

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 87

Honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions on the anniversary of the date of his birth.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. SKELTON, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SWEENEY) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

JOINT RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions on the anniversary of the date of his birth.

Whereas President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born in Hyde Park, New York, on January 30, 1882;

Whereas his commitment to public service followed the example of his fifth cousin, the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas sixty years ago, President Roosevelt became the only President of the United States elected to a fourth term in office;

Whereas President Roosevelt fulfilled his promise to lead the Nation through the Great Depression by creating a series

of New Deal programs that fundamentally changed the role of Government;

Whereas President Roosevelt's leadership was instrumental in extending freedom and democracy around the globe and uniting the world confronted by tyranny and aggression;

Whereas President Roosevelt unified and mobilized the American effort after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and World War II, encouraging patriotism and volunteerism;

Whereas through his war time leadership, President Roosevelt directed the Government into the most productive partnership with private enterprise in the Nation's history by appointing top businessmen to run the production agencies, exempting business from antitrust laws, allowing business to write off the full cost of investments, and guaranteeing a substantial profit;

Whereas as a result of his leadership, the United States was outproducing all the Axis and the Allied powers combined, contributing nearly 300,000 planes, 100,000 tanks, 2 million trucks, and 87,000 warships to the Allied cause;

Whereas 2004 is the 60th anniversary of D-Day, which commemorates the largest air, land, and sea operation undertaken before or since June 6, 1944;

Whereas in the spring of 2004, the National World War II Memorial will be dedicated in Washington, DC, to encourage Americans to celebrate and remember the contributions of President Roosevelt and the courageous men and women which were critical to the American war effort at home and American military successes overseas;

Whereas President Roosevelt supported the effort to find a cure for infantile paralysis (polio), by which he had been

paralyzed in 1921; in 1938, President Roosevelt founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, a national organization which raised funds to find a cure for polio; the following year, comedian Eddie Cantor asked the Nation to mail dimes to the White House to help the Foundation, and in one month, the White House received 2.5 million dimes; Cantor declared it “A March of Dimes” and, in 1979, the name became the lasting moniker for the Foundation;

Whereas President Roosevelt established the polio foundation hospital at Warm Springs, Georgia, for the treatment of polio patients, which had a profound impact on scores of young Americans;

Whereas in a broadcast launching the annual March of Dimes Campaign, President Harry S. Truman declared “The fight to conquer infantile paralysis is an unfinished task of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It must and shall be carried to complete victory.”; thanks to President Roosevelt and the March of Dimes, polio is largely now a thing of the past in America and worldwide eradication of polio is expected by 2005;

Whereas Americans who encountered and conquered polio have benefited from the March of Dimes and from President Roosevelt’s example of courage;

Whereas Eleanor Roosevelt more than fulfilled her traditional duties as First Lady;

Whereas she expanded the role, being voted the most admired woman in America and even called “the First Lady of the Western World” for her work on behalf of civil rights, women’s rights, and human rights; she carried on the beliefs and ideals of her husband, serving as the foremost

spokesperson for human rights around the world as the first chairperson of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights;

Whereas President Roosevelt is loved and admired by millions of Americans and by countless others around the world; and

Whereas a grateful Nation and world are better off because of President Roosevelt's inimitable leadership: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Congress, on behalf of the American people, hon-
4 ors the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roo-
5 sevelt and recognizes his contributions on the anniversary
6 of the date of his birth.

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