

on a hazardous section of river near his hometown where he saved the lives of 77 swimmers. He went on to become a college athlete and then traveled to Hollywood, where he became one of the most popular actors of the '50s and early '60s. But, it was in the realm of politics where Ronald Reagan would make his most meaningful and lasting impact, first as a two-term governor of the State of California and then, most significantly, as the President of the United States from 1981 through 1989. Quite, simply, Ronald Reagan changed the world, and we are all the better for it.

Ronald Reagan, more than any other individual, was responsible for winning the Cold War, the epic struggle that pitted the United States and its allies against a Communist force armed with enough nuclear weapons to threaten the existence of humanity. Relying on his deeply held beliefs of the supremacy of liberty and democracy, Reagan assumed the office of President and sought not to accommodate or merely contain Communist expansionism, but to defeat it. He had the courage to speak the truth about the former Soviet Union, to accurately label it as an "evil empire" that would ultimately be consigned to the "ash heap of history." He realized that for democracy to prevail in this twilight struggle of differing ideologies with monumental consequences, he had to become a relentless warrior on behalf of the American ideals of liberty, free enterprise, and the primacy of the individual in society. His fortitude provided the American people with purpose and victory over Communism.

Ronald Reagan buoyed up our nation not only with his ever-present smile, his genial nature, and his self-deprecating humor but also with the substance of his ideas: his enduring faith in the innate goodness and creativity of the American people; his steadfast belief in the exceptionalism of our constitutional democracy and economic order; and his unyielding conviction that freedom and democracy will triumph over oppression and tyranny. Ronald Reagan was, and will always remain, a giant on the stage of history, a commanding presence and respected leader whose commitment to freedom and democracy will inspire generations to come. Truly it can be said that Ronald Reagan lifted the spirits of the American people by appealing to our best hopes, not our worst fears, and because of that, he will remain forever in the hearts of the American people.

Walking side-by-side with Ronald Reagan through his life's journey was his wonderful wife and best friend, Nancy. Her dignity and grace as First Lady were exemplary, but even more inspiring has been the strength and resiliency she has demonstrated since her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease 10 years ago. Nancy's devotion to the former President has been nothing less than heroic, and our prayers and the prayers of a nation are with here during this time.

Though our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of a beloved leader, we are comforted knowing that Ronald Reagan has gone onto a better place. To borrow the words he used to comfort the nation following the *Challenger* disaster, Ronald Reagan has "slipped the surly bonds to earth" to "touch the face of God."

Passage of this resolution will allow us to pay tribute to this great man and his legacy.

It will allow all those who loved and admired Ronald Reagan a final opportunity to say a final goodbye. As he lies in state, the American people will have the opportunity to pay their respects by coming to the Capitol Rotunda. I expect that many thousands will do so.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this Resolution.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 444.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 444.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR LYING IN STATE OF REMAINS OF LATE RONALD WILSON REAGAN, 40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FROM JUNE 9 UNTIL JUNE 11, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 115) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the late Ronald Wilson Reagan, 40th President of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 115

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in recognition of the long and distinguished service rendered to the Nation and to the world, by the late Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, his remains be permitted to lie in state in the rotunda of the Capitol from June 9 until June 11, 2004, and the Architect of the Capitol, under the direction of the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall take all necessary steps for the accomplishment of that purpose.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A similar House concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 444) was laid on the table.

□ 1045

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 664) mourning the passing of President Ronald Reagan and celebrating his service to the people of the United States and his leadership in promoting the cause of freedom for all the people of the world, and ask for its immediate further consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). The Clerk will report the title of the resolution.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Time for debate on the resolution on the legislative day of June 8 had expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of that day, it is now in order to conduct a further period of debate on the resolution.

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) each will control 1½ hours.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the Land of Lincoln and the birthplace of Ronald Reagan, and the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I have given much thought to what I might usefully contribute to the chorus of those thousands who will be called upon or be moved to voice their respect and their sadness at the death of President Reagan. His accomplishments will be rightly celebrated, his humanity and character justly praised, his passing mourned in words of elegance and emotion. How large a stone can one hope to add to this touring mountain?

President Reagan was the oldest person to be elected President in our history, and this is proof that you get the sweetest music from the oldest violins.

In the play *Camelot*, King Arthur says, "We are all of us tiny drops in a vast ocean, but some of them sparkle." President Reagan was never a tiny drop in a vast ocean, but he did indeed sparkle.

By his life and service he put the "sacred" back in honor. Not through exhortation, but by example, Reagan's gentle leadership reminded a country disoriented by doubt of its enduring beliefs. In this, his guiding principle was that of George Washington's, "Let us raise a standard in which the wise and honest can repair. The event is in the hand of God."

He was a rare and subtly powerful speaker, able to instill in others a confident belief in their own capacities and goodness. And he could also inspire oppressed millions to demolish empires.

His eloquence reminds me of the story of ancient Greeks who, when Pericles spoke, said, "How well he speaks." But when Demosthenes spoke, they said, "Let us march."

Among his many virtues was his defense of the powerless unborn. President Reagan understood that the precious gift of life was not confined to the privileged, the planned, and the perfect. Some have said that the most fearful aspect of dying is the terrible aloneness you must endure at the particular judgment; no advocate, no relative, no spouse, no child, just you, your sins and God. But I am sure President Reagan is not alone. I believe the silence was broken by the voices of thousands of little children, voices that were never heard in this world but are heard in the next, all pleading, "Dear Lord, spare him, for he loved us very much."

And then I can imagine Mr. Reagan heard a gentle voice, "Come, beloved of my father, and enter the kingdom which has been prepared for you since the beginning of time."

Mr. President, "The shadows have lengthened, evening has come, and the busy world is hushed. The fever of life is over, and your work is done. May God in his mercy give you a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last."

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President Ronald Reagan. We can all admire the journey of his life. It was a life built on love of family and a profound love of our country.

In this time of mourning, I offer my sincere condolences and prayers to the President's family, especially to his wife Nancy. I hope that the sincere good wishes of all of their fellow countrymen can help to bring them some comfort at this time.

Above all else, the President was a leader who had strong opinions, yet he always respected the institution of government and worked within both parties to provide enduring success to millions of Americans.

Before he was President, Ronald Reagan was the Governor of a Western State and a leader who understood issues important to the West. As a Member of Congress from the Rocky Mountain West, I hold a deep appreciation for President Reagan's efforts to protect the Western way of life.

One issue that stands out is that of the MX missile. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Department of Defense was working to build the massive MX missile racetrack system in Utah's west desert, despite Utah's opposition. President Reagan was a strong advocate for national defense, and the military initially thought he would be a

supporter of this proposal. As a fellow Westerner, President Reagan understood Utah's desire to protect its ranching and farming heritage. He understood why the State and its citizens adamantly opposed the project.

My father was Governor of Utah at that time. He found an open door in the Reagan administration, and he worked in a bipartisan manner with the administration to put an end to this plan. Thankfully for my State, President Reagan came into the situation with an open mind, and he was willing to listen to local stakeholders about their concerns with the MX proposal.

President Reagan established a process by which affected people could actually make their feelings known, which even now is a testament to the importance of a responsive Federal Government.

That was Reagan's approach. While he was a man of strong convictions, he was known for his civility and kindness in a business that is often abrasive. Ever the gentleman, his example is a good reminder to all of us in elected office of what it takes to truly serve our constituency.

I honor President Reagan's service to this great Nation. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I first met Ronald Reagan over 40 years ago when I was an undergraduate student at Stanford University in California. He and I and some others were involved in a primary election campaign for a United States Senator from California which proved to be very unsuccessful. But in the meetings that I attended that Mr. Reagan chaired, I recognized him as being a unique person with an uncanny knack to bring out the best in everybody.

He certainly proved that during his subsequent career: two successful terms as Governor of California and two successful terms as President of the United States, leaving office with the highest approval rating of any departing President since Franklin Roosevelt.

Look at the shape America was in when Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980. We went through a horrible decade of the 1970s. There was a Vietnam War, there was Watergate, there was Nixon's resignation, Gerald Ford's unsuccessful Whip Inflation Now campaign, Jimmy Carter's malaise, and long lines at the gas pump to buy 5 gallons of gas.

When President Reagan took office, he got us out of our national funk. His Morning in America speech and his philosophy gave us as a Nation and as individual Americans the self-confidence to do what America has always done;

that is, to achieve the ultimate dream, to overcome the impossible, and to have each and every one of us reach our highest and best.

Much is said about Reagan turning around the economy and winning the Cold War, and some of the debate on the Cold War was about the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative, but there was a decision that Ronald Reagan made earlier that laid the groundwork for the collapse of communism. He persuaded then German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles in West Germany. That was extremely controversial at the time both in Europe and the United States. People said putting more missiles would encourage an arms race.

Well, Mr. Schmidt agreed to deploy them. He might have lost his job as a result of it, but he was able to see the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany during his lifetime, and we have got to give credit to Ronald Reagan's international skills for doing that.

God bless you President Reagan, may you rest in peace.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend Americans learned of President Ronald Reagan's death. The President was an honorable and decent man whose legacy forever will be linked with the great love and optimism he had for his country. Unfortunately, his long and courageous struggle with Alzheimer's disease took him from us long before his death.

As a fellow Midwesterner, I appreciated the traditional American values he brought to Washington: his good humor, his love for his family, and belief in America. At a time when Americans had lost confidence in themselves, President Reagan reminded us we could achieve any goal, no matter how lofty.

When President Reagan addressed a grieving Nation after the Challenger explosion, he honored the astronauts for the way in which they lived their lives and affirmed that we would never forget them. Eloquently, he quoted the poem "High Flight," declaring the astronauts had "slipped the surly bonds of Earth to touch the face of God."

Mr. Speaker, today in this House, we are honoring President Reagan for the way in which he lived his life and led our Nation. And as he takes his own journey to touch the face of God, I am confident in this statement: That his life and achievements will forever be remembered by this grateful Nation.

As the country and the world mourn his death, we will remember President Reagan as a great American who was a beacon of freedom for people everywhere. I think I speak for all of the Hoosiers in offering my condolences to his wife Nancy and the children.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with the formidable challenge in 2 minutes to convey the thoughts and prayers of Arizonans and Americans as we remember our 40th President. While it is true that Ronald Reagan was a son of Illinois and a Governor of California before becoming the President of us all, it is also true that Arizona played an important part in his life.

Arizona was the place where Ronald and Nancy Reagan honeymooned. Arizona was the place where some of their children attended high school. Arizona was the place where Nancy's parents lived; and Arizona was the site of one of President Reagan's final political appearances. Even as our favorite son, Barry Goldwater, gave birth to then Ronald Reagan's political career in that epic speech *A Time For Choosing* in 1964, telecast nationally, which really put Ronald Reagan on the political stage, it was former President Reagan who arrived in downtown Phoenix 5 days before the 1992 election to offer words of support to candidates of our party.

□ 1100

I had the privilege of emceeding this gathering, and I was offstage with the former President as our now senior Senator offered remarks of introduction, and those remarks included the statement from Margaret Thatcher that the Cold War was won by one man, Ronald Wilson Reagan, and that victory came without a single shot being fired.

Mr. Speaker, I was in a unique position to hear the words of my friend from Arizona and to look at the reaction on the face of our former President.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that many of us who enter the public arena suffer from no lack of self-esteem.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that President Reagan was incredibly humble, and that humility was expressed on his face as he offered a characteristic shrug of the shoulders before going out to offer his words to the assembly.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues, let me simply say this. In observation from one of my constituents whose daughter-in-law escaped from behind the Iron Curtain, she said, "President Lincoln freed the slaves of America. President Reagan freed the enslaved millions of Eastern Europe."

God bless America. God bless Ronald Reagan.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in paying tribute to a man who influenced my life personally, and I think I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that we would not be in politics, I indeed would not be in Congress, if it were not for Ronald Reagan.

President Reagan embodied the values that made America the shining city on the Hill: faith, family, freedom, and personal responsibility. Born to humble beginnings, he never lost the common touch. Few public officials had more empathy for the common people. He could make us laugh or cry, depending on what the situation called for. Most of all, he made us proud, proud to be Americans.

Ronald Reagan came into office during a great malaise. He made us believe again in ourselves, in our capacity to achieve great things. He ignored his critics and the cynics. He shouldered on with unstoppable optimism. He consigned Communism to the ash heap of history. As Margaret Thatcher said, he won the Cold War without firing a shot. He changed our party. He changed the way Americans see themselves; and in the end, he changed the world.

Borrowing from the song, I said to my wife, Mary, when he left office, he was a long time coming. He will be a long time gone. I thank God for giving us such men.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the home State of our dearly departed President.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, first, both personally and on behalf of my constituents in Orange County, let me offer my condolences to Mrs. Reagan and the Reagan family. I, like so many of my colleagues, probably would not be standing here today if it were not for Ronald Reagan.

He was an inspiration for a whole generation of young Americans, and his message of limited government and unlimited freedom, as well as his boundless optimism about America's future, motivated me and so many others to get involved in the affairs of our Nation. I first met Ronald Reagan as a student in California. That experience led me to become involved in the Youth For Reagan movement.

Over the years, I was privileged to meet him many more times. It was one of the most memorable meetings in 1986. I was visiting the White House as a State senator on the day that President Reagan ordered the bombing of Libya because of their open support for international terrorism. The President told me what a difficult decision it was, but how the future of our Nation and the safety of our citizens depended on firm action.

President Reagan was never afraid to take a stand, never afraid to do what was right, even if it was not popular at the moment.

In 1964 Ronald Reagan spoke these words to a generation of Americans: "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. Will we preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or will we sentence them to take the last step into a thousand years of darkness?"

President Reagan understood the evil of communism. He knew the Cold War would end. He knew that there would be winners and there would be losers. Thanks to his resolve, freedom won. Thanks to his resolve, millions of people were set free.

