

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Mayor:

August 21, 1981

January 30, 1982 will be the centennial of the birth of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Given his stature as almost unquestionably the greatest President of the century, we believe this date and the centennial year have a profound national significance.

FDR gave this nation a sense of purpose and direction that few leaders in our history have done. The two greatest crises to face this nation in this century were the Great Depression and World War II; it was FDR who successfully led the country in overcoming those sad events.

It has been an American tradition to observe and honor its greatest Presidents on the centennial of their births. Examples include the centennials of Woodrow Wilson in 1956, Theodore Roosevelt in 1958, and the sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln in 1959. On those occasions officials from municipal, state, and national governments initiated a variety of activities to commemorate the particular President. As members of the private, non-profit FDR National Centennial Committee and as members of Congress, we urge you to pay homage to this foremost figure of American history.

Already extensive preparations are in the works in Washington, D.C., including a series of events at the Smithsonian Institution. The FDR centennial celebration will be the broadest observance at the Smithsonian since the 1976 Bicentennial. Centennial legislation is also being considered in the U.S. Congress. We urge that - as has occurred in the past - non-partisan state organizations be formed to decide on how a state can best celebrate the centennial year.

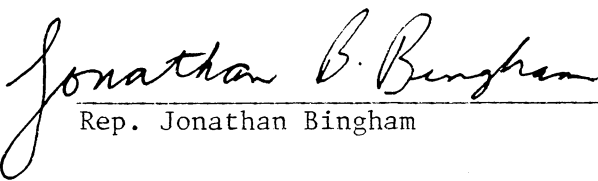
In previous centennials preparations for this observance have been done by State Centennial Commissions or Citizens Centennial Committees. Governors could also issue proclamations on the occasion which describe the state's particular debt to FDR.

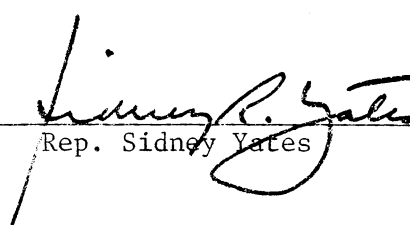
In past observances state organizations have encouraged libraries and museums to set up exhibits; parades have been held; public schools were successfully urged to focus attention on the President; various private associations passed resolutions or held dinners in honor of the President; state agencies prepared pamphlets and other materials which described the President and his activities in their area. Many of these activities were given extensive coverage by newspapers, magazines, radio and television.

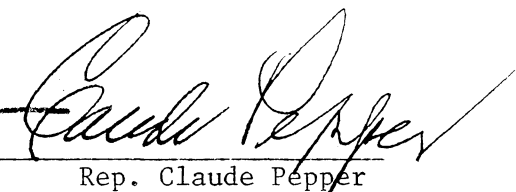
We hope you will join with us in observing this most significant occasion. For further information, feel free to write:

FDR National Centennial Committee
Suite 1108
500 Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Sincerely,


Rep. Jonathan Bingham


Rep. Sidney Yates


Rep. Claude Pepper

Comm. from Representatives Jonathan Bingham,
Sidney Yates and Claude Pepper regarding
the centennial of the birth of Franklin
Delano Roosevelt.

See Journal

In City Council,

September 21, 1981

9/21/81

Referral to Comgr
FOR
Recommendations