



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
EXHIBITS WORLD WAR II POSTERS CELEBRATING
THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE WAR EFFORT
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

HYDE PARK, NY—The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum has mounted a special display of WWII posters celebrating the role of women in the war effort for Women's History Month. The posters will be on display through April 30, 2006. The poster exhibit ties in with the Museum's new major exhibition, *Freedom From Fear: FDR Commander in Chief*, exploring President Roosevelt's role as a wartime leader.

World War II profoundly affected the lives of American women as the nation mobilized for national defense. With factories booming and millions of men entering the military, labor shortages threatened the economy. To help overcome this problem, the government urged women to enter the workforce in greater numbers. Millions responded, including many who took well-paying industrial jobs previously reserved for men. The number of women workers increased by over six million. After the war, women were encouraged to relinquish these jobs to returning veterans.

Women also contributed to the war effort by serving as nurses or joining the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps and auxiliaries established in other military service branches. Others planted "victory gardens," conserved scarce goods needed for defense production, joined salvage drives, and volunteered as air raid wardens and Red Cross workers.

Many World War II posters aimed at women contained text and images designed to reassure Americans that female war workers and military personnel retained their traditional femininity.

Freedom from Fear: FDR Commander in Chief, the Roosevelt Library's new exhibition, is organized around an important collection of revealing—and often top secret—documents and objects from the FDR Library's vast archive of World War II materials. These include many items that have never been displayed in public, including secret military documents from the President's "Map Room"; communications between key military, diplomatic and political leaders; planning documents; reports from the war fronts; personal memos and correspondence and fascinating museum objects.

Visitors can see the poster exhibit with regular museum admission. Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with any questions about the poster exhibit or the *Freedom from Fear: FDR Commander in Chief* exhibition.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of twelve presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.