President Reagan also understood that free markets go hand in hand with individual liberties. In 1981 he said:

"We who live in free market societies believe that growth, prosperity and ultimately human fulfillment are created from the bottom up, not the government down. Only when the human spirit is allowed to invent and create, only when individuals are given a personal stake in deciding economic policies and benefiting from their success, only then can societies remain economically alive, dynamic, progressive and free."

At his second inauguration, speaking inside the rotunda of this Capitol building, President Reagan said:

"Our Nation is poised for greatness. We must do what we know is right, and do it with all our might. Let history say of us, these were golden years, when the American revolution was reborn, when freedom gained new life and America reached for her best."

Throughout his career, Ronald Reagan was always helping America reach for her best. He inspired us with his spirit, with his optimism; and he led us with his commitment to principle and unwavering resolve. America and the rest of the world are better, safer, and freer places today because of Ronald Reagan. We will miss him dearly.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN).

Mr. SANDLIN. I thank my colleague for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of loss and sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of one of our Nation's most influential leaders, former President Ronald Reagan. Much has been said, and rightfully so, about President Reagan's infectious love of this great Nation. Ronald Wilson Reagan firmly believed that the United States of America had a unique role to play in the world and a singular place in history. In his first inaugural address he reflected on this faith in country in attributing the unparalleled prosperity and opportunity of this great land to the fact that "freedom and the dignity of the individual have been made more available and assured here than in any other place on Earth."

Mr. Speaker, his singular commitment to the inherent worth of the individual is a hallmark of Ronald Reagan's personal and political legacy. His sincere devotion to that core idea defined his personality, and it defined his Presidency. President Reagan defied then conventional wisdom that American heroes were a thing of the past. He said, "Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look. You can see heroes every day going in and out of

factory gates. Others, a handful in number, produce enough food to feed all of us and then the world beyond. You meet heroes across a counter, and they are on both sides of that counter." President Reagan's heroes were, in his words, "the citizens of this blessed land."

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan has often been called the Great Communicator, but President Reagan told us himself that he preferred to think of himself as a communicator of great things. However, to reduce Ronald Reagan to the words he spoke would be a tremendous disservice to his legacy, just as it would be wrong to reduce Abraham Lincoln's legacy to the Gettysburg Address or FDR's to the eloquent power of his fireside chats. President Reagan truly believed the ideas he communicated, and that faith drove in many ways a shift in the course of American politics.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan was a unique figure in our politics. His devotion to principle, his commitment to the American people, his singular faith in the power of one were infectious. Yet despite his unrepentant drive to achieve what has been appropriately called the Reagan Revolution, he pushed his agenda with a smile and he relished open and honest debate. Notwithstanding sometimes profound disagreements, President Reagan understood that at the end of the day, we were not Democrats and Republicans but, rather, Americans and friends. He truly understood that there is a tremendous difference between strong beliefs and bitter partisanship.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan was an eternal optimist who changed the world with hope and taught Americans that, even in the face of trials and tragedy, "nothing ends here; our hopes and journeys continue." It has been said of President Reagan that although he was our oldest President, he made America young again.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Reagan and to the President's children and their families and to honor the memory of a great American who loved America at least as much as she loved him.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of our former, President, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the resolution paying tribute to President Ronald Reagan who once said, "America is too great for small dreams." Whether through his faith in God's providence, his deep love for his wife, Nancy, his career as an actor, his service as Governor of the State of California and ultimately as our Commander in Chief, President Ronald Reagan envisioned and achieved big dreams. These dreams included lowering the tax burden on citizens through his advocacy of smaller government and striving for peace in the tenuous times of the Cold War.

As a boy in the fourth grade, I had the honor of shaking Mr. Reagan's hand at the Mariposa airport when he was on his way to Yosemite after he became the Governor of the great State of California. He is the very reason that I later became a Republican and devoted my life to public service.

President Reagan died on the very weekend of the commemoration of D-Day where just 20 years ago he heralded the heroes that lay before him in Normandy as those who "helped end a war." Fittingly, we now herald this American hero for his unmatched achievements, including ending the Cold War. History will forever remember him for removing this threat of nuclear holocaust.

There are good men in the world, and there are great men. Great men employ their power humbly and create peace quietly. President Reagan embodied these traits and reminded us to believe in ourselves as the greatest country in the world.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD).

Mr. NORWOOD. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on the floor today to join my colleagues and the legions of Americans and freedom-loving people around the world in honoring the memory and the legacy of President Ronald Wilson Reagan. In the days that have passed since President Reagan slipped the surly bonds of this world, much has been said about our Nation's 40th President, of his boundless energy, eternal optimism, strong character, good judgment and, most important of all, his unmatched ability to lead and to deliver hope to America and the world at a time when it was needed most. Despite those who would suggest otherwise, the accomplishments and good fortune that befell this Nation and ultimately those behind the Iron Curtain on President Reagan's watch did not happen accidentally or through luck or simply being in the right place at the right time.

□ 1115

No, Mr. Speaker. Providing unfailing hope and guidance to a grateful Nation and all the world in a time of much despair is not luck. It is called leadership. And President Reagan will be remembered as a leader without peer, period.

Winston Churchill once said, "The price of greatness is responsibility." President Reagan understood and accepted that responsibility like no one else, and he left greatness in his wake.

Mr. Speaker, if the measure of a man is the difference that he makes, then history will record that President Ronald Reagan was nothing less than a giant. He will be missed, but his legacy of leadership will live on in the history of this Nation.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), a distinguished Member of this body, a true Reaganite.

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, my favorite Reagan protege in the Congress, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan will be remembered as a great man and a great American leader, who personified the highest ideals of the American people at home and abroad. After 8 years of his Presidency, the communism of Soviet Russia was collapsing, the American military was rebuilt, the Nation's economy restored, and its moral fabric renewed.

Many remember him as the "Great Communicator," but as the President said many times, he was not a great communicator, he communicated great things. Those were the traditional American values of this Midwesterner turned national leader. They came from the profound Christian faith inculcated in a young Dutch Reagan by his beloved mother Nelle and from his heart. And, as the President said, "They came from the heart of a great Nation."

Those ideas were simple, straightforward, and distinctly American. President Reagan believed that freedom depended on limited government. He fiercely advanced the principles of less government, less taxes, a strong military, and a commitment to traditional moral values.

And President Reagan changed the course of my life. While youthful ambition led me to politics, it was the voice and the values of Ronald Reagan that made me a Republican. The Bible says, "If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?" Ronald Reagan's great gift was to sound a clear call to return our Nation to the ideals of its Founders, and it was said that when he spoke, people just did not just agree. From coffee shops to tractor seats to high offices in tall buildings, when the American people heard Reagan speak, they said, "Darn right."

I had the privilege in 1988 as a candidate for Congress to sit with the President in the Blue Room of the White House and speak to him personally, and on that occasion, that great privilege of my life, I was able to look the President in the eye as he asked me how my campaign was going. I said, "Mr. President, it is going fine, but I just want to thank you for everything you have done for our country and to encourage my generation of Americans to believe in this country again."

I said then, and I say again, thank you, Mr. President. May God bless you, as, through you, God most certainly blessed the United States of America.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST).

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President Reagan's legacy to our country. I was elected in 1978, 2 years before Ronald Reagan assumed the Presidency. I served in Congress the entire 8 years of his Presidency and had the opportunity to observe him at close range. We often disagreed on domestic policy; however, we were largely in agreement on foreign policy, and Reagan, indeed, left an indelible mark in the field of foreign affairs. He correctly understood the economic vulnerability of the Soviet Union and exploited this to win the Cold War without firing a shot. He increased U.S. defense spending, an effort which I supported, and when the Soviet Union tried to keep pace, it fell apart from the economic strain.

The watchword of his administration was peace through strength. President Reagan brought hope and optimism to our country at a time when it was sorely needed. Also, he demonstrated through word and deed that one could disagree with their domestic political adversaries and still be friends at the end of the day. This is an element that is sorely missing from today's highly charged partisan atmosphere in Washington.

Ronald Reagan won his share of battles in Congress, but he did it without lasting rancor. That was perhaps his greatest legacy. We could use a little bit of that spirit today.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN).

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, a great President, and a true friend to the people of Wyoming.

We all probably have our way of remembering President Reagan, but for me I will always see him atop his big white horse, pointing out to the distance as if to say, "The future is that way, and we must ride into it." Here is the picture that I remember so well.

Today we are lucky enough to live in that future. The millions once enslaved behind the Iron Curtain are free, and the Cold War is over, with freedom the victor.

They say that fortune favors the brave, and fortune favored President Reagan. He helped us to believe in ourselves again and to believe in common dreams that bind us together as Americans.

When President Reagan took office, we were gripped with the fear that perhaps America's greatest days were behind us. Eight years later when he walked out of the Oval Office and into the sunset of his life, we knew that in

America our best days will always be on the horizon.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Wyoming will be eternally thankful to Ronald Reagan. We will be eternally thankful that he was there on that white horse to point the way not into the sunset, but instead into a shining new morning in America.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the death of President Reagan, given his publicly known battle with Alzheimer's, did not come as a surprise to many. Still, those of us in the United States and around the world are greatly saddened by his departure and by our loss.

He was an indelible figure, known not only in American history, but known throughout world history. The man that helped bring about the end of the Cold War will always be praised for his eternal optimism, love of country, principle stance on issues, the eloquence in which he communicated with the Nation, and his abundant faith.

It is my firm belief that President Reagan saw the best in everyone. As with most Americans, Reagan understood America's greatness lies within its people. It is the character of the American people that has guided us through all the obstacles we have had to overcome. And we recently celebrated the American spirit during the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

President Reagan was perceived as a man guided by principles. No matter what side of the aisle we were on, we always knew where he stood. His legacy will be the challenge that he opened to bring about peace between two superpowers. His work can be best summed up by the English author Richard Adams: "The thinker dies, but his thoughts are beyond the reach of destruction. Men are mortal, but ideas are immortal."

The man of abundant faith in country, family, and God, Reagan embodied the American spirit. Even in knowing his time on Earth was nearing, he wrote: "When the Lord calls me home, whenever that may be, I will leave with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Reagan and their children at this difficult time. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, most Presidents have been defined by the events of their day. Whether it is war, the economy, or domestic policy, these leaders have all been forced to react to the issues. Ronald Wilson Reagan, however, did not fit this mold. His Presidency defined the

events of his day, which boldly resembles the world that we each live in.

Taking office in a relatively peaceful period in our history, where the Cold War was in an assumed perpetual state, rather than a quid pro quo acceptance of an evil empire on the other side of the globe, President Reagan challenged the conventional wisdom of appeasing the Soviet Union and challenged them directly, helmet to helmet, on the field of ideology.

President Reagan's administration had an exceptional consistency through his 8 years, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, words we often take for granted while denying ourselves a conscious thought that there are many who are denied these God-given, inalienable unalienable rights.

On June 12, 1987, what from what was West Germany's Brandenburg Gate, President Reagan spoke directly to Communist states, telling them what was painfully obvious to the Western world: A totalitarian system just did not work.

"We see failure, technological backwardness, declining standards of health, even want of the most basic kind: too little food. After four decades there stands before the entire world one great and inescapable conclusion: Freedom leads to prosperity. Freedom replaces the ancient hatreds among the nations with comity and peace. Freedom is the victor."

This, of course, was the famous speech where President Reagan asked Mr. Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall and to let men and women be free. President Reagan pledged cooperation in reducing nuclear weapons, maintaining peace, but doing so in a setting befitting civilized nations. This declaration, while a defining moment in his Presidency, was consistent of a President who believed, truly believed, in a free-market economy and in a world that called on personal responsibility and a hand up rather than a handout; limited government; the right of men and women to live free, and children to grow up in a world that did not require them to know the duck-and-cover routine.

Mr. Speaker, God bless the Gipper, and may God rest his soul.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY).

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of President Ronald Wilson Reagan, a man whose legacy will be remembered for generations to come.

I remember President Reagan as an optimistic leader who stood up for what he believed in and who led our Nation with passion, grace, and wit. President Reagan believed in the resourcefulness of the American people and believed that their ingenuity, courage, and hard work could build a better America and a better world.

President Reagan envisioned America as a can-do country, and he was devoted and unwavering in his commitment to the American people. His message of optimism provided hope for many Americans during challenging times for our Nation and for the world.

Today we remember his service and his leadership and join the rest of the country in mourning his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with his devoted wife Nancy and his entire family.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time for an opportunity to speak about a great American, a great statesman, a great leader for our Nation and for all of the free world.

I will submit my written statement for the RECORD, but I am honored to state just briefly how much I admired and how grateful I am for the service of President Ronald Reagan.

I am honored to say that the first vote I cast in a Presidential election as an 18-year-old freshman in college was in 1980 on behalf of Ronald Reagan. He turned the tide for our Nation at a difficult time in our Nation's history. He taught us to again believe in our Nation and believe in the principles for which our Nation stood and continues to stand this very day. He also reminded us to be grateful for the blessings we have as Americans.

My mom and dad showed me by example the importance of caring about our fellow citizens, and they taught me about community service and led me to an interest in public service.

□ 1130

Ronald Reagan furthered that interest and further inspired my desire to serve, first in the statehouse and now here in Congress.

On behalf of all of the people in the 19th Congressional District, I am honored to say, Mr. President, thank you on a job well done and on a life well lived. My deepest sympathies go to your family at this time of great loss. May God bless you and your family, and may God continue to bless the country which you so deeply loved, the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ronald Wilson Reagan, our Nation's 40th President, a true statesman and patriot, a husband and father, and a Great American. I offer my sincerest condolences to Mrs. Reagan and the entire Reagan family. My prayers are with them in this time of mourning and remembrance.

