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THE BOSTON GLOBE THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2001

# The Nation

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HANNAH McFADDEN, 4-year-old on crutches

## FDR inspires a new generation

### Statue of president in a wheelchair unveiled in D.C.

By Jeffrey McMurray  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Hannah McFadden, a 4-year-old Albanian immigrant born with a leg deformity, didn't need her mother to explain a statue, unveiled yesterday, of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a wheelchair.

"It means people on crutches and in a wheelchair can do anything," said McFadden, who had hot-pink crutches at the ceremony at which President Clinton dedicated the statue.

Disabled groups have advocated the addition to the Roosevelt memorial, which spans 7.5 acres near the Potomac River. The monument features waterfalls, shade trees, and another sculpture of the president, who led the country through the Great Depression and World War II.

Deborah McFadden, who adopted Hannah and a disabled Russian immigrant, said she could not help but feel patriotic.

"In their countries, people die from their disabilities; they're put in a closet and hoped they don't live," McFadden said. "But here in America, we don't hide. The president comes out to honor disabled people."

The bronze sculpture, depicting




Franklin D. Roosevelt and granddaughter Ruthie Bie in 1941 (left). Yesterday, President Clinton attended the unveiling of a statue in Washington, with Ann Eleanor Roosevelt and James Roosevelt, grandchildren of FDR.

Roosevelt in his combination kitchen stool and commercial wheelchair, sits at the park's entrance as a prologue to the story of the Roosevelt years. It is low enough for those in wheelchairs to touch, and Clinton said he especially liked this.

"It is grand and beautiful, all right, but it is so accessible in a way that, I think, would have pleased President Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt," Clinton said. "The power of the statue is in its immediacy, and its reminder for all who touch, who see, who wheel and walk around, that they, too, are free."

AP PHOTO (LEFT), REUTERS PHOTO

Photo Caption "Franklin D. Roosevelt and granddaughter Ruthie Bie in 1941 (left). Yesterday, President Clinton attended the unveiling of a statue in Washington, with Ann Eleanor Roosevelt and James Roosevelt, grandchildren of FDR."

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HANNAH McFADDEN, 4-year-old on crutches "quote placed above headline

"FDR inspires a new generation: Statue of president in a wheelchair unveiled in D.C." from *the Boston Globe*, *The Nation*

section, January 11, 2001

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