

Glick Peace Walk Luminary Figure Speeches for Dedication

Music: Bach – Cello Suite No.2 – Gigue (2:43)

Benjamin Franklin

Rob: Benjamin Franklin was the youngest son of seventeen children of a Boston candle and soap maker. His family could only afford to send him to school for two years so Franklin became a self-educated man.

Pris: His brilliance as an inventor, writer and socialite produced numerous accomplishments and innovations, including the lightning rod, bifocals, swimming fins and the social practice of “paying it forward,” none of which he patented.

In 1718, 12 year old Benjamin began an apprenticeship to his brother, James, who printed the colonies’ first independent newspaper. Ben secretly submitted articles under the pseudonym, “Mrs. Silence Dogood,” which became popular with readers.

Rob: In 1730 Franklin published his own newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. The paper provided a forum for his common sense views that earned him public respect.

Pris: 1732 brought the publication of *Poor Richard’s Almanac* – a popular source of folk wisdom and continual bestseller.

Rob: In 1750, Franklin published a proposal for an experiment to demonstrate that lightning is electrical energy by flying a kite in a thunderstorm. In 1752, a Frenchman conducted Franklin’s proposed experiment and used a 40-foot tall iron rod to extract electrical sparks from a cloud.

WATERSHED MOMENT

Pris: In June 1752, Franklin and his son, William, conducted the famed experiment with a kite and a metal key in a thunderstorm outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Rob: Rob: As one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, he was a member of the Committee of Five who drafted the Declaration of Independence and was one of 56 men who signed the document. His career as a printer, publisher and author gave him the opportunity to publicize his political, social, scientific opinions and accomplishments, making him one of the most famous Americans of all time.

Music: Thompson – Allegro (1:33)

Susan B. Anthony

Pris: The second of seven children of a Quaker cotton manufacturer and abolitionist, Susan Brownell Anthony learned to read and write at just 3 years old. Anthony became a teacher and was compelled into activism by the pay inequalities in her profession. Despite her support for racial equality, she became a women's rights activist after the Fifteenth Amendment failed to give women the right to vote. She was co-founder of numerous women's rights groups and a tireless public speaker who gave 75 to 100 speeches every year for 45 years.

Rob: In 1851 Anthony met fellow feminist Elizabeth Cady Stanton and co-founded the first women's state temperance society with Stanton.

Pris: After her first public speech at a women's rights convention in 1852, Anthony began to receive acclaim as a strong public advocate for women's suffrage.

WATERSHED MOMENT

Rob: A lifelong advocate for civil rights, Susan B. Anthony co-founded the American Equal Rights Association in 1866. After the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave only African-American men – and no women – the right to vote, she focused her efforts entirely on women's rights. In 1869, she co-founded the National Women Suffrage Association, an organization devoted to the creation of a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote.

Pris: The Nineteenth Amendment, which enabled women to vote, was enacted in 1920, 14 years after Anthony's death.

Music: Thompson – Grave Allegretto (3:26)

Mark Twain

Rob: Samuel Langhorne Clemens spent his youth in Missouri, then a slave state. After a career as a printer and steamboat pilot, he became a journalist, travel writer, humorist and satirist.

Pris: In 1839 4 year old Twain and his family moved to Hannibal, Missouri, on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Rob: In 1863 Twain began working at a newspaper. His famous pen name first appeared on a humorous account of his travels to the West.

Pris: The name came from his days on the Mississippi River. “Mark twain” meant water that was 12 feet deep and considered safe for a boat to float over without running aground.

Rob: “Mark the twine!” In 1867 a newspaper funded a trip for Twain to Europe and the Middle East. His popular travel letters were later compiled as *The Innocents Abroad*.

WATERSHED MOMENT:

Pris: In the middle of his career, Mark Twain crafted two novels based on his boyhood home in Hannibal, Missouri. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was published in 1876 and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was published in 1884. *Huckleberry Finn* had naturalistic dialogue and lifelike human portraits. It was the first novel to highlight the moral struggle for white people dealing with present-day laws on runaway slaves, and it humanized slaves as freedom-thirsty people.

Rob: *Huckleberry Finn* is considered one of the great American novels.

Music: Thompson – Gaio (2:04)

Thomas Edison

Pris: Thomas Alva Edison, the youngest of seven children, did poorly in school because his mind frequently wandered during lessons. After his mother began home schooling him, Edison began to excel at learning. Untreated ear infections and a childhood bout with scarlet fever caused complete hearing loss in his left ear and partial loss in his right ear.

Rob: A youthful career as a newsboy demonstrated his ability as a businessman, but his life focused when, in 1866, Edison became a Western Union telegraph operator. On the night shift, he read books and conducted scientific experiments.