When Ronald Reagan was elected President in 1980, America was facing a crisis. The crisis went deeper than the economic problems of double-digit inflation, rising unemployment, long gas lines, and threatening military actions of the Soviet Union. After Vietnam, Watergate, and the hostage situation in Iran, America actually began to experience a crisis of faith in itself. More than any other person, President Reagan helped us to overcome our doubts and remind us that America is, in fact, a "shining city on a hill."

Ronald Reagan was the eternal optimist, a believer in America's abilities, ideals, and innate goodness. His faith in the greatness of our Nation was perhaps best expressed when he said, "In this land of dreams fulfilled where greater dreams may be imagined, nothing is impossible, no victory is beyond our reach, and no glory will ever be too great." Through his outlook and conviction, President Reagan restored America's confidence in itself.

As a result of Ronald Reagan's inspiring leadership as our President, the world changed dramatically. Economic stagnation was replaced with a dynamic economy. President Reagan challenged the Soviet Union to "tear down this wall," and the Berlin wall came down. He saw a day when Eastern Europe would join the Free World, and it did. He stayed firm at Reykjavik and, for the first time, Russia and America stopped building, and started destroying, nuclear weapons.

Ronald Reagan understood the price of freedom. Forty years after D-day, and 19 years and 364 days before he passed away, President Reagan commemorated "the boys of Pointe du Hoc" who took the cliffs at Normandy for the Allies during World War II. He said:

The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beach-head or on the next. It was the deep knowledge—and pray God we have not lost it—that there is a profound moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so you and those others did not doubt your cause. And you were right not to doubt.

You all knew that some things are worth dying for. One's country is worth dying for, and democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man. All of you loved liberty. All of you were willing to fight tyranny, and you knew the people of your countries were behind you.

It is this understanding of history, this moral clarity, that helped Ronald Reagan to lead us to the freer world we have today. It is what helps to make President Reagan one of the giants of the 20th Century, along with his personal hero, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Six years ago, in commemoration of Ronald Reagan's 87th birthday, I had the pleasure of joining First Lady Nancy Reagan and Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick at the Reagan Library in California. I was there as an elected member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. But I was there, most importantly, as an American citizen who was honored to pay tribute to and to express my deep gratitude to President Reagan for his tremendous service to our Nation. In my conversation with Mrs. Reagan that day, my message was simply one of thanks. Thanks to her and, through her, to President Reagan for their dedicated, hard-working and outstanding service to our great Nation and its citizens.

Ronald Reagan's service to others, his statesmanship, his love of country, and his unwavering commitment to the principles of freedom, liberty, and justice for which our Nation stands, were great examples for all of us fellow citizens to emulate. President Reagan was truly inspiring to countless citizens. His example helped to affirm my own commitment to the ideals of public service, to the ideals of giving back to one's Nation, and certainly

helped to affirm my interest in serving the public office, including here in Congress.

I am greatly honored to join with fellow Americans in saying: Mr. President, thank you for a job well done and a life well lived. You will long be missed and never forgotten. God bless you and God bless this great Nation you loved so dearly, the United States of America.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON).

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, as we mourn the passing of President Ronald Reagan, I remember one experience in 1985 that to me defines President Reagan best. It was my daughter Katharine's first visit to the White House with the Emerson family. As we approached the Oval Office, outside of which we were to wait for the President, the door swung open. Katharine had been obediently holding my hand, but at that moment she broke away from me and she ran towards President Reagan. The Secret Servicemen standing between us and the President moved to stop her. "No, no," President Reagan calmly said to them. Katharine flew past the Secret Servicemen and jumped into the President's arms, and he lifted her up high.

The genuine joy on both of their faces struck me then. Today the memory reminds me that as strong a man as he was, President Reagan could easily match the enthusiastic happiness of a 2-year-old.

Even before she met him, Ronald Reagan was my daughter's hero. It was not the President's rhetoric that won her. It was not his stalwart countenance under the distress of terror in the Middle East, his unwavering courage in the face of communism, or his passionate leadership in the shadow of a nuclear threat. Not even the lure of the jelly bean jar on his desk made Reagan a great man to Katharine.

Plainly put, the quality that won her was the same one that won us all: his sincerity.

He was quintessentially American. He was a Midwesterner. He was a success story. He was a visionary. And finally, Ronald Reagan was not just a leader whom we believed in; he was a leader who believed in us.

But when I remember Ronald Reagan, I think of him calling off the Secret Service agents and happily sweeping Katharine up into his arms. He swept us all up that same way, and the tide of sincerity on which he carried us is the same one welling up in the eyes of our Nation right now.

A photo of Katharine in President Reagan's arms, taken seconds after she defied us to pursue a hug from her hero, today hangs in the front room of my Washington office. Every time I walk through that door, I see the photo and think of him as millions of us do: as a member of our family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). The gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) is recognized as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America lost one of our giants with the passing last Saturday of our 40th President, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

We come together today and this week in Congress, Democrats and Republicans, to pay tribute to the man who played a primary role in ending our Cold War with the Soviet Union and who, as the Center for American Progress said earlier this week, projected "a never-failing sense of optimism which restored faith in the American Presidency in a Nation still scarred by Vietnam and Watergate."

The Los Angeles Times said this week, "His sunny self-assurance, his insistence that there really were simple answers to difficult problems, his knack for actually making things happen, all were soothing changes for a country that had endured Vietnam, Watergate, a Presidential resignation, an energy crisis, double-digit inflation, and the seizing of American hostages in Iran in the course of one tumultuous decade."

In particular, Mr. Speaker, we remember Ronald Reagan for standing firmly with Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker in the early 1980s to drive down inflation and revive the economy, thus setting the stage for the prolonged American economic expansion of the early 1990s.

While President Reagan had deeply held core convictions, as a national leader he was also able to compromise and change directions when policies were not working. After instigating a large tax cut in 1981, for example, he later asked for tax increases to fight an exploding Federal deficit and tight monetary conditions. Without President Reagan's active support, the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act, which ultimately led to deficit reductions through imposition of pay-as-you-go rules, would never have become law.

President Reagan signed into law bills protecting 1.9 billion acres of wilderness in Washington State and Oregon. Known as a lifelong crusader against Communism, President Reagan combined military and diplomatic strength to develop a relationship with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that ultimately led to limits on nuclear weapons and the end of the Cold War.

The Washington Post recently said, President Reagan was able to win the respect of Europeans through his "commitment to winning the Cold War and his willingness to work peacefully to bring about the demise of the Soviet Union."

Even in times of failure and disappointment, President Reagan stood tall, and he won the respect of all. Following the disaster at the Marine barracks in Lebanon and the Iran contra scandal, President Reagan accepted responsibility saying, "This happened on my watch" and "if there is to be blame, it properly rests here in this office and with this President. And I accept responsibility for the bad as well as the good." That was a quote from

President Reagan, and I think that shows the measure of the man that President Reagan was.

In the twilight of his life, President Reagan again provided hope and inspiration for millions of Americans with his valiant battle, with the devoted support of his wife, Nancy, against the ravages of Alzheimer's disease. Mr. Speaker, my father is afflicted with this cruel and debilitating condition. I share the hope of Nancy Reagan and millions of others that expanded stem cell research will some day unlock new discoveries needed to treat successfully Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, and cancer.

I respect, I greatly respect the religious convictions of those people who are concerned about the expansion of stem cell research, but I hope soon we will find some middle ground between the two extremes and enable us to go forward with this research which one day may save the lives of millions of Americans. One of the legacies of our 40th President will be that we worked together to find a way to join in harnessing this technology and promise. The potential human health and scientific benefits of stem cell research are simply staggering, and I hope that we can join and leave a legacy for President Reagan and for Nancy Reagan as well.

In conclusion, I reflect back on Ronald Reagan's last major public address, his speech to the 1992 Republican National Convention. He could have been speaking, though, to all Americans, Mr. Speaker, because he said, he closed with these words: "My fellow citizens, I want you to know that I have always had the highest respect for you, for your common sense and intelligence, and for your decency. I have always believed in you and in what you could accomplish for yourself and for others. And whatever else history may say about me when I am gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears; to your confidence rather than your doubts. My dream is that you will travel the road ahead with liberty's lamp guiding your steps and opportunity's arm steadying your way."

I hope that we in Congress, Mr. Speaker, can come together for the American people for an agenda; and I truly believe that even though we have honest, good-faith differences between the parties, we can put aside some of the rancor, some of the partisanship, and work on the American agenda the way that Ronald Reagan wanted us all to do.

Mr. Speaker, I could think of no better way to remember the legacy of President Ronald Reagan than by those words that he gave.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY).

(Mr. THORNBERRY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I feel a real and personal sense of loss with the death of President Ronald Reagan. He was a great man and a great President, ranking in the top tier of all of our chief executives. He will be remembered as a pivotal historical figure; but, at the same time, many Americans feel as though they have lost a member of their family. Such was the unique character and legacy of Ronald Reagan, the President and the man.

My wife, Sally, and I each had the honor of serving as political appointees during the second term of the Reagan administration. We were down in the bowels of the bureaucracy, but proud to be working for and certainly inspired by President Reagan. With his optimism and his confidence in America, he inspired at least a generation of conservatives to be involved in public life and to advance the ideals for which he stood.

As important as his accomplishments domestically and internationally were, perhaps his most important success was to help the American people believe in themselves again. After the tumult of assassinations, Vietnam, Watergate, and malaise, Ronald Reagan came to remind us of the core values of the Founding Fathers and the special place that the United States has in the history of the world, that "shining city on a hill."

President Reagan was called The Great Communicator, but he said that what was truly great were the ideas he communicated. Those ideas were fundamental in the creation of the United States. As he noted in his farewell address, he communicated "great things that came from the heart of a nation, from our experience, our wisdom, and our belief in the principles that have guided us for 2 centuries." Ronald Reagan brought out the best in us because he knew the best of us.

Our Nation was blessed to have been given Ronald Reagan, the President and the man.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the accomplishments which cause Ronald Reagan to stand among our greatest Presidents can be traced to a set of fundamental beliefs to which he adhered throughout his political career.

One of them was strong, steadfast confidence in the American people. President Reagan knew that government must be limited so that the unlimited potential of individual Americans could be unleashed. He knew that when families were able to keep more of the money they earned, not just the family but the whole country would benefit. The result of his tax relief and restraint of government was the longest period of economic growth in the nation's history.

President Reagan also believed, with the signers of the Declaration of Independence, that freedom is a gift of God, intended for all peoples. In his speech to the British Parliament in 1982, which he viewed as among his most important, he said:

We must be staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few, but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings.

President Reagan was often underestimated. But, his clear words required clear thoughts, and those clear thoughts came from a clear vision and clear values, the articulation of which was refined over a lifetime of work. The amount of work and thought Ronald Reagan put into developing and expressing his views are only now becoming known, with the publication of some of the thousands of articles and letters written with his own hand.

He clearly believed that one must not be afraid to speak the truth, sometimes to the discomfort of his advisors. In the well-known speech in which he called the Soviet Union the "focus of evil in the modern world" he went on to urge his listeners and the country to

[S]peak out against those who would place the United States in a position of military and moral inferiority. . . . I urge you to beware the temptation of pride—the temptation of blithely declaring yourselves above it all and label both sides equally at fault, to ignore the facts of history and the aggressive impulses of an evil empire, to simply call the arms race a giant misunderstanding and thereby remove yourself from the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil.

Throughout his career of public service, Ronald Reagan did not remove himself from the struggle between right and wrong, good and evil. He engaged in that struggle, and he changed the course of history.

Before the British Parliament, President Reagan repeated the question asked by Winston Churchill in one of his wartime speeches: "What kind of people do they think we are?" President Reagan answered, "Free people, worthy of freedom and determined not only to remain so but to help others gain their freedom as well."

Being a "free people, worthy of freedom" and help[ing] others gain their freedom as well" remains America's challenge. My hope is that we pursue those aims with the determination and spirit that Ronald Reagan displayed throughout his career.

A President whose basic political philosophy about the role of government continues to occupy center stage in our domestic debates more than a decade after he left office; a President who changed the course of world history and helped free millions of people from totalitarian bondage; a man who restored a nation's confidence in itself and continues to inspire defenders of freedom everywhere—

Quite a record. Quite a life.

Again, our Nation was blessed to have been given Ronald Reagan.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the people I represent in the Third Congressional District to express my sincere condolences to the Reagan family and to memorialize our 40th President, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

I had the opportunity to serve for 2 years in the Congress when Ronald Reagan was President of the United States, and I also had the opportunity when I was Speaker of the State legislature to work with President Reagan on behalf of the National Conference of State Legislators.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan was one of the most effective Presidents in the history of our Nation. He brought an agenda of change to Washington, and he developed public support for that change and then congressional support for that change. He did it using the process, to bring about a change of policy and expectation of our country. He also established America as a world leader, proud of our commitment to democracy and willing to get involved in international events to bring about change for the good. He laid the foundation for the end of the Cold War.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, he was a remarkable President and will be missed by all.

On January 20, 1981, President Reagan spoke of his abiding commitment to a special interest group that has too long been neglected. It knows no sectional boundaries or ethnic and racial divisions, and it crosses political party lines. It is made up of men and women who raise our food, patrol our streets, man our mines and our factories, teach our children, keep our homes, and heal us when we are sick; professionals, industrialists, shopkeepers, clerks, cabbies, and truck drivers. They are, in short, "we the people," this breed called Americans.

Mr. Speaker, he will be missed by all.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

America mourns these past few days the passing of a true American, one who reflects not only the values of the country in the 21st century or the 20th century, but Ronald Reagan had inherent in his body and his soul and his mind and his heart the idea that each of us has a passion for freedom, that each of us has a sense of urgency for justice.

