

## MALTA AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

### Franklin D. Roosevelt

The 32nd President of the USA

On December 8th, 1943 Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Malta. He carried with him a letter which he wrote to the people of Malta. President Roosevelt was very sensitive of the role Malta played during WWII and, particularly, of the sacrifice and contribution of the Maltese during WWII. The Scroll reads:

*"In the name of the people of the United States of America, I salute the Island of Malta, its people and defenders, who, in the cause of freedom and justice and decency throughout the world, have rendered valorous service far above and beyond the call of duty. Under repeated fire from the skies, Malta stood alone, but unafraid in the center of the sea, one tiny bright flame in the darkness—a beacon of hope for*

*the clearer days which have come. Malta's bright story of human fortitude and courage will be read by posterity with wonder and with gratitude through all the ages.*



*"What was done in this Island maintains the highest traditions of gallant men and women who from the beginning of time have lived and died to preserve civilization for all mankind.*

*Dated December 7, 1943*

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This words are now engraved on the façade of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta—words that are testimony of how far Maltese and US relations go.



EMBASSY OF MALTA  
WASHINGTON D.C.