

## FDR TO DELIVER FIRESIDE CHAT AT PLACE

The people of **city or region** have been invited to sit-in on an address to the nation, delivered by the President of the United States shortly following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. President Roosevelt, will address a sober nation at low point of WWII. He plans to bring hope, determination to America and its beleaguered allies, plus begin the planning for peace when victory is ultimately achieved. **Director of Sponsoring Group** says *“the FDR presentation is a special opportunity for the people of city or area to experience this historical moment in time.”*

Dr. Gray is the author of *MR. PRESIDENTS: Voices of Freedom, Equality, and Dignity* (Presidential Press, ISBN: 0-9774194-0-1), now available at bookstores everywhere. Along with FDR, the book features nine historical “moments in time” featuring George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, Theodore Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt (with Erma Stewart as the first lady), and General Douglas MacArthur.

Dr. Gray is a historian, actor and writer renowned for his brilliant and historically accurate portrayals of seven of America’s greatest citizens. His performances have received acclaimed reviews and standing ovations. Dr. Gray holds graduate degrees from Phillips University, Southern Methodist and Notre Dame, along with a doctorate from Oklahoma State University. He has performed/lectured in every state and worldwide, and taught at Phillips University and Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Dr. Gray is the author of eleven books and the former publisher and editor of two national magazines.

Dr. Gray considers Franklin Delano Roosevelt among the greatest and most influential American presidents. FDR was born to a wealthy New York family with a famous political name. He did not understand the “average” American and had accomplished little by the time he was nominated by the Democrats as vice president in 1920.

In 1921 FDR was stricken with polio and his struggle allowed him to understand other pain and helped him develop the beliefs that led to some of the most important American initiatives in history. *“The New Deal may not have happened in the form it did without that struggle with polio,”* Gray said.

Elected president in 1932 he entered an era when the once-great America was struggling to continue. His programs helped the nation survive. But, by the end of the decade a new evil rose its head to threaten the world as Germany, Italy and Japan began to rattle sabers. The nation kept Roosevelt in office to face this new challenge.

During those depression years and again during the dark days of World War II, Roosevelt’s “fireside chats” helped give the nation courage. Gray’s portrayal of Roosevelt is one of those famous “chats”.

Throughout his struggle with polio and after he realized he would never walk again, Roosevelt could truthfully tell a beleaguered nation, *“We have nothing to fear, but fear itself.”*

Gray believes Roosevelt's ability to reach people was a key ingredient to his success. *"In retrospect, FDR's ability to mobilize (both human and physical resources) is not only remarkable, but, I suggest the single most important factor in the ultimate allied victory,"* he said.

Dr. Gray has spent years researching FDR. He has visited FDR's homes in Hyde Park, NY, Campobello in New Brunswick, Canada, and The Little White House in Warm Springs, GA, plus interviewed key FDR biographers. Recently Gray teamed with Erma Stewart (who portrays Eleanor Roosevelt) in a special "Franklin and Eleanor" presentation. In it, FDR is in 1945, just four days before his death, while Eleanor is in 1948 after having successfully leading the Human Rights Charter through the United Nations.

**Host directors' name** suggests *"the people of **city or area** will be fascinated by this unique portrait of one of America's most capable and visionary men. You will feel as if you were there witnessing this critical message to a stunned America, much as we all recently felt following the events of 9/11. Dr. Gray's portrayal is historically accurate and reveals FDR's unique character. Please plan to join us on **date**."*