Pris: In WATERSHED MOMENT

Rob: In 1876, Thomas Edison opened the first industrial research laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey, to apply the principles of mass production to the process of invention. Nicknamed “Wizard of Menlo Park,” Edison devised some of his most famous inventions in the laboratory, including the phonograph and the filament for the incandescent light bulb.

Pris: In 1880 Edison patented an electrical distribution system and founded the Edison Electric Illuminating Company. In 1882, the company began providing 110 volts of direct current to 59 customers in lower Manhattan.

Rob: In 1891 Edison built a kinetoscope, a peephole viewer, which displayed the first motion picture films. The device became a mainstay of penny arcades.

Pris: Most of Edison’s 1,093 patents are improvements to the telegraph or are based on its technology. Edison applied the methods of mass production to create numerous inventions. His ability to envision design technologies that would change everyday life brought him lifelong success.

Music: Thompson – Allegro (1:33)

Booker T. Washington

Rob: Booker Taliaferro Washington was born into slavery and emancipated after the Civil War. He became a teacher, leader of what today is known as Tuskegee University, best-selling author and social activist. From 1890 - 1915, he stood as a dominant figure among African-Americans.

Pris: In 1879, after graduating from seminary in Washington, D.C., Washington taught at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia.

WATERSHED MOMENT

Rob: At the age of 25, Booker T. Washington became the first principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama which opened on July 4, 1881. He remained the head of the school until his death in 1915.

Pris: In 1895 Washington delivered his Atlanta Exhibition address to a largely white audience and stated that economic equality was more important than social equality.

Rob: In 1896 Washington was the first African-American to receive an honorary degree from Harvard University.

Pris: In 1900, in an effort to promote African-Americans' commercial, agricultural, educational and industrial advancement, Washington founded the National Negro Business League (NNBL).

Rob: In 1901 Washington's autobiography, *Up From Slavery*, was published and became a best seller. Its popularity led to an invitation to the White House by President Theodore Roosevelt, making him the first African-American visitor to the White House.

Music: Thompson – Grave Allegretto (3:26)

Andrew Carnegie

Pris: Scottish-born Andrew Carnegie and his family immigrated to the United States in 1848. Just 13 years old, he worked six days a week in a cotton mill, changing spools of thread 12 hours a day.

Rob: As a messenger boy for the Ohio Telegraph Company in 1849, Carnegie delivered telegrams to theaters and often talked his way into the audience.

Pris: In 1853 Carnegie became a secretary and telegraph operator for the Pennsylvania Railroad and advanced quickly through the railroad to become superintendent of the Pittsburg Division.

Rob: In 1855, without even \$50 to his name, Carnegie made his first investment when his mother mortgaged \$500 out of their \$700 home so he could buy ten shares of the Adams Express Company. By the 1860's, he was wealthy; by the 1870's, he built Carnegie Steel, the world's largest manufacturer of pig iron and certain iron products.

WATERSHED MOMENT

Pris: Andrew Carnegie amassed a fortune in the steel industry through vertical integration, a method in which he controlled the manufacturing process from raw materials through distribution. At the height of his business career, he was the second richest man in the United States. He sold his steel interests in 1901 to J.P. Morgan for a sum of \$480 million, equal to about \$120 billion by early 21st century standards, making him the richest man in the world.

Rob: This acquired wealth funded his philanthropic interests in building and supporting libraries and educational and cultural institutions all across the nation. These institutions that bear his name are a testament to his lifelong commitment to learning and culture.

Music: Thompson – Gaio (2:04)

Wright Brothers

Pris: Wilbur and Orville Wright were two of seven children of a church bishop and his wife and spent part of their childhood in Richmond, Indiana. The first aircraft they saw was a toy helicopter their father brought home from a business trip.

Rob: In 1889 Orville and Wilber designed and built a printing press, and launched their own printing business and *The Westside News*, a weekly publication. Orville was the publisher and Wilbur became the editor.

Pris: In 1892 Orville was a champion cyclist and the brothers opened Wright Cycle Exchange, a bicycle shop to sell, repair and rent the new popular mode of transportation.

Rob: In 1899, after reading about glider flights and unpiloted powered aircraft, Wilbur wrote to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. for information about aeronautics.

Pris: Early aircraft was wildly unsafe, crashing repeatedly and even killing their pilots. Realizing that flight control was more important than engine power, the Wrights studied previous inventors' designs and flight in nature in order to perfect their aircraft.

WATERSHED MOMENT

Rob: In 1903, after numerous glider experiments, the brothers succeeded in conducting four flights of a powered, piloted aircraft on December 17 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The longest flight lasted 59 seconds over 852 feet. Wilbur Wright served as pilot after winning the deciding coin toss. They became the first human beings to pilot a controlled, engine-powered, heavier-than-air plane that they developed into the first practical fixed-wing aircraft.

Pris: 1906 brought the Wright Brothers' design of a three-axis control system to steer aircrafts safely. They were granted U.S. Patent 821393 for a "Flying Machine."

