



"This is a monument to freedom – the power of every man and woman to transcend circumstance, to laugh in the face of fate, to make the most of what God has given."

WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
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New FDR Statue Dedicated

President Bill Clinton unveiled a new statue of Franklin Delano Roosevelt sitting in a wheelchair at the FDR Memorial in Washington, DC. The life-sized likeness marks the conclusion of a six-year campaign, led by the National Organization on Disability (www.nod.org), to add a statue that acknowledges FDR's disability.

The bronze sculpture, by Robert Graham of Venice California, is located at the entrance of the memorial across from the Information Center and Bookshop. The statue depicts Roosevelt's self-designed combination kitchen chair/commercial wheelchair. Positioned at ground level, the sculpture is easily accessible to all.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR's granddaughter and co-chairman of the committee that raised the \$1.65 million for the project, told the crowd when introducing President Clinton:

"This is an important day – but not just for those who are disabled. It is an important day for all of us.

"Jim Dixon told me that when, as a child, he was diagnosed with certain and impending blindness – his mother told him as they stood outside the doctor's office, 'If FDR can be president from a wheelchair, you can do anything you want to do in life.'

"This is the message that gets carried forward here today – and forever in this memorial. To be acknowledged for what we *can* do, and for what we *do* do – not isolated for what we can't do, is what all disabled persons strive for.

"And isn't it what we *all* strive for? And doesn't FDR's courage, and his heart, and his *will* inspire us?

"This is a memorial for all of us." ■

Cases of Polio in Hispaniola

The outbreak of polio in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the first in the Western Hemisphere since 1991, has been widely reported in the popular press.

Analyses of the strains show that all are derived from one of the strains used in the oral polio vaccine (OPV). Researchers have identified a polio outbreak from a reverted vaccine strain only once before and that was in Egypt in the 1980s.

In both instances, Egypt and Hispaniola, vaccination coverage was very low. This incident highlights the importance of continued vaccinations in countries where polio has not occurred for years.

Below is the official report from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

During July 12–November 18, 2000, 19 persons with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were identified in the Dominican Republic, including six laboratory-confirmed cases with poliovirus type 1 isolates. Of the 19 case-patients,

16 (84%) were aged ≤ 6 years (range: 9 months–21 years). All case-patients were either unvaccinated ($n=14$) or inadequately vaccinated ($n=5$). In Haiti, a single laboratory-confirmed poliovirus type 1 case was reported

in an inadequately vaccinated child aged 2 years; paralysis onset was August 30. Despite intensive case-finding activities, no additional cases have been identified.

The outbreak virus is unusual because it is derived from oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) and has 97% genetic similarity to the parental OPV strain (normally vaccine-derived isolates are $>99.5\%$ similar to the parent strain) and appears to have recovered the neurovirulence and transmissibility characteristics of wild poliovirus type 1. In comparison, wild polioviruses normally have $<82\%$ genetic