Jefferson will be remembered for many, many things; but we will all remember those words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

And Lincoln will be remembered for many, many things, but we will all remember those words after the Civil War: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, let us work together to bind up the Nation's wounds."

And a century later, another American that reflected the true values of our country said that "you will not be judged by the color of your skin, but by the content of your character."

These men through the centuries brought America together. They united America. They had a vision for America.

Ronald Reagan will be remembered for many, many things, but we will all remember with a sense of seriousness and joy when he said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down that wall."

So what Mr. Reagan was trying to do was to impart that passion for freedom, that urgency for justice, not only for

Americans and the vast array of cultures that we have here but for the rest of the world.

Mrs. Reagan, the Reagan family, America, President Ronald Reagan will be missed, but always remembered.

□ 1145

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I entered college in the late 1970s, and so I remember well those times and the challenges that we faced: soaring inflation, soaring interest rates, soaring unemployment, gas prices that were sky high, on the world stage hostages in Iran, and the Cold War loomed large.

I remember that as President Reagan took office some pundits, some experts out there arguing that the office of the Presidency had become too big for one man. And they said maybe it was time to look at a different institution, co-Presidency or something like that. And then on to the stage came Ronald Reagan.

Through sheer force of character, through his inspirational leadership, I am proud to say that he shaped the modern Republican Party, he shaped the office of the Presidency, he shaped a new America, indeed he shaped a new world, a new world that offered hope for freedom-loving people all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, not a bad accomplishment for one man.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that Ronald Reagan loved Texas and Texas loved Ronald Reagan right back. So it was especially poignant that news of his passing occurred during our State Republican convention this past weekend. Indeed, State Senator Jane Nelson from my district in north Texas was quoted in the newspaper as saying, "We stopped at that point. We had a preacher on hand that gave him a beautiful tribute. We were able to come up with a picture, and we all sang 'Amazing Grace.' There were a lot of tears, mine included."

County judge Mary Horn was quoted in my local paper as saying, "He was the same up close as you perceived him to be on television. He was very sincere and very nice. When he talked to you, he talked to you. He didn't pay attention to things going on around him. You had his full attention."

State representative Myra Crownover said, "I remember that while Reagan was the oldest elected President, what sticks in my mind was the way he connected to young people. We had been through a decade of young people being disconnected with taking pride in

America, and he lit that spark again." Representative Crowthorn went on to say, "You have to be appreciative of what his family is living through." Someone described it once as being halfway to heaven. I am so glad he has been released so he could go the rest of the way.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY).

(Mr. FEENEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, for all Americans, Ronald Reagan was a happy warrior who fought all of his life for freedom with a gracefulness and a confidence that inspired all of America. But for American contemporary conservatives like myself, Ronald Reagan was more than that. He was our Plato, laying the philosophical groundwork for limited government, freedom, and self-responsibility.

He was our Moses. After Lincoln, republicanism had been adrift in fighting our way out of a desert filled with statist tendencies and the march towards bigger government and welfare dependency, something Frederick Hayek described as "The Road to Serfdom." Reagan reminded conservatives that America had a great rendezvous with destiny ahead.

Reagan was our Washington, the first contemporary President to consistently lay out conservative principles and steadfastly, calmly, and timely lead us during threats to freedom from big government and taxation at home, threats from tyrannical hegemony from abroad, to secure what our first President called the "sacred fire of liberty."

Finally, Ronald Reagan was a Churchill, warning of external threats not only to our homeland's freedom but of gathering storms building globally which endangered the aspirations of freedom fighters across the globe. And like Churchill, he then led us and led the free world in refusing to appease or coexist with totalitarian threats but instead insisting, like King Henry at Agincourt, that we wade into the enemy and win.

Finally, to quote Senator Benjamin Hill when he was speaking of the death of Robert E. Lee, I would like to quote him with respect to Ronald Reagan: "He was a foe without hate; a friend without treachery; a soldier without cruelty; a victor without oppression; and a victim without murmuring. He was a public officer without vices; a private citizen without wrong; a neighbor without reproach; a Christian without hypocrisy; and a man without guile. He was a Caesar, without his ambition; Frederick, without his tyranny; Napoleon, without his selfishness, and Washington, without his reward."

This week America gives President Reagan his very just reward.

By 1980, America's leaders were presiding over a self described "national malaise" domestically, 12 percent interest rates, 20 per-

cent mortgage rates, and a rising misery index across the land.

Internationally, America seemed resigned to coexistence with an Evil Empire that had enslaved and killed tens of millions, and drawn down upon two-thirds of the world's people an "iron curtain" of suffering and hopelessness.

A decade later, it was morning again in America. Tax rates were cut from 70 percent to 25 percent, Gross Domestic Product rising at the fastest rates since World War II, stock markets booming and the American spirit transcending long forgotten malaise.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay our respects to one of the greatest leaders that this Nation has ever known, a man who will forever be held as a model for what is great about America.

As we take this time to mourn the loss of one of our Nation's greatest leaders, we should also celebrate his heroic and historic life that he lived. Ronald Reagan exemplified the best qualities that you would ever want in a leader. He was compassionate, he was caring, he was visionary, and he was strong. He took our Nation from a crisis in confidence to a country the entire world would view as a standard bearer of justice and liberty.

Americans, they put their trust in Ronald Reagan and, in turn, Ronald Reagan put his trust in each one of us. He had faith in the American individual, in one's ability to care for one's self. Ronald Reagan knew that we could do more for ourselves than any oversized bureaucratic burdensome Federal Government could ever do. Ronald Reagan believed that doing more for ourselves was really the best way that we could regain that long missing self-confidence in our American pride again.

So today, in the wake of the President's death, we must continue to learn from his teachings. And we must long remember after today the contributions that Ronald Reagan made to this Nation both for this Nation, and his actions, and their meanings.

So may the legacy of Ronald Reagan live on as long as we are all proud to raise up the Stars and Stripes and call ourselves the United States of America.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to rise and join my colleagues in expressing my love and admiration and respect for President Ronald Reagan. I very much appreciate that here on the House floor last night and today colleagues from both sides of the aisle have stepped up to express their respects. I think that is an important thing. It is an indicator of what a truly great man, a great President, a great leader we had in Ronald Reagan.

Those of us who had the privilege and honor of working closely with President Reagan, and I was very fortunate

that in his first months in office I had the position of being his Marine Corps aid and carrying the nuclear football, the codes, traveling with him, and having the opportunity to share some thoughts, it usually was him sharing the thoughts and me listening in rapt attention, but what a wonderful man.

When you were with and near Ronald Reagan, it really was morning in America. I never knew any one of us who worked with him or anyone who was in his presence that could not feel his love for life, his love for our country, his unstoppable optimism. And on the one hand he was, as we have heard many of our colleagues say, friendly, loveable, affable, ready with the joke; and on the other hand he was truly a man of steel.

He had a wonderful vision for America, a vision as he articulated of a city on the hill, a beacon of hope and opportunity for the world. And his resolute determination that we would not continue in the impossible impasse of the Cold War, the very Cold War that necessitated me and my colleagues to carry those nuclear codes; he refused to accept that as inevitable and he set out with the determination that is hard to imagine today, to end that impasse, to win the war, to defeat the Evil Empire. I was proud to serve with him.

I just want to express my love to him and my love to his family.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. EVERETT).

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I insert at this point in the RECORD my celebration of President Ronald Reagan's life, truly a man that made a great difference in this country and this world.

Mr. Speaker, I join this House and all the American people in mourning the loss of former President Ronald Wilson Reagan. His passing is not only a sad time for America, but for all nations.

President Reagan gave hope and optimism to a world fearful of an uncertain future. He stirred forgotten emotions of patriotism at home while evoking courage in millions abroad struggling under the yolk of communism.

He helped to end the Cold War and his legacy is much in evidence today as once again a strong and patriotic America leads the world against the evil of tyranny.

Another legacy of President Reagan—one for which he was attacked by the short-sighted—was his vision of a strategic missile defense for our Nation and our allies. Thank God Ronald Reagan did not waiver in his resolve to pursue research into a missile defense for America. His unbridled determination to protect America from nuclear annihilation ultimately brought the Soviet Union to its knees.

Today, 20 years later, President Bush is leading the launch of a long-awaited missile defense system that will make America more secure from the threat of nuclear attack by a rogue nation or terrorist organization. The groundwork research and development of this

vital defense program, the Strategic Defense Initiative, was begun under President Reagan.

I am honored to chair the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces which has a direct role in the funding and oversight of this landmark missile defense system. And, I am proud to know that my subcommittee's efforts are the continuation of the promise made by Ronald Reagan to bring about a safer future for our families.

On a personal note, the people of the Second District of Alabama have a special love for Ronald Reagan. On July 10, 1986, Air Force One landed at Dothan Airport and President Reagan joined hundreds of our citizens of the Wiregrass for fried chicken and a discussion of his tax cut plan. His charm and conservative message were very warmly received. It was clear to everyone there that he hated to leave, and we hated to give him up.

Now Alabama and America must say a final farewell to our beloved former President. Frankly, I can't imagine an America without Ronald Reagan. He symbolized more completely than anyone else in modern history what we loved so much about our country. He made America 'America' again and for that we will always be grateful.

On behalf of the people of the Second District of Alabama, I send my condolences to Nancy Reagan and her family. We join with the nation and the world in sharing in your grief.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan is a large part of why I have the honor of standing here today. I am from Washington State but in the mid-1960s I lived in California. In 1966 I had the privilege of casting my first vote for Ronald Reagan in the gubernatorial primary and subsequently in the general election when he was elected Governor.

I moved back to Washington in 1976, and I served as a Reagan delegate to the Presidential Convention in Kansas City. He inspired me to get involved in public service. And 2 years later, I was elected to the Washington State legislature.

Reagan viewed the government as a servant of the people, not their master. Throughout his career, he worked for less government control over our lives. During his first inaugural address he said, and I quote, "It is not my intent to do away with government. It is rather to make it work, work with us, not over us; stand by our side, not ride on our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it, foster productivity, not stifle it."

While he made no apologies for what he believed, he was a pragmatist, not willing to sacrifice the good for the perfect. He has been quoted as saying, and I quote, "Die-hard conservatives thought that if I could not get everything that I asked for, I should jump off the cliff with the flag flying, go down in flames. No," he said, "if I can get 70 or 80 percent of what I am trying to get, I will take that and then continue to try to get the rest in the future."

We can all point to a handful of people who shaped us into what we are today. My list certainly includes Ronald Reagan, who helped shape both my political ideology and the day-to-day manner in which I try to govern: without acrimony, with a touch of humor, and with an unwavering faith in the American people.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Florida (Ms. HARRIS).

□ 1200

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight we join Americans from all walks of life and every political persuasion in mourning a President whose courage, vision, optimism and resolve renewed the Nation he loved.

As we look back with the clarity and assuredness that history affords, how easily we forget the staggering challenges that Ronald Reagan inherited January 20, 1981.

Haunted by the ghost of Vietnam, America seemed in retreat as Soviet aggression either enslaved or threatened significant regions of four continents. Meanwhile, the American people struggled as stagnant economic growth, double-digit inflation, and 20 percent interest rates ate away their life savings and crushed their hopes for the future. Most ominously, our leaders spoke of a crisis in the American spirit, of a pervasive malaise that appeared to have infected our hopes, our dreams and our will to persevere.

These problems seemed so severe and so insoluble that pundits and politicians wondered if the burdens of the Presidency had become too large, too complex and too demanding for any one person to handle, but not Ronald Reagan.

They also believed that the United States could only hope to become comfortable in its prison of mutually assured destruction with the Soviet Union and that the era of nuclear tyranny was with us forever, but not Ronald Reagan.

These so-called experts were even convinced that a vibrant economy was impossible without double-digit inflation, but not Ronald Reagan.

Rising from the humblest of beginnings, Ronald Reagan taught us once again how to embrace the extraordinary. His historic Presidency restored our spirit, revitalized our economy and transformed yesterday's garisons of tyranny into today's arsenals of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan brought us together by reminding us of the unique blessings that we enjoy as a Nation, and as we grieve his passing this week, let us celebrate a life that exemplified the strength, the character and the resiliency of the American spirit.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today on behalf of myself and the

citizens of the 6th District of Georgia and express my deep sympathy to the family of Ronald Reagan and my grateful appreciation for the life of Ronald Reagan.

I had the occasion to meet Mr. Reagan for the first time in 1970 when he began his pursuit on the national political stage, and I watched in amazement as this man transformed a decade of dissent and discord into a decade of hope and prosperity through the power of his positive attitude and to his great patriotism to his country.

As a young man in the 1950s, I remember crawling under the bomb shelters and under my desk when we prepared for the Cold War and the worst of the tyranny of communism, and I watched 35 years later as, through his powerful persuasiveness, Ronald Reagan broke down the Berlin Wall, broke down the Soviet Union and brought peace and prosperity to more of the world.

On this day on behalf of all of my constituents, my children and my grandchildren, I give thanks for the life of Ronald Reagan, and I thank God that Ronald Reagan came America's way.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my thanks to the gentleman from California (Mr. Cox) for granting me the time to speak this afternoon.

I rise today to express my most sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Ronald Wilson Reagan and to the millions of Americans, Mr. Speaker, who join me and all of us in mourning the passing of this great leader this week.

I also rise to voice a great sense of loss and bereavement felt by a multitude of my fellow Nevadans who are now reflecting upon and celebrating the tremendous impact that our Nation's 40th and arguably most influential President has had on all of our lives.

Reagan's political accomplishments alone could fill volumes; yet his political goals would have been far more difficult to come by if not for his eternally honorable character and personality. This week, as Americans mourn this great loss together, we will reflect not only on his political legacy, but also upon Reagan's personal contributions to America and to our culture.

Ronald Reagan was more than a President or a Commander-in-Chief. President Reagan was a small-town boy who mastered his own destiny to become an inspiration and great motivating force for the principles and policies that many of us continue to fight for every day in the House of Representatives.

