

Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (NY-28) unveiled a large and unique collection of documents and letters from former President Franklin D. Roosevelt that soon will be on display at the Franklin D. Roosevelt library in New York.

The collection, known as the Grace Tully papers after Roosevelt's longtime secretary who maintained them, is set to transfer from a private collection to the government so all Americans can study and better understand this historic presidency. The collection was made public as a result of legislation that Slaughter introduced and was signed into law this year.

"I'm delighted that these documents are coming home where they belong," said Slaughter. "Being even a small part of this has been an honor for me. My father told me he'd walk 15 miles to vote for President Roosevelt. It took an act of Congress and the signature of a President but now Americans will be able to gain greater insight into the thoughts, actions and the tremendous compassion showed by one of our nation's greatest Presidents."

Slaughter was joined at the National Archives in Washington, DC by the Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, Director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library Cynthia Koch, Senator Charles Schumer, and President Roosevelt's granddaughter Anna Roosevelt.

In November, Slaughter passed legislation signed into law by President Obama, securing the papers transfer to the National Archives and preserving them for generations to come.

The collection will be processed by November 15 and available online next January.

The collection includes personal correspondence that discussed the creation of Social Security and other programs that were integral to the New Deal. The collection also includes draft copy of the President's 1941 address to a joint session of Congress. The hand written notes on the

draft discuss the attack on Pearl Harbor and the President's timeless statement that December 7, 1941, was a "date which will live in infamy."

A video outlining the significance and contents of the collection is available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rs3ghShQWh0>

More information on the Grace Tully Archive and FDR Presidential Library is available here:

<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/collections/tully.html>

### Highlights from the Grace Tully Papers

- Roosevelt's 1941 Inaugural Address
- Handwritten notes on the Dec. 8 "Date Which Will Live in Infamy" speech to Congress
- A prayer written by Roosevelt on the eve of D-Day in 1944
- Roosevelt's address to the White House Correspondent's Association in 1941
- A signed and inscribed ready copy of his "Rendezvous with destiny," speech given in June 1936
- A handwritten note from Prime Minister Benito Mussolini asking for a meeting to discuss their mutual interests from 1933

### FDR and Western New York

- Roosevelt was elected New York's Governor in 1928 which served as the comeback to his political career. He was reelected in 1930.
- In 1928 while running for Governor, Roosevelt made a stop in Buffalo, NY where he famously railed against Republican broken promises to labor.
- In a 1936 speech, then-President Roosevelt tells a Rochester crowd in the rain that the first political convention he ever attended was in Rochester in 1910. He also told the

crowd, “I am glad to stand here without a hat, for they tell me that rain is good for thin hair.”

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=15196>

- That same day, Roosevelt went to Buffalo where he recalls laying the cornerstone of the State Office Building where he spoke. He called the building along with its counterparts in Albany and New York City “testimonials to the foresight and good business sense of the State of New York.”

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=15194>

- In 1940, President Roosevelt returned to Buffalo 3 days before the election day that would ultimately seal his unprecedented 3<sup>rd</sup> term. He told the crowd he wished he could stay in Buffalo longer.

- “When I come to Buffalo I think that this City and your sister City of Detroit probably can be held up as examples of just what this country is striving for humanity—just what this country is striving for in relations between all the nations of the world. I looked out of the train window this morning and I saw the Canadian shore, and I wished that I could get out as far as Detroit and see the same thing. Here are these cities that look across a narrow strip of water and see another nation. We are not only at peace with that nation; but, in all of our personal relationships with that nation, we have and we seek the kind of unarmed peace that we are looking for, some day, throughout the world...I wish I could stay here in Buffalo longer, but, as you know, I cannot get too far off base.”

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=15892>