Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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RLJ
I hope that you little people who are old enough to read the story of the United States have had a chance to learn about the wonderful things Americans have done on the sea. And I believe that your fathers and mothers and teachers will tell you about some of the great men who made the American flag respected all over the world and did the brave things that you and I like to think about today. Every American boy and girl ought to know how Captain Nicholas Rugby sacrificed himself and his ship in order to save a great many merchant ships.
from being captured by the enemy; and how Captain Sterrett fought and captured a great ship full of pirates who were injuring peaceable American traders; and how Captain Lawrence after he was fatally wounded did not think about himself but about his ship and his flag and gave his last words: 'Don't give up the ship!' and of those other men in the Navy who did great things in time of peace, like Commodore Perry who opened up Japan to trade and commerce and like the many officers who have a time again prevented fighting and bloodshed all over the world.
I always think it is better and pleasanter to read about people who have really lived and done great things than about imaginary heroes. And both of the things our Navy has done are just as interesting and wonderful as if somebody had invented them. For if we know that the heroes really lived and that not so very long ago, and that the things they did were actually happened, it is going to make it easier for us to try to do splendid acts too.

Do not forget that you children have even a better chance today to accomplish great things than...
Children did a hundred years ago. They had their heroes, and you should have your heroes too. Keep learning and thinking about the men and women whose country you serve. Remember that the same flag waved over them as waved over you; try to follow their example of unselfish devotion to that flag; for in so doing you will help to keep that flag unfurled, you will be better Americans and your country will some day think of you also as heroes.