disability of this great American President. I write in my capacity as Honorary Co Chairman of the FDR Memorial Commission to ask that this situation be reviewed and, I would hope, corrected. After all, President Roosevelt was all the greater because he surmounted his disability.

Indeed, FDR's triumph over adversity inspired all Americans to triumph over the adversity in the Great Depression and World War II. Certainly, within the 7.5-acre Memorial site that has been set aside for the several statues there is ample room for depicting FDR as the man he was - a great President and statesman who also happened to have a disability.

I hope you will take this action because FDR was and will be in the future a hero of all Americans, in no small part because of his experience with disability.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford