

## ***Anna Eleanor Roosevelt: A Paragon of Greatness***

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) was an amazing human being, and an inspiration to an entire nation. She was passionate about life and her beliefs. She was not afraid to take a stand for what she believed. In fact, she sought out many opportunities to lecture, persuade, and crusade for causes she felt deeply about, such as the rights of women, African-Americans, youth, the poor, and the unemployed.

Eleanor was a proud supporter of her husband, President Franklin Roosevelt. After Franklin was paralyzed by polio in 1921, Eleanor became his political representative. She involved herself with every aspect of his political career, and still endeavored to pursue and support her own passions for humanity and equality. During the Great Depression Eleanor was an outspoken representative for the poor; many of her ideas were incorporated in the New Deal Social Welfare Program.

She was actively involved in various organizations, some of which included: the League of Women Voters, the Women's Trade Union League, National Youth Administration, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Americans for Democratic Action. She also founded UNICEF, and established the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Commission. She was a remarkable politician and held many prestigious positions due to her vivacious nature, her no fear attitude, and her genuine concern for everyone. Eleanor served as a delegate to the first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations. President John F. Kennedy appointed her the head of the Commission on the Status of Women, and she also served as chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission.

One of the most fascinating attributes of Eleanor was her zest for life. She wanted to be an inspiration and to use her life to help those who were in need. She was a no nonsense type of woman who would fight for a good cause, even if it was not popular with the public. For instance, when the African-American singer, Marian Anderson, was denied use of the Daughters of the American Revolution facility, Eleanor was outraged and resigned instantly due to her strong belief in civil rights and equality.

Eleanor Roosevelt championed the underprivileged, fought for equality, and was a true paragon of greatness in the eyes of those who knew her. At Eleanor's memorial service, Adlai Stevenson said: "She would rather light candles than curse the darkness, and her glow warmed the world."