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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

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**File No. 444**

**1931 October 22**

**Albany, NY -**  
**Unveiling of Governor Glynn Portrait**

At Unveiling of Governor Glynn Portrait, Executive Chamber,  
State Capitol, Albany, October 22, 1931

*Martin H. Glynn*

Mrs. Glynn: Almost eighteen years to the day have elapsed since Martin Henry Glynn, forty-third Governor of New York, assumed the duties of that office, culminating the kind of career that attracts the imagination and fancy of every real young American to whom we hold forth constantly that the son of the humblest shares with the son of the affluent, a birthright of equality and unlimited opportunity. Today it is my honor and privilege to accept from you, Mrs. Glynn, this splendid portrait to remain on the walls of this historic room, entrusted to the custody of the State he so well and faithfully served.

Living in the county of Columbia that adjoins my home county of Dutchess, Martin Glynn and I were neighbors and I early came to know him and to admire his sterling character, ability and fine ambition that brought his rise from the Little Red School House to a prominent place in State and National affairs. I followed his career as Congressman, as Editor and Publisher, as Comptroller of the State, as Lieutenant Governor and as Governor. I was in close touch also with what I regard to be the crowning and most glorious event in his life when he, as Temporary Chairman of the Democratic National Convention of 1916, delivered that now historical address that in the minds of many practically guaranteed the reelection of Woodrow Wilson as President of the United States.

Martin Glynn lent himself everlastingly to the task at hand and to every office of public trust that he ever held, he gave energetic, untiring, unselfish service devoting himself with great vision to the solution of the problems of the times, the result of which is reflected in many benefits that we enjoy today.

As Congressman, a pioneer of the Deeper Hudson movement, he secured appropriations for the improvement of the river from New York City to Troy—and later made a strong appeal before the Rivers and Harbors Committee of the House of Representatives for generous appropriations for the deepening of the upper waters of the Hudson river, as a preparation for the opening of the Barge canal. Today with pride we find the capital city of our State united with the Great Lakes and watch with satisfaction ocean going ships wharfed at our piers.

His ability was recognized by President McKinley in 1901, by his appointment to membership on the National Commission of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of which he was elected Vice-President.

As Comptroller of the State of New York, he was faced with the critical financial situation of 1907, a condition not unlike the period through which we are passing today and again he demonstrated his great executive ability.

As Lieutenant Governor he presided over the Senate with dignity, fairness and at all times with a keen and intimate understanding of matters of State before that body. It was my privilege at that time to sit at his feet.

And when in this historic room he took his formal oath of office on October 17, 1913, he brought with him a background of fitness and training seldom possessed by any of his predecessors. Again we find that his recommendations to the Legislature, many of them enacted into law, pointed sharply to his vision and discernment. He secured the passage of a thorough-going direct primary bill; he signed the law securing the adoption of the Massachusetts ballot which took candidates out of party columns on the ballot and grouped them under the office for which they were running. He provided for the direct election of United States Senators. He advocated and signed the Workmen's Compensation Law and his pride in this accomplishment was expressed by himself, when he said in a public speech: "If I were asked to select a single achievement which would typify the ideals and spirit of my administration, I should point without a moment's hesitation to the Workmen's Compensation Law."

Governor Glynn was a man of high literary attainments,—his stirring editorials and addresses revealing his mastery of words and the vast amount

of historical fact at his command. His Public Papers are a further attestation to the purity of his thought and the fluency of his pen.

There are monuments to his memory not the least of which portrays another great American. The statue of Philip Sheridan in Capitol Park was placed there by no other person than Martin Glynn. He initiated the thought—he required the funds—he overcame the every besetting obstacle,—and he lived to see the fulfilment of the undertaking. His admiration for Sheridan was supreme.

Mrs. Glynn, I express to you the thanks of the people of the State. To me the room looks more as it should—and whether it be a matter of sentiment or otherwise, I have arranged that this likeness of your distinguished husband be placed beside that of Martin Van Buren, together two bright stars in the firmament of Columbia County's history—men who impressed their personality upon the State, the Nation and the World.

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