During my tenure in Congress, it has been one of my most distinguished honors and personal joys to lead my colleagues on multiple measures designed

to pay homage to Mr. Reagan. Most notably, in May of 2002, legislation I sponsored to grant Ronald and Nancy Reagan the Congressional Gold Medal became a reality when President Bush presented Nancy Reagan with this award, the highest honor Congress can bestow, in the Capitol rotunda.

Ironically, in light of the tremendous impression his life has left upon the American public, even the Congressional Gold Medal seems a tiny token of appreciation that can only be overshadowed by the monumental outpouring of respect, reverence and appreciation flowing from all corners of our great Nation this week.

So as we contemplate the magnificent life of President Ronald Reagan and mourn his passing, we are reassured by the fact that this body can and should keep his legacy alive. Congress can best honor President Reagan by continuing progress along a path of conservative policies that Reagan himself would be proud of, and with that, I once again send my warmest regards to the Reagan family.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, today our Nation weeps in a very sad week when we recognize that we have lost a President who changed the Nation and acted upon a policy that created positive change not only for this Nation, but for the entire world.

Those of us who went into politics in the 1980s, as I did, many of us went in because we were inspired by Ronald Reagan. I actually ran for office the first time in 1980, and something that I will never forget is that Ronald Reagan took the time for a young, just-getting-started fellow who is running for the State representative in Texas, to drop me a personal note of encouragement. Here was a man who was going to lead the Nation, and yet he took the time for one small elected official. I will never forget that.

Ronald Reagan believed in America. He knew America to be the most noble Nation on the face of the Earth, and he absolutely trusted the American people, that they would do the right thing, because he knew them to be the noble people who created this Nation. That message, as he inspired our country with that message, brought us out of malaise and started us on the path of glory to know that we are doing the right thing.

We have missed Ronald Reagan. We will miss him tremendously because he inspired us to the greatness that we have, and for that reason, he has been a blessing upon this Nation. We will not forget.

Back in Williamson County, where I come from, we celebrate Ronald Reagan's birthday every year, and that is our big birthday celebration because we know Ronald Reagan is the modern founder of the Republican Party today, and that inspiration causes us to celebrate his birthday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, and we hope that they get through this with not too much crisis for all the blessings they have bestowed upon our Nation.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES).

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor one of America's greatest statesmen, President Ronald Reagan.

As Ronald Reagan makes his final trip to Washington, we remember this truly humble American hero. We remember a man with an ordinary beginning who went on to do extraordinary things, to chart the course for a generation, for a Nation and for the world.

Mr. Speaker, Washington is a town of leaders, and each of us who comes to Washington has a vision for the direction of our Nation. Rarely is there a man like Ronald Reagan who cannot only lead leaders, but who can do so with such integrity, principle and honesty.

In the midst of a Nation whose spirit had been crushed with war and economic burden, in the midst of people gripped with fear from the spread of communism, Ronald Reagan picked us up and breathed hope into our hearts. He reminded us of what we were fighting for. He said, "The ultimate determinant in the struggle now going on for the world will not be bombs and rockets but a test of wills and ideas, a trial of spiritual resolve: the values we hold, the beliefs we cherish and the ideals to which we are dedicated."

He reminded us that as Americans we have a responsibility to help those in need: "We cannot turn away from them," he said, "for the struggle here is not right versus left; it is right versus wrong." How true his words still ring today.

Ronald Reagan reminded us that government is not the answer to our problems, people are. "The government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases," he said. "If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

By exposing and destroying burdensome and oppressive regulation and taxes, he restored the spirit that America's built upon: optimism, opportunity and self-reliance. In doing so, he not only energized the economy, but he rejuvenated the pride and self-worth of Americans.

Finally, Ronald Reagan reminded us of the importance of faith in our democracy. He said, "Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged." He will be missed, but his words and spirit will continue on.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan changed our hearts with his optimistic

outlook on life, the world and our place in it. He came to office at a time in our history when we were a little bruised and battered, and, simply said, he pulled us up by our bootstraps and taught us how to get back on the horse that knocked us off.

"America is too great for small dreams," he once said, but to Ronald Reagan these were not merely words that were used in a 30-second sound bite. These were words that went to the core of the man.

He reminded us that even though we may have our differences, our common bond as Americans sets us apart from the rest of the world. He believed in all that is good in America because he believed there is good in every American.

Ronald Reagan was a hero to me and a hero to an entire generation. He leaves a legacy of hope and prosperity that will last for generations to come.

I know there is a special place in heaven for Ronald Reagan, and I know in my heart he heard the words, "Well done."

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who I believe to be the greatest American President of the 20th century. President Ronald Reagan defeated the most powerful and dangerous military empire in the history of the world without firing a single shot. President Reagan knew instinctively that America represents good, and he knew that communism represents evil. He never wavered in his conviction that freedom is the birthright of all mankind.

The enemies of the United States never forgave him for his firmness, for his character, for his faith in the people of the United States and his faith in the cause of liberty. Even in his death, they continue to attack him. His hatred is evidenced by the declaration made by the tyrannical regime in Havana a few hours ago: "He, who never should have been born, has died." That monstrous statement illustrates the ultimate evil of the tyrant who has enslaved the Cuban people for over 45 years. President Reagan knew that the Cuban tyrant and that Communist tyrants everywhere have represented and represent the antithesis of liberty, freedom and human dignity.

I think he was an extraordinary leader, Mr. Speaker, someone who inspired us all, changed America for the better and saved the world from tyranny.

May Ronald Wilson Reagan, apostle of freedom, democracy and human rights, rest in peace.

□ 1215

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am one of those fortunate to have worked and served in the Reagan administration for 4½ years. I started off as a legislative aid, and I ended up being in charge of congressional affairs at OMB under Director Stockman and then under Director Jim Miller. Ronald Reagan had a vision, an agenda; and he knew how to get things done. He surrounded himself with good people that were smart, who shared his vision, and in fact knew the political process to get things done.

Back then, times were tough. We had the Cold War, we had double-digit inflation, double-digit unemployment, double-digit interest rates; and yet he was still able to get his agenda through and move the country forward. The odds were stacked against him. Man, Republicans did not control the Senate; and in this body, in the House, they did not control the House either. In fact, the margin was 70 or 80 votes short in the House. Yet he was still able to get his agenda through.

On the minority side, the Republican side, we had two terrific dynamic leaders, John Rhodes and Bob Michel, two Republicans that were minority leaders, never Speaker. They were both good, decent, honest people; but they never had the votes, or not the Republican votes. So Ronald Reagan appealed to the American people for his support. "Reaganesque" is a word today that you will find in the dictionary, a powerful word; and in fact he put policy over politics, and look at the results.

He beat an incumbent President, a good honest, decent guy, Jimmy Carter, who has done wonderful things since his Presidency; but the real test is your reelection, and Ronald Reagan won 49 of the 50 States. If that was not a mandate in terms of his agenda, I do not know what is. That mandate, winning 49 States, I think will serve as the record for any President running for reelection.

Yes, history will judge where he stands, rightfully so. But in large part it already has. Ronald Reagan was a great American President, a wonderful man who touched tens of millions of lives across this country in every respect of their life. I was proud to serve a wonderful President for those years.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The first time I met Ronald Reagan was the day I began work for him in the White House. We shook hands and exchanged pleasantries in the Oval Office. Of course, it is difficult to forget one's first meeting with the President of the United States, but what I particularly remember is how quickly he put me at ease. Of course, he told a joke.

Learning that I was a Harvard graduate, he told me the story of a friend of his who had graduated from Harvard Law School, had become a partner in a large firm but had lost his position due

to a problem with drinking and drugs, and consequentially, in succession, he lost his wife, his family, his income, and even ran afoul of the law, being put in jail for shoplifting. But now he was out of jail. He had cleaned up his life and, most importantly, he had met a wonderful woman to whom he wished to propose marriage. But, and it was on this point that he asked the President's advice, he had not told this woman about his background for fear of losing her. So he asked the President, should I tell her that I went to Harvard?

I knew immediately where I stood. Two years later, I was with the President in the Oval Office, and I have a picture hanging on my desk of this moment, and I am sitting across from his desk, across from him, just the two of us. He has a big smile on his face, and I am about to burst out laughing because he was, of course, telling another joke.

It was a special privilege to travel with the President on Air Force 1, and what I particularly remember is the way the President came back to cheer up the staff, to regale us with stories and jokes. I was particularly fond of his amazingly authentic Irish brogue.

But I will not forget especially the last time I saw him as President. It was here in this Capitol. He had summoned us, the Republican Members, just days before the inauguration to give us a private valediction. No press, no public, just us. And he spoke from the Democratic sides of the aisle, from the rostrum on the left, a mistake I attributed to his lack of familiarity with House procedure. It was a mistake of mine, however. He knew exactly what he was doing. And as he described his political career, he described how I did not leave the Democratic Party, the Democratic Party left me; and he strode purposefully to this other rostrum to the delight of the Republican Members.

But what he told us that day rose far above party and partisanship. Because, of course, he saw a consistent thread throughout his career in his support for FDR, his campaigning for Harry Truman, his support and campaigning for Ike, and of course his own administration. A few moments after he finished here on the floor, we went to Statuary Hall and he mingled with the Members and we had a few private moments there. This was, of course, just a few feet from where in the rotunda later today his body will lie in repose. He did not tell me a joke at that time. Instead, after congratulating me on my recent election to Congress, something we had had the chance more exuberantly to celebrate after me and my new colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), visited with him in the Oval Office in June, he told me never forget to trust the people who sent you here and always fight for the principles that you and I share.

It was the serious side of him because he was all about ideas. And while his

humor, his gregariousness, his avuncularity has been much remarked upon in recent days, that was an important aspect of his leadership; but it does not tell us about the substance of his leadership, where he was taking the country. And it was the ideas that President Reagan brought to Washington that mattered most of all.

It is well known and much remarked upon that Ronald Reagan won the Cold War without firing a shot. He led the global movement to tear down the Berlin Wall. He led an economic renaissance at home by dramatically reducing the burden of taxes across the board, from a marginal rate of 70 percent down to 28 percent. But it is just as important to recognize the leading role that President Reagan played in supporting our country, such issues as the civil rights of women and men here at home.

President Reagan, of course, appointed the first woman to be ambassador of the United Nations. He appointed the first woman to be a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. He appointed the first woman to be Secretary of Transportation, the first Latina to be Treasurer of the United States.

On November 2, 1983, he made Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday. He appointed the first African American chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, my good friend and great American, the late Clarence Pendleton. He extended the Voting Rights Act for a quarter century. He named the first Hispanic to the Cabinet, Lauro Cavazos, as Secretary of Education.

On August 10, 1988, he provided compensation to Japanese Americans who had been deprived of their civil liberties and their property during the infamous internment of World War II ordered by FDR.

Today, we can see the wisdom of President Reagan's policies from a distance. He appointed the first-ever Presidential Commission on AIDS and gave national direction to the effort to stop the spread of this terrible disease.

His was the statesmanship of a true leader. While fighting Soviet expansion in Africa, he fought apartheid and imposed sanctions on the racist Government of South Africa by executive order. He demanded as a condition of lifting those sanctions the release of Nelson Mandela. And yet he refused to declare economic warfare against the civilian population of that country, black, white, and all races as the United Nations had done in imposing its sanctions on Zimbabwe. So today, whereas Zimbabwe has become a living hell, an autocracy that has stripped away all pretense of law or property or personal safety, South Africa has a real democracy where all men and women can vote and where all are equal before the law.

In Central America, he prevented the Soviet Union from establishing a beachhead in our own hemisphere, and

likewise in Nicaragua. And throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean, just as in Central Europe and Asia, democracy grew and prospered.

Mr. Speaker, from that day in January of 1981, when President Reagan was sworn in, until last Saturday, the American people always knew where to look for a hero. President Reagan did great things not only for our country but for our world. Today, more than 1 billion people live in freedom because of his global leadership. In fact, all of the people of the world, those who enjoy the sweet blessings of liberty and those who still yearn for freedom, will always know where to look for a hero.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, this opportunity to share a few words about President Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, when our country was confronted with a terrible menace of dangerous ideology, Reagan rallied America and united the world to decisively defeat the threat of Communism. We are grateful for that leadership.

Ronald Reagan elevated the office of President. When mistakes were made, Ronald Reagan personally accepted responsibility. It did not matter what focus groups, polls, his advisers, political consultants said, he understood that the buck stopped with him and him alone.

He was an American icon, forever remembered for his warmth and the respect he afforded to others, and our thoughts and prayers today are with Nancy and his children and his family at this very difficult time.

Even when President Reagan broke the hearts of the Democrats, he was respected for his honesty, his beliefs, and the dedication he displayed in pursuing them.

As a young elementary student during the *Challenger* disaster, it was enormous comfort to those of us who were all watching, because there was a teacher on the *Challenger* at that time, to listen to President Reagan as we began to question why America was sending these astronauts up into space; why was there a teacher on the *Challenger* at that time. And President Reagan said to us that the future does not belong to the faint-hearted, it belongs to the brave, and communicating to us what America was all about.

I also remember as a young man President Reagan interacting with then-Speaker Tip O'Neill, in the way they got along, and they laughed and they talked and they joked. And that was a great example for those of us who were beginning to get acquainted with the political system.

I remember the courage and the humor that President Reagan showed when he was shot, hoping that the doc-

tors were all Republican and telling his wife, who was terrified, that he forgot to duck.

I also cannot help but remember President Reagan, during the Washington Redskins ceremony at the Rose Garden after winning the Super Bowl, hitting Gary Sanders on the money as he ran a drag pattern across the Rose Garden.

