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**FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Roosevelt Institute
Receive \$30,000 Contribution from AT&T
to Launch Special Digitization Project of FDR's Master Speeches;
Kick-off commemorates 71st anniversary of the signing of the G.I. Bill**

HYDE PARK, NY -- On June 22, 2015 -- in commemoration of the 71st anniversary of the signing of the G.I. Bill -- the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Roosevelt Institute launched a special digitization project made possible through the support of AT&T. The company, a leader in communications and technology, is providing a \$30,000 contribution to support the initiative, which will provide people all over the world access to a deeper understanding of some of FDR's most famous and important speeches.

"AT&T is proud to collaborate with the FDR Presidential Library and the Roosevelt Institute to conserve these historic speeches for decades to come," said Marissa Shorenstein, New York president, AT&T. "We applaud the library's use of technology to digitize these documents so they are preserved in perpetuity and accessible for future generations of students, academics, and researchers across the globe."

The project brings together for the first time the **President's Master Speech File** and the **FDR Speech Audio Recordings** and makes them available through FRANKLIN, the Library's online digital repository (www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu) hosted by Marist College.

Roosevelt Library Acting Director Robert Clark said, "The Roosevelt Library and the Roosevelt Institute are grateful for AT&T's generous support of this important digitization initiative to preserve the documents and sounds recordings of President Roosevelt's speeches. As a leader in communications technology, AT&T is making it possible for the Library to bring FDR's own

mastery of communication to everyone, anywhere in the world through this digitization project."

"The words and speeches of FDR are some of the most significant in our nation's history and his commitment to the success of our veterans was unparalleled," said Senator Sue Serino (R, C, I—Hyde Park). "The lessons he shared not only shaped America at the time, but have continued to impact generation after generation. By increasing access to such a vital part of our history, The FDR Presidential Library, in collaboration with AT&T, is doing a true public service."

The FDR Speech Audio Recordings collection is comprised of 315 unique audio recordings which demonstrate his mastery of the radio as a communications device and pioneering ability to reach the American people more personally and directly than any other president before him. Unlike any president before or since, FDR used communications technology in a way that would fundamentally alter the relation of the Office of the President to the American people. This collection of recordings chronicles the process by which that transformation took place. The recordings alone, however, present only part of the story.

The President's Master Speech File is a critical component of the story that will be told by making these collections available to the broader public. The Master Speech File is comprised of speech drafts, reading copies, and official as-delivered transcripts. These files were maintained by FDR's personal secretary and kept in the White House before being transferred to the Roosevelt Library upon the President's death in 1945. Included in this remarkable collection are the famous Fireside Chats, all four Inaugural Addresses, the Four Freedoms Speech, the "Day of Infamy" Pearl Harbor Speech, the D-Day Prayer, hundreds of other addresses to Congress, extemporaneous remarks, campaign speeches, and policy addresses. In short, the documents offer an unprecedented view of how America's greatest modern President carefully crafted his communications with the nation.

The drafts and reading copies in this collection include hand-written edits and annotations which provide an incredible window into the mind of FDR and an intimate view of not only evolution of the speeches, but also the evolution of FDR himself into the one of the most insightful and talented communicators in American presidential history. They are an integral part of the Roosevelt legacy, revealing the innovative way in which FDR used communications to fundamentally alter the American presidency.

Combining the Master Speech File and Audio Recordings

The simultaneous digitization of these collections will enable FRANKLIN users to follow the evolution of many speeches from their earliest draft form to the final spoken product. For the first time, users will be able to understand as never before how FDR combined communications technology with his own political acumen to achieve his political and social aims.

Franklin Roosevelt used direct communication to calm the fears of an anxious nation, explain his program for economic recovery, defend democracy, and defeat fascism. He embraced the best technology available to him and his understanding of the importance of this technology enabled him to establish a new dialogue and relationship between the people and their president that persists to this day. This project will make this defining aspect of FDR's presidency more apparent than ever before.

The Digitization Process

A digital asset management process led by a team of Library archival staff will employ paid interns to draft and encode descriptions for the digitized materials, enhance and package digital files for posting online, and other tasks required to make the recordings accessible via FRANKLIN.

The original Master Speech File currently exists on a total of 48 reels of microfilm, with approximately 850 frames on each reel. Digitizing the Master Speech File will result in the addition of approximately 41,000 pages of primary source documents to FRANKLIN.

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.marist.edu.

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