

## Don't let the FDR Memorial hide his source of strength - his disability.

"FDR developed his strength of character, determination and discipline most distinctly as a result of having polio. We want him remembered as he was, in all his strength, courage and humanity. He would be comfortable, perhaps eager, in light of current increased understanding of disability issues, to share awareness of his disability with others. We urge an adequate inclusion of all facets of the man as he was, not as some think he ought to have been." Letter to the National Organization on Disability from Anne Roosevelt on behalf of eight Roosevelt grandchildren, 4/29/96.

Dear Friend:

Your help is needed! Since early 1995, the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.) has been calling for the accurate depiction of FDR's disability in the memorial under construction on the Mall in Washington, D.C. There are three statues of FDR planned for the memorial -- not one shows FDR in a wheelchair. His disability is hidden.

It is difficult to understand the Memorial Commission's intransigence on this issue given the facts of FDR's life. During his last 24 years, including 12 as president, FDR never took a step unassisted. He used his wheelchair every day. Hiding FDR's disability in the memorial is an affront to America's 49 million citizens with disabilities and a half-billion people worldwide. Moreover, it is a step backward from the great advance of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Future generations of visitors from throughout the world will learn that FDR led the United States out of the Great Depression and commanded to victory the mightiest fighting force ever assembled. Yet, they will not know that he did it all from his wheelchair.

Time is running out! The memorial is scheduled to open on May 1, 1997. Please see the back of this flyer to learn what you can do to help. Together we can win! FDR would be with us all the way!

Sincerely

Michael R. Deland  
Chairman  
National Organization on Disability

James Dickson  
Director  
FDR in a Wheelchair Campaign

### Nationwide Support Grows for Statue of FDR in a Wheelchair

- "I think it unconscionable for schoolchildren 25 years from now to go through the memorial and not have a depiction of FDR's disability." N.O.D. Chairman, Michael R. Deland, in meeting with FDR Memorial Commission, March 1995
- 73% of Americans favor showing FDR's disability clearly as part of the memorial. 1995 N.O.D./Harris Poll

- "For FDR, concealing his disability was an expression of courage. For the custodians of his memory, concealing his disability is a lack of courage. They have nothing to fear but fear itself." Maureen Dowd, New York Times, 5/2/96
- "He probably would not have become president ... without passing through the furnace of polio. So, let's see FDR portrayed at the memorial in a wheelchair." George F. Will, Washington Post, 5/9/96
- "Depicting FDR in a wheelchair would be one of the most powerful parts of the memorial ... If Franklin Roosevelt were to come back, I think he would want his disability to be shown in some way." Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize winning author of FDR biography, No Ordinary Time
- "Omission of FDR's handicap is a crime against his spirit." Hugh Sidey, Time Magazine, 5/20/96
- "It is my opinion that FDR should be shown for what he was - a courageous man who had infantile paralysis and still led our nation." President George Bush, 4/29/96
- "It is important to Americans with disabilities - and important as a symbol of how American society perceives its disabled people that the memorial depict the man as he was: tall, strong, heroic and disabled... Don't let them steal our hero!" Hugh Gallagher, author, FDR's Splendid Deception

Urgent: ACT NOW

What you should do:

1. Call, write or fax the FDR Memorial Commission

Senator Mark Hatfield and Senator Daniel K. Inouye Co-Chairmen, FDR Memorial Commission Attn: Dorann H. Gunderson, Executive Director 632 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510  
Tel: 202-228-2491 Fax: 202-228-1010

2. Call, write or fax your member of Congress to let him/her know your view on this issue and ask the member for support. The Capitol Operator at 202-225-3121 can connect you to the office of your member of Congress.

3. Visit the FDR Memorial Commission at the address above and let them know you want FDR's disability shown in one of the statues.

4. Make a donation to help fund this effort. Send your check to:

FDR in a Wheelchair Campaign c/o National Organization on Disability 16th Street, NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006.

5. Spread the word on this issue and get others involved. Make copies of this flyer and circulate.

NOD NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY

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