



Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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June 30, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
COMMEMORATES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY
WITH A CEREMONY ON THE GREAT LAWN OF THE ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
AND OPENS A NEW SPECIAL EXHIBITION ON PEARL HARBOR
"DAY OF INFAMY: 24 HOURS THAT CHANGED HISTORY"
JUNE 30, 2016**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum commemorated its 75th anniversary with a ceremony on the Great Lawn of the Roosevelt Library on Thursday, June 30, 2016. Remarks were made by a host of officials with a special presentation by award-winning presidential historian and columnist Michael Beschloss. Following the program, the Library opened a new special exhibition on Pearl Harbor entitled, "Day of Infamy: 24 Hours that Changed History," in the Library's vanden Heuvel Gallery (runs through December 31, 2016).

Ceremony participants included:

Paul Sparrow, Director, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

Reverend Charles Kramer, St. James Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, NY

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, Chair, Roosevelt Institute and Roosevelt granddaughter

Shirley Adams, Executive Director, Catharine Street Community

Johannes Polman, Kings Commissioner of Zeeland and Chair, Roosevelt Foundation

Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel, Emeritus Chair, Roosevelt Institute

Michael Beschloss, Author and historian

David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States

Music was provided by the **Center for American Military Music Opportunities**

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The Library's new exhibition, "Day of Infamy: 24 Hours that Changed History" begins its day-long journey at 1:47 pm (EST) on December 7, 1941 when President Roosevelt was informed of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It concludes in the early afternoon of December 8, when he delivered his famous "Day of Infamy" address to a joint session of Congress and signed the declaration of war with Japan. Visitors move through this 24-hour period with Roosevelt, experiencing its drama and confusion as it unfolds, hour by hour.

The exhibit's highlight is one of the most fabled and treasured items in the Roosevelt Library's vast collections -- FDR's hand-amended first draft of his "Day of Infamy" speech. This historic document is rarely placed on public display and will likely not be on view again for a decade. It is among a series of key documents featured in the exhibit that were seen, dictated, or written by the President and important military and civilian advisers during this 24-hour period. They include Army and Navy updates, diary entries by Cabinet members, security memos, drafts of press releases, and personal letters.

Visitors can also view a new digitally re-mastered, high definition film of FDR's entire 6 ½ minute "Day of Infamy" speech to Congress. This enhanced version of that famous speech will have its debut in this exhibition. It was specially prepared by the National Archives and Records Administration's Audio and Video Preservation Lab in a project supported by a generous contribution from AT&T.

AT&T also provided support for the exhibit and all of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum 75th anniversary programs scheduled from June 30 through July 2, 2016. Additional support for these events was provided by Health Quest, The New York Community Trust and members of the Roosevelt Library.

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Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with questions about the Library's 75th anniversary commemoration.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

Designed by Franklin Roosevelt and dedicated on June 30, 1941, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is the nation's first presidential library and the only one used by a sitting president. Every president since FDR has followed his example and established a presidential library administered by the National Archives and Records Administration to preserve and make accessible to the American people the records of their presidencies. The Roosevelt Library's mission is to foster a deeper understanding of the lives and times of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and their continuing impact on contemporary life. This work is carried out through the Library's archives and research room, museum collections and exhibitions, innovative educational programs, and engaging public programming. For more information about the Library or its programs call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.org.

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