The differences then, despite our disagreements, were real; but because of the way President Reagan led, he taught us that there is a big difference between strong beliefs and bitter partisanship. Strong beliefs and a love of country are the only way to bring this country forward as we face the enormous challenges that we have before this body today.

Ronald Reagan always stressed that we are a can-do country. Democrats and Republicans both believe this. And I believe it is that sense of optimism, as we look back on history, that the Presidents that moved the Nation forward were optimistic and believed the best and the brightest in this country would continue to move us forward.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can get back on the right track with strong leadership and a real commitment to confronting the problems that face American families today. In the words of Ronald Reagan, we can do better. With tolerance and inclusion, uniting rather than dividing, we can continue the legacy of Ronald Reagan.

So when we return to work next week, I hope this House will be inspired by the leadership of Ronald Reagan instead of mired in the partisan politics that have too often affected our work as of late. We should be inspired by his patriotism and devotion to our country, and we should remember his faith, his optimism, and his unwavering commitment to his convictions as we do the work of the American people.

In the words of President Reagan, those comforting words he gave us some 18 years, and we will never forget Ronald Reagan, nor the last time we saw him, for now he has slipped the surly bonds of Earth to touch the face of God. We will miss him.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN).

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, like so many Americans, President Reagan was not only my President, but also my inspiration. My own calling to public service in 1981 was in no small part as a result of President Reagan's example. Without his leadership and passion for our great Nation, I would not be standing in this great Chamber before Members today.

He was a shining light and a beacon of hope not only for our Nation, but also for the world. At a time in history when it was desperately needed, he

sought peace in our world and was a champion of democracy and freedom. We are all better as a result of his contributions, and his legacy will live forever.

If I had to describe President Reagan with just one adjective, it would not be courageous, optimistic or kind, or any number of other fitting adjectives for such a great man, it would be American. Above all things, President Reagan was an American. He so embodied the spirit, courage and hope of America that he was able to reach out and touch his fellow citizens. He trusted the American people to be able to make decisions for themselves, and in turn they trusted him. He had a dream to make America stronger by putting more responsibility back into the hands of the people. He understood that Americans could manage their hard-earned dollars better than any government agency. He empowered the citizens to work harder and to improve our Nation from the ground up.

I am proud to model my views on government after one of our great Presidents, President Reagan. Even those who have never met him or who disagree with him politically felt a special connection with President Reagan. He was a people's President, arguably unlike any others before or after.

He invigorated and inspired those young men for the battle ahead, just as he invigorated and inspired a Nation while he was in office. President Reagan always celebrated life, and he loved every day of it. I am honored to be celebrating the life of such a great American with Members today. We were blessed and honored as a Nation to have President Reagan as both our leader and as our friend.

Mr. President, you were not just marking time. You made a tremendous difference in the lives of all Americans. You made the Nation stronger and the world a safer place for democracy. Today we still enjoy the fruits of the Reagan revolution. You fought for freedom, and today it does not waver. You were the inspiration of so many, including myself, and today we remember and say thanks to you. On behalf of the entire First Congressional District of South Carolina, a grateful Nation and myself, thank you, Mr. President, and may God bless you and your family.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS).

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, the great communicator, an all-American patriot, relentless pursuer of freedom, these qualities describe America's 40th President, Ronald Reagan.

We can all agree that President Reagan's enduring love for his country and his idealistic outlook renewed faith and hope to a generation of Americans. My fond memories of President Reagan will include, among others, that defining moment nearly 14 years ago as I

watched with pride as he, as a former President, chiseled away at the Berlin Wall. I was truly moved by the immense joy and pride that he radiated and that radiated on the faces around him. You see, it had not been that many years before that in his famous speech he said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

President Reagan's commitment and service to our country and the world will be forever remembered in the hearts and minds of people around the globe. I join millions of others throughout the world who continue to keep Mrs. Reagan and their family in my heart and in my prayers as we pay tribute to the 40th President of the United States of America, former President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

(Mr. COLE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, there are few men in our history whose lives can be said to have changed the world. Ronald Reagan was one of those men.

Ronald Reagan was an inspiration to me personally and politically. In 1984, I was honored to head his reelection campaign in Oklahoma. I also served as chairman of the Oklahoma Republican Party during his Presidency. A favorite memory of mine is of a meeting with the President and Republican State party chairmen from the South at the White House in 1988. A 15-minute meeting turned into an hour-long treasure as he regaled us with one hilarious political story after another. Ronald Reagan loved politicians, he loved politics, and he loved public service.

I cannot claim to have known Ronald Reagan well. I was privileged to be with him on more than a few occasions. All the same, he changed my life and the lives of millions of others. He was a voice of faith, faith in America, faith in her people, faith in their future, and, most profoundly, faith in freedom.

Ronald Reagan inspired us to do great things. With him we accomplished much. It is for us to continue to build that shining city on a hill to which he so often referred. There is much yet to do. Ronald Reagan was my hero; but more importantly, he was an American hero. We mourn his passing, but we celebrate his life of achievement and patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, there are few men in our history and there will be few men in our future who live their lives in such a way that the world will be changed because of their existence. Ronald Reagan is one of those men. His dignity, character, strength and convictions will distinguish him in the pages of history and define him as one of the greatest presidents of the twentieth century. President Reagan was an inspiration to many and his optimism for America's future encouraged those across all party lines. He knew there was a brighter tomorrow through the path of strong values, hard work, tough decisions and perseverance. His leadership pulled America through the end

of the Cold War, pushed the Soviet Union and the eastern Bloc onto the "ash heap of history" and restored the virtues of idealism and optimism to our country. He was a visionary who instigated the rebirth of conservatism and shaped the Republican Party into the governing national majority we see today.

Ronald Reagan was a source of inspiration to me both personally and politically. I was serving as Executive Director of the Oklahoma State Party when Reagan was elected. In 1984, I was honored to head his re-election efforts in Oklahoma. I also served as Oklahoma GOP Chairman during his presidency, so I had opportunities to meet and work with him.

Ronald Reagan had a magic that really appealed to people. A favorite memory is of a meeting with the president and Republican state party chairmen from the South in 1988. A 15 minute meeting turned into an hour-long treasure as he regaled us with one hilarious political story after another. His wit and humor are as fresh in my memory today as they were 20 years ago. I was privileged to see up close what so many Americans intuitively felt when watching him on television. He was an extraordinary man who lived life and enjoyed being with people. It is no wonder he was able to move thousands of people and mobilize them to support his efforts. It's a gift few of us have—and he had that magic in abundance.

Not only is Ronald Reagan a personal hero to me, his influence has shaped a generation of politicians. And by doing that he instilled the values that the Republican Party embraces today. Countless Republican officeholders got into elective politics because he fired their imagination. More profoundly, he showed that the institution of the presidency does work. We seldom remember that after the trials of Watergate and twenty years of failed or shortened administrations, some thought our country was too big for one man to govern, inspire and shape. No one, particularly those who worked with Ronald Reagan, question that today.

And let us not forget that he was a very effective politician whose drive to succeed and will to win were intense. He lost primary after primary in 1976 before coming back from the political graveyard in North Carolina, Texas and Oklahoma. Former Republican National Chairman Frank Farenkopf tells the story that on election day in 1984, the president was so far ahead in the polls that he and Ed Rollins cancelled a rally in Minnesota. He did not need to be bothered, they reasoned. After he won 49 states and only lost Minnesota by about 2,500 votes, the president liked to tease both of his advisors about their election day gaffe. It became a joke, but the president wanted Minnesota in his column.

Much has been made in recent days of Ronald Reagan's courage. We saw his physical courage when an assassin sought to take his life in early 1981. We saw it again when he confronted the ravages of Alzheimer's with grace, candor and sensitivity. But President Reagan also had the courage of his ideas and an ability to see the right path for his party and for his country.

One of Ronald Reagan's biographers, Edmund Morris, tells of his astonishment when he read the president's diaries from his time in office. He learned how many of the major and complex decisions of the Reagan Administration were made by the president, alone and in

private. Ronald Reagan did not care, Morris recounts, who got the credit as long as his decisions were implemented and his goals for America came closer to realization. Recently Kiron K. Skinner and Marty Anderson's fine works detailed the depth and breath of Reagan's view of the world—a view he implemented in office.

In describing another great man at another time in history, Winston Churchill writes in his History of the English Speaking Peoples that Robert Peel was "... the dominating force and personality in English politics ..." who "whether in Opposition or in office ... towered above the scene. He was not a man of broad and ranging modes of thoughts, but he understood better than any of his contemporaries the needs of the country and he had the outstanding courage to change his views in order to meet them." Robert Peel, Mr. Churchill added, saw the industrial revolution in Britain that made her the pre-eminent world power in the nineteenth century was driven not by the government but by private enterprise, by capital, by entrepreneurs, by a free people willing to take risks.

There are many differences between Robert Peel and Ronald Reagan. Mr. Peel split his party and destroyed a governing coalition to support Free Trade—a decision validated by history. As a governor and then as a president, Ronald Reagan united a party badly divided over ideas and led it out of the political wilderness. The Republican ascendancy in national government today is a direct result of his leadership. But in reading Winston Churchill's appraisal of Robert Peel's political biography. He was the dominating personality in American politics for a generation.

From the vantage of the early twenty-first century, it is hard to recall the mood of the country and its troubles at his election in 1980. Watergate, defeat in Vietnam, unrestrained Soviet adventurism, double digit inflation and interest rates, massive unemployment, an energy crisis, American hostages in Tehran, the end of the post-War U.S. domination of the global economy—all these combined to give some a sense America's best days were behind her; that perhaps free enterprise and freedom were not the answer; that we had to accept totalitarian communism as a legitimate and equally plausible alternative to our own way of life. Ronald Reagan rejected these ideas. He was optimistic about America, he believed the United States was "a shining city on the hill", a beacon of hope and freedom to the world. He understood communism was evil and free peoples must defend themselves against the darkness of tyranny and oppression. He saw a bright and prosperous future for all Americans, one where their work could carry them as far as they dared to dream. Looking back, we take all these things for granted, but Ronald Reagan was ridiculed by the intellectuals and so-called realists of his day. It took real courage to stand up for his beliefs to put them into practice, and to defend them from the faint of heart while they took root and blossomed. To paraphrase Mr. Churchill's assessment of Mr. Peel, Ronald Reagan understood his countrymen better than anyone else on the political stage. They needed leadership, he gave it and they loved him for it.

Like Mr. Peel, Ronald Reagan also had the courage to change his views. A New Deal Democrat, his partisan affiliation and ideological vantage point slowly shifted over time

from a liberal Democrat who believed in government intervention to a conservative Republican who trusted Americans and the people of the world to solve their own problems. As anyone who has even a passing understanding of Hollywood and its cultural and political outlook knows, this was not an easy thing to do. Ronald Reagan learned about communists first hand when he battled to keep them out of the entertainment industry. Much of his later political success was based on a willingness to stand up to Soviet aggression. Yet, when a glimmer of light came through the darkness behind the Iron Curtain, President Reagan saw America's chance for victory through negotiation and began to talk to the Soviets and their leader, Mikhail Gorbachev. Many of his longtime supporters decried his decision and they did so with good reason because the Soviets historically did not negotiate in good faith. But the president had the courage and the vision to see the great opening and he took it. And, like so many times in the past, he was right. And we are better for it.

Mr. Speaker, like many Americans I cannot claim to have known Ronald Reagan well. I was privileged to be with him on more than a few occasions, but more often I watched him on television or read about him in the morning's newspapers with the rest of the country. All the same, he changed my life. And he changed the lives of millions around the world. His was a voice of faith. Faith in America, in her people, and in freedom. He inspired us to do great things. With him we accomplished much. Though he has gone to a better place, it is for us to continue to build that shining city on the hill. There is much yet to do. But Ronald Reagan's legacy and memory will inspire us in our task.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for their bipartisan leadership in this tribute to President Ronald Reagan.

I would like to share a personal story, one little vignette about my experience with President Reagan. It was during my student days, during my college senior year. Then-Governor Reagan came to Stanford to speak. The speech was organized. It was sometime between his 1976 Presidential campaign and his 1980 Presidential campaign. He had been Governor of California.

His speech at Stanford was organized by the Young College Republicans or the Young College Conservatives. Whoever organized it, they carefully screened the audience, and a lot of folks were screened out. But for whatever reason, I was screened in.

Then-Governor Reagan gave a very good speech, after which he took questions. I was one of the ones who rose to ask a question. Of course, it was a challenging question. As I was going into the question, members of the audience started to boo me, and the moderator rose to cut off my question. It was at that point that Mr. Reagan stepped up and said, "No, no, no, I want to hear

the young man out, and I want to answer his question." I had my say, he answered the question, and of course he got a standing ovation.

But I think it is that moment, that image of Mr. Reagan, that I remember, his graciousness, his openness, his generosity of spirit, the willingness to hear folks out and hear debate. That is a sign of greatness in any individual, and there were lessons for that day almost 30 years ago, and they are perhaps lessons today for the Washington in which we work today.

My best wishes to the family, and God bless Ronald Reagan.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I, like all of my colleagues, would like to extol the wonderful accomplishments of President Reagan, the economy coming back from the doldrums, the destruction of the Berlin Wall, and the Communist menace that we faced so much back in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. But what I want to talk about today are personal experiences I had with Ronald Reagan.

When I was running for office over a period of 10 or 12 years, I promised my mother, who was a waitress for many, many years at L.S. Harris & Company, that if I ever got elected to the Congress of the United States, the first thing I would do is take her in the front door of the White House and introduce her to the President of the United States.

I got elected in 1983. I called the White House and they said, yes, we can give you a couple of minutes with the President. I called my mom, and I took her in the front door of the White House expecting a very perfunctory kind of meeting where he would shake hands and take a picture, and that would be it. Unbeknownst to me, he contacted my office and tried to find out everything he could about me. When we walked in, he put his arm around me and said to my mother, "This is one of the finest young Congressmen in the Congress. I want you to know that I really appreciate all of the things he has done," and he reeled off three or four things I had accomplished that I did not think he had any idea about.

