



DRIVING WITH FDR 2012
COLLECTIBLE CALENDAR
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PRESS RELEASE

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ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S 127th BIRTHDAY WAS CELEBRATED ON OCTOBER 11TH

HYDE PARK, NY, October 11, 2011 -- There was no better place to celebrate Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday, on Tuesday, October 11th, than the Hudson Valley, where Eleanor grew up and where, after marrying FDR, she became a progressive political activist who profoundly changed America and the world," Stefan Lonce, the author and designer of the **DRIVING WITH FDR 2012 COLLECTIBLE CALENDAR** said.

On October 11th, at 3 PM, the National Parks Service celebrated what would have been Eleanor Roosevelt's 127th birthday at the Rose Garden gravesite where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and their dog Fala, are buried, on the grounds of Springwood, the Roosevelt mansion in Hyde Park. A festive birthday cake was served.

According to Lonce (and the web site of the FDR Presidential Library, www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu), Eleanor Roosevelt was born on October 11, 1884, the eldest child in an unhappy family. Before Eleanor was 10, both her parents had died and she, and her two brothers, moved to Tivoli, NY to live with their maternal grandmother. Franklin and Eleanor, who were fifth cousins, fell in love while he was a Harvard student; they married in 1905. The Roosevelts had five surviving children who, as adults, were much-involved in their parents' lives.

As Lonce explains in the 4 page story at the beginning of his calendar, which the FDR Library gift shop is selling (for \$18), Eleanor Roosevelt became a political wife on November 8, 1910, when FDR was elected, as a Democrat, to the New York State Senate, representing Dutchess, Columbia and Putnam Counties. On August 10, 1921, FDR was paralyzed by polio; Eleanor nursed FDR back to health, became his political surrogate, and encouraged him to return to politics, which he did on October 2, 1928, when New York State Democrats nominated him to run for Governor. He was elected on November 6, 1928.

"After FDR was paralyzed, Eleanor Roosevelt learned to speak effectively in public – she worked hard to overcome her innate shyness and insecurity -- and became an activist in Democratic politics," Lonce said. "As First Lady of NY, Eleanor Roosevelt inspected State facilities so she could tell her husband, the Governor, what really went on there. She also devoted herself to her own projects... like Val-Kill Industries, a furniture manufacturer that she co-founded. FDR built her a cottage in Hyde Park, which allowed her to escape from her domineering mother-in-law, Sara Delano Roosevelt, who ruled at Springwood."

According to Lonce, "After FDR was elected President in 1932, Eleanor Roosevelt became the first First Lady to hold regular press conferences. She continued her inspection trips, but also advocated against racism, anti-Semitism and sexism. 'No one can make you feel inferior without your consent,' Eleanor Roosevelt famously said. After FDR died on April 12, 1945, the widowed-Eleanor continued writing the syndicated newspaper column she started while she was First Lady. President Truman appointed her a member of the first American delegation to the UN, where she masterminded the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which helped lead to the collapse of the Soviet Union, and other tyrannical dictatorships around the world."

"Today, October 11, 2011, which would have been her 127th birthday, we should celebrate the life and legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt, who was First Lady of New York, First Lady of the United States, and First Lady of the World," Lonce said.

A slideshow of the **DRIVING WITH FDR 2012 COLLECTIBLE CALENDAR** can be viewed online at www.DrivingWithFDR.com, where the calendar is sold for \$18 (plus \$6 for shipping & handling).

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