Music: Thompson – Allegro (1:33)

Albert Einstein

Rob: Albert Einstein displayed his talent for mathematics as a very young child. In 1883, when Einstein was 4 years old, he realized invisible forces moved the needle of his father's compass. The observation left a lasting impression.

Pris: In 1894 Einstein's father's business failed and the family moved from Ulm, Germany to Milan and then Pavia, Italy.

Rob: In 1895, 16 year old Einstein applied to the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. He failed the entrance examination but scored high in mathematics and physics.

Pris: In 1896 Einstein moved to Olsberg, Switzerland, for a teaching position and renounced his German citizenship to avoid serving in the German military. He also reapplied and was accepted to the Swiss Institute. When he could not find a teaching job after graduating college, he went to work at the Swiss patent office as a technical examiner, evaluating applications for electromagnetic devices, which later impacted his theories on light, space and time.

WATERSHED MOMENT:

Rob: His most famous work stems from the intellectual output of a single year, 1905, in which he published four papers recognized today as monumental accomplishments of insight into physics, including his famous special theory of relativity. This work demonstrated that mass has energy, meaning they are equivalent to one another. It further showed that tiny amounts of mass could be converted into enormous amounts of energy, as expressed by the equation $E=mc^2$.

Pris: In 1921 Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. In 1932 Einstein and his family left Europe for the United States in response to the growing threat of Nazism. While Einstein was helping Jewish scientists flee Europe, Nazi scientists were trying to eradicate his discoveries. For the rest of his life, Einstein used his fame as an intellectual to oppose oppressive political regimes and supported the civil rights movements.

Music: Thompson – Grave Allegretto (3:26)

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt

Rob: Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt were one of the first power couples in American politics. FDR's sweeping vision helped rescue the United States from the worst economic depression in its history and led the country through World War II. Eleanor became a modern First Lady, with a life and mind of her own.

Pris: In 1905 Franklin and Anna Eleanor, a distant cousin also named Roosevelt, were married while FDR was in law school. After passing the bar, he practiced law and entered politics.

Rob: In 1921 FDR contracted what his doctors assumed was polio, permanently paralyzing him from the waist down. He withdrew from public life but continually worked to regain use of his legs through swimming exercises and metal leg supports.

Pris: In 1928 FDR resumed his political career and was elected governor of New York.

WATERSHED MOMENT:

Rob: In 1932, Franklin Roosevelt was elected as the 32nd President of the United States, the first of four unprecedented terms in office. Many of today's national institutions were founded during FDR's administration, including the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Deposit Insurance Commission.

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt brought hope to millions of Americans with their personal initiatives, articles, speeches, radio addresses known as "fireside chats," and the New Deal reform policy during the Great Depression and World War II.

Pris: In 1935 Eleanor began the nationally syndicated column, *My Day*. She wrote the column six days a week and wrote about political issues, historical events and their private life. It was published until 1962.

Rob: FDR's health deteriorated and he died on April 12, 1945. Later that year, Eleanor was appointed to the United Nations General Assembly by President Truman and was instrumental in the drafting of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Pris: While FDR was the nation's leader, Eleanor became the people's advocate, supporting equal rights for women and minorities during a time when it was neither popular nor easy. Together, they transformed the nation and its future.

Music: Thompson – Gaio (2:04)

Jonas Salk

Pris: Jonas Salk was one of three sons born to Russian immigrants in New York City. He was the first person in his family to graduate from college and medical school.

Rob: During medical school, in 1938, Salk began a yearlong internship working on an influenza vaccine. In 1939 Salk received his medical degree from New York University and joined Mount Sinai Hospital as a staff physician.

Pris: In 1942 Salk accepted a research fellowship in epidemiology, the study of diseases in large populations, at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. Then in 1947 Salk was appointed director of the Virus Research Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and spent the next eight years of his work focused solely on eradicating polio.

WATERSHED MOMENT:

Rob: In 1952, Dr. Jonas Salk developed the first effective vaccine for poliomyelitis. On April 12, 1955, Salk became an international hero when he announced a lengthy field trial involving nearly 2 million children – including Salk, his wife and their children – to prove his vaccine was effective. Within two years, 100 million vaccines were given across the world and polio was eradicated from every country that used the vaccine.

Pris: Salk earned even more respect when he refused to patent the vaccine or profit from the discovery. He insisted he only wished to see it distributed as widely as possible. Later in his life, Salk focused on developing an AIDS vaccine and traveled across the world promoting world peace.

Rob: In 1963 he established the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, funded in part by the March of Dimes.

Pris: And in 1977 President Jimmy Carter awarded Salk with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civil award, for his work on the polio vaccine.

Rob: These luminaries in our history remind us of the sacrifice of personal gain for the betterment of the human condition.

Pris: They stand as shining beacons of what we can achieve when we dedicate ourselves to becoming the best we can be, in the spirit of humanity and peace.

