

## A Letter from Kirk Bauer to Bill Clinton

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NHS DISABLED SPORTS

Formerly National Handicapped Sports

"If I can do this, I can do anything'.

June 5, 1996

President William Clinton Honorary Chairman FDR Memorial Commission

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President:

Official Airline:

On behalf of Disabled Sports USA and its 90 community UNITED AIRLINES based chapters throughout the nation, I urged the FDR Memorial UNITED EXPRESS Commission include the depiction of Franklin D. Roosevelt as a person with a disability. Official Product Sponsors:

To do anything less is an alteration of historical fact and demeans and conceals the contributions Americans with disabilities have made to build and develop this great nation of ours.

As a disabled Vietnam veteran, I am personally appalled and insulted that the Memorial Committee would seek to deny that this great man had a disability. By denying his disability, you deny those of us who fought and became disabled defending a free and open society that does not re-write history!

To deny FDR's disability is to say to our children and to citizens of this nation, who will visit this great man's memorial, that there is something wrong with a person who is disabled.

I would be ashamed to bring my ten-year-old son to such memorial. By denying FDR's disability, you are telling my son that there is something wrong with me, his disabled father. You would deny me the right to proudly point out to my son the fact that FDR was a man with a disability who achieved great things; and thus, deny to my son that he can also look with pride upon me and my contributions.

Page Two President Clinton

I urge the FDR Memorial Committee to indicate in a clear and unambiguous message, that they intend to depict FDR with his disability in the Memorial. To do anything less will bring shame on this nation.

Sincerely,

Kirk M. Bauer, J.D. Executive Director

cc:

National Organization on Disability Constance A. Morella Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Senator Barbara A. Mikulski