I could see my mother's chest expanding, expanding, and expanding. Here is a little lady from the Midwest who had a very tough life, was abused as a wife, and protected me and my sister from abuse from my father. She had nothing but a tough life, and here was the President of the United States telling her what a great guy her son was. I will never forget that as long as I live. She walked out of that office with my stepfather and me, and she was so proud. She carried a picture of the President and us together for the rest of her life. She was so proud to the day she died. He was that kind of a guy.

I remember another time I debated Al Gore when he was in the House and

Tom Downey of New York on the Strategic Defense Initiative when the President first started talking about defending this country from an incoming missile attack. I debated Al Gore and Tom Downey on a Special Order for probably 30 or 40 minutes, and I thought that was the end of it. And 2 days later, I got a personal handwritten letter from the President thanking me for sticking up for him. Who would believe the President of the United States would take the time to write a handwritten note to a new Congressman just because he took a position that paralleled the President's? He was a wonderful, down-to-Earth man.

One more little anecdote, and then I will let the rest of my colleagues talk. When I first got elected, they had a dinner for all of the freshmen Congressmen. After the dinner, we were walking around the Green Room, and everybody was patting the President on the back and saying what a great job he had done with the tax cuts. As he walked by me, I thought I better talk about something besides tax cuts because he is just walking past everybody, and I really wanted to talk to the guy.

As he walked by, I said, "President Reagan, one of my favorite movies was King's Row." He said, thank you very much, took two steps past me, stopped, turned around and came back, and talked for 10 minutes about that movie. It was one of the greatest thrills of my life to get a real insight into what he did as a movie actor. He really enjoyed it as well. All my colleagues gathered around. It was one of the highlights of the evening.

That is the kind of guy Ronald Reagan was. He cared about people in addition to being a great President.

I would like to say to his family, God bless you, all of you. Mrs. Reagan, you were great to us when you were First Lady. God bless you and your family. The good Lord, I am sure, has a very high place in heaven for Ronald Reagan.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I do not have stories like the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), personal interaction with former President Reagan, but as somebody growing up and loving politics, I obviously watched his Presidency as a student of politics.

Here was a guy known as a great communicator, an eternal optimist. It makes sense when one thinks about it: A guy who grew up in Dixon, Illinois, a troubled home, faced a series of disadvantages, and one day wakes up in the White House.

□ 1245

What is there not to be optimistic about? And he had that sense of optimism, and everybody can talk about different skills or techniques or tactics as a communicator; but the truth is he never left Dixon, Illinois. He had that common touch. He knew about walking-around folk, and he understood

their lives, and he could tell a great story that gave people a sense of his ideas. So he spoke of our common wisdom and our common sense.

One of the other things that I very much admired on the policy, although I do have differences obviously, was President Reagan's commitment to the earned income tax credit. In 1986, he greatly expanded the earned income tax credit; and if I can quote him, "This is the best antipoverty, the best profamily, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress."

That was President Reagan on the earned income tax credit; and he understood that through a tax credit we can help create jobs, help be profamily, did not have to have a government bureaucrat to do it, but it was something we could do through the Tax Code to reward work, reward responsibility, and fight poverty at the same time.

I think that was a tremendous program. We expanded it in 1993 and again later on in 1997, but Ronald Reagan in 1986 really put the muscle behind the earned income tax credit, a great program that I think lifted millions of American families and children out of poverty and did it by rewarding work, not dependency.

Lastly, Ronald Reagan spoke to our patriotism and our sense of love. He came into office at a time when people did not think you could do the job of the Presidency. It was just so overwhelming. And with his ease, his grace and his confidence, he restored people's confidence in that office.

Mr. Speaker, he has a legacy of patriotism and confidence in America and the American people, and it will endure. Our hearts go out to Mrs. Reagan and his entire family, to a great, great patriot.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan's belief in the ideals of individual liberty reassured America to believe in itself and inspired people all over the world.

Like a flower perfect in its bud and as it is in its bloom, it spreads its seeds before it dies. So did Ronald Reagan as he spread the seeds of liberty and its attributes to the people of the world through the pursuits of freedom.

His critics viewed him as a throwback in time, almost antediluvian; but what Ronald Reagan possessed were principles and ideals that were ageless. They served as guideposts for our country in time.

I will always remember his courage to take a stand in the face of adversity, especially the evils of tyranny. He understood that liberty is protected by the vigilante who must be ready to prepare and defend freedom, thereby preserving peace.

I will always remember his charm and smile. They were infectious. He was always able to stay above the fray, undetracted and undeterred with his calm demeanor and balanced tempera-

ment. I believe his optimism inspired people in more ways than this body could ever articulate. To Ronald Reagan, one cannot believe impossible things, for it oppresses the soul and forks hope.

He dared Americans to dream big and made it fashionable to be a dreamer of dreams. His sentimentality reflected his care and concern for people. I thank the Reagan family for permitting the state funeral so that people can mourn their President.

On behalf of my constituents in Indiana, I extend their thoughts and prayers of many Hoosiers to the Reagan family.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH), the newest Member of this body.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, many Members of this House worked closely with President Reagan and were fortunate to call him their friend. Many were inspired to service by his example and point to his Presidency as a turning point in their lives. For many in my generation, he is the first President we really remember from the beginning of his Presidency to the end. He is the first President who inspired us with his confidence and optimism as well as his humility.

He is the first President in our memory to truly embody that graceful strength that we seek from our leaders in times of crisis and uncertainty. We will all remember President Ronald Reagan in our own way, shaped by our own perspective. What I will always remember most is the respect, the dignity, and the sincerity with which he treated others, as will all America for generations to come. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nancy Reagan, his family, and his many friends.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, our country had suffered its fair share of lumps in the 1970s, and in 1980 we were looking for a leader who would draw a line in the sand and say "no more." We found that rare man in Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan succeeded where others failed because throughout his public life he concerned himself with getting things done, not winning applause. In fact, one of Reagan's hallmarks was the plaque he kept on his desk that said: "There is no limit to what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit."

As a businessman, I admired Ronald Reagan's dedication to this seemingly modest goal. Putting success ahead of personal accolades is a difficult lesson for many to learn, but a talent all great men seem to instinctively possess. It is an axiom that turns productive individuals into innovative leaders, and it turned Ronald Reagan into one of the greatest leaders and greatest Presidents we have had. Ironically, the

more Reagan sought to distance himself from the successes he knew grew from the sweat and tears of the American people, the more it turned out that those people admired him for his principled leadership. That leadership earned Ronald Reagan widespread respect and helped Reagan form broad bipartisan coalitions to renew America. The results were immediate, winning historic legislative victories on providing tax relief and strengthening our military. The economy flourished as our national pride returned.

I can recall what a difference Ronald Reagan made in my own life, from the depressed job market I entered after graduating from college in 1978 to the vastly improved job opportunities I found after graduating from business school in 1983. The world was a wholly different place in those 5 years because the Reagan Era had become the Reagan Revolution.

The impact that Ronald Reagan had on our world is immeasurable. When he took office, our collective national spirit had been lulled to sleep in the morass of the 1960s and the 1970s. Reagan seized the sleeping giant and shook it wide awake with a jolt of optimism and patriotism and a reminder of our destiny as Americans that our best days lay ahead.

May God bless the spirit and family of Ronald Reagan, our 40th President, and one of our true national heroes.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

Mr. ETHERIDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Second District of North Carolina, I rise to pay my respects to the late Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States of America. My wife, Faye, and I join all North Carolinians and all Americans in expressing our condolences to former First Lady Nancy Reagan and the entire Reagan family.

Ronald W. Reagan served two terms in our Nation's highest office after winning overwhelming margins of victory in the Presidential elections of 1980 and 1984. His time in office was marked by renewed pride in America, and he is to be commended for his steadfast devotion to liberalization from the oppression of communism and that vicious rule in nations throughout the world.

Regardless of one's position on President Reagan's policies and politics, all Americans remember his warmth of spirit and the respectful manner in which he engaged in public debate. This approach kept acrimony to a healthy minimum even when conflicting views on vitally important issues were debated in this House and in this city. That example stands in marked contrast to the divisiveness and bitter partisanship we have too often witnessed since his Presidency.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, all Americans stand in solidarity and salute Nancy

Reagan and the whole Reagan family for the dignity and grace that they have displayed through the former President's long and difficult struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Their struggle has been our struggle, for it reminds us of the afflictions millions of Americans face in anonymity every day. The Federal Government must act to ease this needless suffering by increasing research funding and modernizing regulations to allow for potentially lifesaving research using stem cells and other medical techniques. The pain on Mrs. Reagan's face should prod the conscience of this country to end the cruel victimization of stricken patients who require potentially lifesaving research.

In conclusion, the passing of President Reagan closes an important chapter in American history. As the leaders of the 20th century pass from the scene, we must endeavor to carry on their legacy of progress at home and American leadership in the world. On behalf of the people of North Carolina, I rise today to say, rest in peace, Mr. President.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON).

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Seventh District of New Jersey, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of one of the great Presidents in the history of the United States, Ronald Reagan. In a farewell address at the end of his second term, President Reagan said that those in his generation "were taught very directly what it means to be an American. And we absorbed, almost in the air, a love of country and an appreciation for its institutions."

In many ways, President Reagan was my first President. His presence was the dominant force in America and in politics when I first started thinking about policy issues, the role of government, and America's unique place of leadership in the world. And I believe, for my generation and for so many more, President Reagan enabled us to do just what he had been taught in his generation: to absorb, almost in the air, a love of country and an appreciation for its institutions.

After the turmoil and tumult of the 1960s and the 1970s, President Reagan helped America regain its confidence. He helped us to remember who we were, what being an American meant, and the greatness which would allow America to play a pivotal role on the world stage. Ronald Reagan believed in peace through strength, and he won the Cold War. He believed in the dignity and the value of every human person, and he believed in an optimistic vision for the future of America which resulted in one of the golden ages of American patriotism, prosperity, and progress. He was able to be a tough leader and a formidable adversary; and he did it with his own human touch, with a warm sense of humor, and his ever-present humility.

Future generations will teach their children just as we are teaching ours that the life and legacy of President Ronald Reagan will take its rightful place alongside the greatest leaders in our Nation's history and as one of the pivotal figures of the 20th century who quite literally changed our world for the better. For this, we will forever be in his debt. May he rest in peace.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is probably somewhat appropriate that I follow my friend from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON) because, like some other Members in this body, I passed from being a child to being a grown man under the Reagan Presidency during those 8 years. And it is appropriate and I am honored to stand here today as part of the great bipartisan tradition in this country to express my condolences to the Reagan family.

This is not a moment for party. It is a moment for solemn reflection about America and about someone who cared very deeply about America. Make no mistake, there are some on my side of the aisle who, including myself, have profound disagreements with the direction of what has been called the Reagan Revolution.

□ 1300

All of us in this Chamber do not share the same vision or the same viewpoints on a number of the President's policies during the 1980s, but this is a time to give him his due, and this is a time to remember what the best tradition of Ronald Reagan's conservatism meant.

One of my strongest memories of Ronald Reagan was one of his last great speeches when he went to the Berlin Wall about 24 years after John F. Kennedy went there, and he said symbolically to Mikhail Gorbachev, then the leader of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gorbachev, if you are serious about reform, if you are serious about freedom, come to this place, open this gate, and tear down this wall. And somehow 15 months later the wall was gone.

Ronald Reagan was fortunate that he lived to see successes on his own terms, he lived to see the wall come down in Berlin. And I have to believe this: We can debate as historians what caused the Soviet empire to fall without a shot being fired. We can debate as people who follow history what caused the Soviet Union to implode. But we ought to be generous enough this week to say that Ronald Reagan's courage was a part of that. His willingness to stand up to the Iron Curtain was no small part in the dismantling.

How do we honor Ronald Reagan? There are different opinions in this Chamber about how we do that. Let me close my time today by giving just one Member's opinion. President Reagan

spoke very eloquently of a shining city on a hill. If we are to ever build a shining city on a hill that is America, we have to recognize that a shining city has no hollows, a shining city has no walls, and a shining city is one where all of our people somehow have a foundation and a chance for growth.

Ronald Reagan's conservatism, properly understood, oriented to the needs of our times, ought to mean at least this: It ought to mean that we believe in one community in America. It ought to mean that we believe in a community that is strong enough to raise up all of our people and strong enough to reconcile all of our differences.

So I end today by saying that whatever our differences with our friends on the other side of the aisle, whatever our differences with the direction of the 1980s, we ought to be secure in the sense that we are all Americans, and we ought to be secure in the sense of freedom that Ronald Reagan spoke about that day in Berlin, because there are all kinds of walls that still need to come down, and to truly salute this man's legacy, that ought to be our business today.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I first met Ronald Reagan through a local leader in our State, Faith Whittlesey, who was one of Ronald Reagan's earliest supporters in the eastern part of America for the Presidency. And it was a glorious day in 1984 when Ronald Reagan came to my home county, stood on the steps of the courthouse where I was then the vice chairman, and held my hand up alongside of another famous American, Tug McGraw, and endorsed me for the congressional seat. I did not win that year, Madam Speaker, but I came within 412 votes of unseating a 10-year, very popular incumbent. I won the seat 2 years later and have been here ever since.

But I took up two of Ronald Reagan's key issues: his work with the Soviet Union, now Russia, and his work on missile defense. And over the past 18 years that I have been in Congress, it has been my pleasure to try to live up to the expectations and to the role model that Ronald Reagan established for all of us.

