

# Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)

Franklin Delano Roosevelt—President of the United States, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and world statesman—gave his life to the service of his country and world betterment just as had thousands of young Americans before him on the field of battle. His sudden death Thursday was a profound shock and brought grief to millions throughout the world, to whom the President was a symbol of peace, happiness and security. The rigors of more than 12 years of crisis were too much for one man to endure.

Although the loss of so able and respected a leader is a grievous blow, it is fortunate for America and the world that the President lived to see the certain promise of victory in the war and early fulfilment of his aspiration for a world security organization that would seek to bring a lasting peace to a suffering humanity. His own sacrifice should be an inspiration to the peace loving people of the world.

When Mr. Roosevelt assumed the Presidency in March 1933, gloom assailed the American people, and in his epochal inaugural address he inspired them with faith and confidence in themselves and their rich country. Speedily, the President directed Congress to enact banking, business and other reforms to hasten recovery. The deposit guaranty law, the securities and exchange act, soil and other natural resource conservation measures, industrial legislation, the social security act and many other remedial measures were among the constructive proposals he advanced in bringing the country out of the morass of depression. Even those measures, regarded on some scores as too drastic, came at a time when the rest of the world was in a state of revolution or unrest, and hence it is important to recog-

nize what the President averted for America as well as what he did.

In his speech in Chicago in 1937, the President sought to warn the country of the imminence of war by his famous declaration for "quarantining the aggressors." Despite the unfavorable reaction to that speech, the President proceeded with plans for a greater Navy as America's first line of defense. Even before the outbreak of the war in 1939, he was quietly proceeding with national preparedness. By the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, an armed force was being mobilized through selective service, aid short of war was being extended Britain and our vast industrial machine was being readied for the supreme production task.

Allied successes in both Europe and the Pacific are testimony to the President's war leadership. To his formulation of the Atlantic Charter in collaboration with Prime Minister Churchill is due largely the hope of Allied peoples for enduring the ordeal of war and working together toward the inspiring goal of peace and security. The President gave his energies to the Allied conferences at Casablanca, Cairo, Teheran, Quebec and Yalta, and his attendance at the last meeting of the "Big Three" after recent illness is said to have so taxed his strength as to have hastened his death.

Mr. Roosevelt will go down in history as one of the nation's really great presidents. His indomitable courage, his resourcefulness, foresight, intelligent grasp of domestic and world problems, his humanity and many other virtues were the marks of greatness. Earlier in life, he mastered physical infirmity from infantile paralysis to rise to the Presidency and a place of world leadership. His influence and inspiration will live after him to bear the world through the ordeal of war into the days of peace, security and wellbeing.