

As appeared in the July 2015 edition of
The Montauk Sun

www.MontaukSun.com



**LET'S NAME THE NEW TAPPAN ZEE
BRIDGE THE FRANKLIN AND
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT BRIDGE**
by Stefan Lonce + M.H. Fryburg

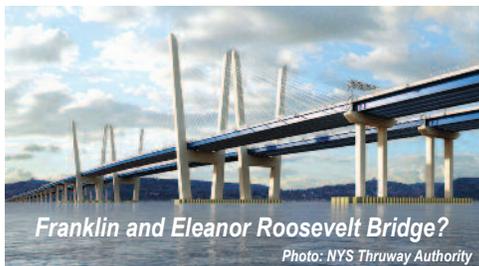
We think that the new Tappan Zee Bridge, which spans the Hudson between Tarrytown (in Westchester County) and Nyack (in Rockland County), should be named the FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT BRIDGE.

That's because Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt were Hudson Valley natives who were the 2 most important and influential 20th century Americans, and because naming the new bridge after the Roosevelts would boost tourism (the FDR Presidential Library and Museum is in Hyde Park, in Dutchess County).

The Roosevelts were role models who each overcame huge personal obstacles. Franklin was paralyzed by polio on 8-10-1921, when he was 39 years old; he never walked, unassisted, again. FDR spent the next 3 years struggling to learn to walk again, so he could get back into politics (the Democrats had nominated FDR for Vice President in 1920, but the Cox-Roosevelt ticket lost in a landslide).

Nothing worked, however, until FDR discovered Warm Springs, Georgia, where the naturally buoyant 89 degree spring waters enabled paralyzed polio patients, including FDR, to walk in pools filled with those empowering waters. Aquatic exercise, together with well-crafted braces, enabled FDR to make it look like he could walk, by grabbing onto a "walking partner's" hand, and leaning on a cane.

Although he couldn't walk after 8-10-1921, FDR could drive, using hand controls he designed! Driving gave FDR confidence and hope, and enabled him to disguise his



Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Bridge?

Photo: NYS Thruway Authority

disability, and get himself elected NY Governor (in 1928 and 1930) and President (in 1932, 1936, 1940 and 1944).

Eleanor Roosevelt overcame crippling insecurities and repeated disappointments in those closest to her to become FDR's political partner during his Presidency, and, after he died (in Warm Springs, on 4-12-1945), to draft and persuade the United Nations to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt gave people hope during the darkest hours of the Great Depression, which began in 1929. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," FDR famously said, in his 1st Inaugural Address (on 3-4-1933).

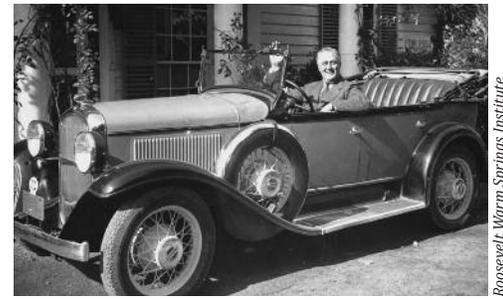
FDR stopped a banking crisis, which paralyzed the country when he was inaugurated, by getting Congress to pass the Emergency Banking Act (on 3-9-1933) and then by assuring Americans, in his 1st (radio) Fireside chat, "It is safer to keep your money in a reopened bank than under the mattress." FDR's radio rhetoric worked – after FDR spoke, deposits exceeded withdrawals in the reopened banks!

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt fought the Depression with a panoply of programs. FDR's New Deal included the Civilian Conservation Corps, public works programs (which built highways, bridges, parks, airports and government buildings), laws requiring honest disclosures by issuers and sellers of stocks and bonds, minimum wage/maximum hour laws, laws recognizing unions, and Social Security, which has done more good for more people than any government program in American history.

FDR, who was fluent in German, recognized before almost *anyone* the menace that Adolf Hitler posed to *everyone*. If Franklin Roosevelt had not been President in 1939 and 1940, when he rearmed America and helped the British stave off defeat by Nazi Germany, then Hitler almost certainly would have won WW2 – with terrifying consequences for *everyone*.

America and the Allies won WW2 only because of the leadership that Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt provided us. FDR was a masterful Commander-in-Chief who chose his generals wisely and didn't try to micromanage them. Utilizing the inspirational powers he developed among the polio patients in Warm Springs, where he founded the world's leading polio clinic, FDR inspired Americans and people around the world to persevere and to triumph during the darkest days of WW2.

For all those reasons, we have begun a campaign through the 4 A BETTER WESTCHESTER + NYS ASSOCIATION, INC. (a nonprofit we co-founded in 2005) to persuade the NY Legislature, and Governor Cuomo, to support bills introduced, at our behest, in the State Senate (by George Latimer) and in the



Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute

FDR poses in front of *The Little White House*, the cottage he designed for himself in Warm Springs, GA in 1933.

Assembly (by Ellen Jaffee) to name the new Tappan Zee Bridge the FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT BRIDGE.

We are grateful to Senator Latimer and to Assemblywoman Jaffee for introducing the bridge naming bills (S5865 and A8225, respectively); thanks also to Arnold Lindhardt (who runs Strategic Services, an Albany lobbying and policy advocacy organization), whom we hired after it became clear that we couldn't get our voices heard in Albany, who persuaded Senator Latimer and Assemblywoman Jaffee to sponsor the bridge naming bills.

When the Legislature re-convenes (in January 2016), we think that our FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT BRIDGE naming bills could easily pass! Please join our campaign to "TAKE BACK OUR FUTURE NOW" (that's our slogan!) by supporting our campaign for the FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT BRIDGE by persuading our State Senators, Assembly Members, Governor Cuomo, other elected officials, organizations, and our fellow New Yorkers to support the FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT BRIDGE naming bills.

For more information, please visit the 4 A BETTER WESTCHESTER + NYS ASSOCIATION web site, www.TakeBackOurFutureNow.org.



WWW.TAKEBACKOURFUTURENOW.ORG

STEFAN LONCE and MH FRYBURG are working on *DRIVING WITH FDR: A CALENDARICAL BIOGRAPHY + MEMOIR*; please visit www.DrivingWithFDR.com for more information about how FDR was able to get back into politics, after he was paralyzed by polio and could no longer walk, because he was able to drive, using hand controls that he designed; the hand controls gave FDR hope, and confidence, and enabled him to persuade Americans that he was physically fit enough to be President.