
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

File No. 44

1915 June 19

Brooklyn, NY

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Extracts from speech of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy at the Banquet of the New York Navy Yard employees in honor of the launching of the U.S.S. ARIZONA, Brooklyn, June 19th, 1915:

It is, of course, fitting that our sister State of Arizona should be at the front in Brooklyn today. Arizona has every right to be proud of the great ship which bears her name and we believe that during the days to come when this ship takes her place in the fighting line of the Fleet Arizona will have no cause to lose her pride in her ship.

Another^{or} State has an interest and a pride today in the new battleship. We New Yorkers will always remember that she was built here within our own limits and very largely through the work of our own citizens and friends.

But back of all this is the thought that the Arizona is the Nation's ship; that she is built with the Nation's money and the Nation's brains for the service of the people of every state. This, I think, we are in no danger of forgetting. In the earliest history of our Navy it became the custom to name our ships after States and localities. It is a good custom in that it brings home the intimate relation that the State and the locality bears to the whole body politic known as the United States. This ship has been built through cooperation, - cooperation in the beginning of the representatives of several States of the Nation who voted to authorize her construction. Then by

the cooperation of those brilliant and devoted men who are serving their country in the technical work of planning and designing ships that we believe have no superiors in the world. Then later the construction of the ship itself through the cooperation of thousands of American citizens in factories scattered over many States. And finally by the cooperation of the excellent force of employees in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, whose faithful service and attention to duty has been an all-important and essential factor in making this new and powerful addition to our Navy. This cooperation has resulted in the tangible mass of well wrought metal that today has been floated on the waters of the East River.

And the same cooperation will bring the ship to completion; will man her and officer her, and will bring her into the Fleet as a component part of that cooperative body which exists for the defense of the country as a whole - the United States Navy.