Madam Speaker, he was someone who understood the Russian people, and he was someone who taught us in America that in the end, if we would simply trust but verify, if we would simply stand up and be candid with them, that in the end they would respect us. On the issue of missile defense, it was Ronald Reagan who said that we should not leave America unprotected and vulnerable.

How amazing it is 18 years later, Madam Speaker, that one of the most

popular officials in Russia today is Ronald Reagan. In polls that have been conducted in Russia, they look to Ronald Reagan because he was a leader of stature and because he was someone who the Russian people respected, because he saw through the Communist leadership and held fast with the Russian people for a better time. So it was appropriate that when I last traveled to Russia 3 weeks ago for my 37th trip that we discussed a new initiative with the Russian people, in honor of Ronald Reagan, taking their radar systems and using them with our radar systems to develop a joint missile defense system. How proud Ronald Reagan would be.

But for all of his work in helping us defeat communism, in helping us move toward missile defense, and helping to reinvigorate our economy, I will remember Ronald Reagan, Madam Speaker, most for what he was as an individual person. He was a very humble man. He would take the time to meet with anyone regardless of their stature in life.

As a first-term Republican, I had the honor of being invited to the Oval Office with my family. I took my five kids down to the Oval Office with my wife, and my youngest was then 4 years old, and he was more concerned with the inside furnishings of the Oval Office than he was with the stature of the President. That did not matter to Ronald Reagan. In fact, I would later find out that in the book of the favorite photographs of Ronald Reagan, this photograph would appear, which is also on the wall of the Reagan Presidential Library in California. How proud I am that my family had the chance to meet Ronald Reagan and that my 4-year-old son, who is now 21 years old, who is here making faces at the camera, received a signed personal photograph from Ronald Reagan and received words of encouragement back then that are still important to each of my five kids today.

I remember Ronald Reagan most for not just what he did for the world, but what he was as a role model for everyone that met him. He was someone who genuinely cared about people. He was someone who would take the time to reach out to a 4-year-old or a 6-year-old and give them words of encouragement.

Ronald Reagan is a role model for all of us, and for that we give thanks, and we thank his wife and send our sympathies to the entire Reagan family.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY).

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, President Reagan's long struggle with Alzheimer's disease has ended, but the legacy of his extraordinary life remains.

In 1998, my mother died as a result of the impact of Alzheimer's disease; so I know what families go through during times like that. And I will always be inspired by Nancy Reagan and the other members of the family for their

tender caregiving to the former President over that very long period of time.

Many people today have mentioned the occasion of the tearing down of the Berlin Wall by the people, and I recently looked at those pictures of the former President when he participated in chipping away at the wall. I was on the Committee on Armed Services at the time, and I had a chance to do that, too. As I was standing there watching people chipping away at the wall, tearing it down piece by piece, I noticed as the pieces were falling off the wall, some of them would catch the pieces and put them in their pockets. I said to myself, aha, they are taking souvenirs of the Berlin Wall, and I thought I might like to do that.

And already capitalism being in evidence, I looked down, and there were vendors selling pieces of the wall. They were in little cellophane wrappers marked with the date they were taken off the wall. But ever the skeptic, I said to myself, how do I know that those pieces came off the wall?

So I further looked around, and I saw this guy walking back and forth with hammers and chisels, renting them out. So I went over with my translator and made the deal and gave him some money, and I did what President Reagan did, and I chipped off some pieces of the wall. I brought them back home, and I gave them to veterans as a thank you to them for their dedication through the years and for the fact that they were responsible for what was happening on that particular day and at that particular time in history.

President Reagan was a proud and patriotic American whose persistent advocacy for democracy led in part to the breakup of the Soviet Union and its devolution into 15 individual democratic republics. And I was in one of those republics as a member of a delegation from Congress on their independence day. In Armenia, and I watched in awe as 95 percent of all of the people in that country went out and voted. I watched them stand in long lines for the privilege of voting in a free election for the first time in their lives. I noticed they brought covered dishes with them, and after they voted, they held little celebrations and banquets in each of the polling places.

And what a thrill it was to be with them the next day in the streets of Yerevan, their capital, as they danced and shouted and sang, "Ketze asat ankakh Hayastan," which means "Long live free and independent Armenia." Then they pointed to the United States of America as their example of what they wanted to be as a democracy.

So I thank all of the men and women who served in the uniform of the United States military through the years for helping to make that happen, and I also thank the Commander-in-Chief for 8 years, Ronald Reagan, for helping to make that happen.

Today I join with all Americans in mourning his passing and in expressing

deep gratitude for his tremendous public service as both Governor and as President.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, for purposes of debate, I yield 25 minutes, about half of my time, to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) now controls an additional 25 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I sincerely thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD).

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise to proudly pay tribute to the greatest President of the 20th century, Ronald Wilson Reagan, whose suffering has ended and heavenly life begun.

My fellow Minnesotans join me in mourning the loss of America's 40th President and celebrating the life of a man who personified both the greatness and goodness of America. All Americans and freedom-loving people around the world owe President Reagan our deepest gratitude for his strong, principled leadership that ended the Cold War and brought freedom to millions of people.

As we celebrate President Reagan's remarkable career and historic legacy, we also celebrate a man of strong character, deep conviction, unforgettable charm, and wonderful wit. No Minnesotan will ever forget President Reagan braving the below-zero windchill to ride in a convertible in St. Paul's Winter Carnival Parade and proclaim, "I thought my ears would fall off." It was that cold.

Madam Speaker, as America honors our beloved 40th President, we also thank God for a leader who restored pride and made the American people believe in themselves again. Always the eternal optimist, President Reagan instilled confidence and optimism at a time both were in short supply in our country.

Thanks to President Reagan's strong leadership and undying belief in free-market capitalism, the great entrepreneurial spirit of the American people was unleashed, and prosperity was restored here at home.

Madam Speaker, our hearts go out to Nancy Reagan and the Reagan family on their great loss. Mrs. Reagan has showed the whole world the true meaning of love and loyalty these past 10 very painful years as her beloved husband suffered from cruel Alzheimer's disease, the same deadly, debilitating disease that took the life of my own mother just months ago.

So today, Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the life and legacy of Ronald Reagan, let us honor this great President by keeping his legacy alive, a legacy of love for his faith, family,

friends, and country; a legacy of freedom, liberty, and opportunity for all people; a legacy of public service deeply rooted in faith, principle, character, and conviction. And let us always remember President Reagan's warm, infectious, kind smile that lit up every audience, inspired us and gave us hope, just as we remember our "rendezvous with destiny."

Rest in peace, Mr. President, in the loving embrace of our Lord and Savior.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I receive the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

□ 1315

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I was in grade school when President Reagan was elected, so my thoughts and observations are not based on any particular policy, but on the man, on the spirit himself.

We took great courage as a Nation in watching him as he dealt with an attempt on his own life. We watched in awe at his unwavering commitment to freedom everywhere around the world and his commitment to peace through strength, which allowed him to win the Cold War without a shot being fired.

He moved an entire generation of young people to that same cry for freedom, the battle to spread liberty and democracy and freedom and equality around the world, and he did it with a sunny, hopeful, cheerful, optimistic demeanor. He appealed to the very best in us, never preying on our worst fears, but backed up by a steely resolve, backed up by principle, backed up by the notion that it was better to be right than to be popular. In doing so, he succeeded with an understanding, a very clear understanding, of the power of the American spirit when it is unencumbered, when it is let loose to achieve its own potential and carve out its piece of the American dream. He always believed in the goodness of the American spirit and the human spirit around the world. He understood that the strength of America, the resilience of America is in her people. He inspired in us all of those great factors without preying on the worst.

Madam Speaker, may we ever be vigilant gatekeepers of his shining city on the hill. God bless the Reagan family, God bless America, and God bless this institution to whom President Reagan has given so much.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time, and I rise today in tribute to a great American, Ronald Reagan.

We have heard extensive remarks this morning about his two major accomplishments, I believe: the end of the Soviet Union as we know it, and setting in place employer tax rates leading to an economic recovery. If we

think about what happened, he was the first to call for the end of the Soviet Union and, frankly, the first to predict the end of the Soviet Union as we knew it. No one in my lifetime has done more to spread freedom around the world than Ronald Reagan, and we all owe him a great debt not only here in our country, but around the world.

His tax policies of the early 1980s led to an economic recovery in the 1980s, and I believe the entire expansion of the 1990s can be traced back to the lower tax rates set in the early 1980s, giving investors a reason to invest in our economy.

But I think Ronald Reagan's greatest contribution to our country was his optimism, his hope, and his belief in the strength of the American people. One only has to look at what we went through in the 1960s and the 1970s and what Ronald Reagan inherited when he took office. America, to say the least, was on its heels. We had gone through the problems of the Vietnam era; we had gone through problems with the Presidency; we had gone through the problems of the energy crisis; and this new animal that came upon our economy called inflation.

America was beginning to wonder about itself, and it was Ronald Reagan who talked about the shining city on the hill and all that America could be. It was Ronald Reagan that knew and said that our best days lie ahead, not in the past, and he was right. The hope that he brought, the enthusiasm he brought, and the belief in the American people was something that did, in fact, renew the American spirit.

His patriotism and the patriotism he brought to our country was something that we have not seen for some time. I know in my case, I and my entire family grew up in the Democrat Party, and it was Ronald Reagan, it was Ronald Reagan, who showed me that I was a Republican. It was Ronald Reagan who encouraged me to take a more active role in my community. I was proud to be a volunteer on his campaign in 1980. And, Mr. President, let me say this: You were my hero then; you continue to be my hero.

It was Ronald Reagan who inspired me to make a commitment to public service and to do my share on behalf of the American people, and forever I will be grateful.

Mr. President, we still love you.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, those of us who have had the good fortune to be born and raised in Arizona have always had the words and life of Barry Goldwater to shape our political philosophy. It was during the Goldwater campaign of 1964 that Ronald Reagan came to national prominence. During that campaign, Reagan delivered a speech so memorable that it was known thereafter simply as "The Speech." It was, in my opinion, the greatest political speech ever delivered.

In it, Reagan included the words, "You and I are told that we must choose between a left or right, but I would suggest that there is no such thing as a left or right. There is only an up or down: up to a man's age-old dream, the maximum in individual freedom consistent with law and order, or down to the antheap of totalitarianism."

Equally memorable was the line: "This is the issue of this election. Whether we believe in our capacity for self-government or whether we abandon the American revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far-distant capital can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves."

Madam Speaker, having now spent 4 years in the far distant capital, I can attest that this insight from Ronald Reagan still bears remembering.

I was never able to meet President Reagan personally. It is one of my great regrets in life. But like all Americans, I am well acquainted with his goodness. I will always be grateful that he was my President.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, America has lost a great patriot with the passing of President Ronald Reagan. My fellow West Virginians join me in mourning his death.

As our President, he shepherded America through tough times, cutting taxes and invigorating our Nation's economy. President Reagan's service as a statesman reflected the good freedom could do when waged against tyranny.

In June of 1987, President Reagan stood in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Germany, calling upon Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

Reagan aimed to replace the instability brought by fear of nuclear war with the firm backing of freedom.

When the wall fell, a wave of sovereignty rolled through Eastern Europe, washing away suppressive governments and leaving in its wake democracies firmly backed by individual liberty.

Americans will always measure their President against the high bar Ronald Reagan has set for the Presidency. But along with being a statesman, a peacemaker, and a leader, Ronald Reagan was a kind man who I was very honored to have met, a loving husband and father, and a compassionate human being.

I will always remember Ronald Reagan for his ability to lift up the American people, inspiring us to rely on ourselves, not on our government, to overcome challenges in our lives. His legacies will be remembered for years to come. Freedom over fear, the individual before its government, and the strength of America overall.

May God bless America, and may God bless our President, Ronald Reagan.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, as we mourn the loss of President Ronald Reagan, let us also celebrate the absolutely incredible life that he lived, a life that had such a positive impact certainly on our Nation and, in fact, the entire world.

Madam Speaker, I live in Macomb County, Michigan. That is the home of the so-called "Reagan Democrats." That term really had its genesis in Macomb County and has become certainly part of our nomenclature. It describes a huge block of citizens, average Americans, principally ethnic, blue collar, who had voted Democratic for literally generations.

And then along came Ronald Reagan, and he captured their hearts and he captured their minds with the power of his ideas and the vision for America, ideas that were powerful, yet very, very simple: that freedom is a universal right of every human being; ideas about personal responsibility and the fundamental values that built our Nation, and the eternally optimistic idea that America is a great Nation whose best days continually lie in our future.

President Reagan never wavered, never backed down from his defense of freedom, of his belief that we could achieve peace through strength. Of course, his strong stand created countless critics, and yet today those critics must recognize the rightness of his cause and his methods. History has certainly proven him to be right.

Because of the leadership of President Reagan, Soviet communism collapsed and hundreds of millions of people who lived under Soviet domination now live as free people.

Because of the leadership of President Reagan, our national spirit and the spirit of free enterprise rose up and has spread across the entire globe.

Because of his leadership, the world continues to look to America to continue to export liberty and freedom and democracy.

Our Nation and the world owe a debt to President Reagan that can really only be repaid in one way: We must continue to fight for democracy, for freedom, and for liberty, and so we shall.

God bless President Ronald Wilson Reagan. May he rest in peace.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from the great State of Kansas for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I, too, rise today to mark the death of President Ronald Reagan and to pay tribute to a great American. I extend my deepest sympathies and prayers to Mrs. Reagan and the entire Reagan family. With President Reagan's death, our country lost yet another member of the greatest generation, a member who typified his generation with his work ethic, his optimism, and his patriotism.

I believe that all of us, regardless of political affiliation, were impressed by

how much President Reagan loved America, how much he believed in its basic goodness and the decency of this great country. He was so proud to represent a country that stood for freedom and equality, and he worked for many years to help spread freedom across the globe.

I was fortunate enough to witness firsthand the effect of freedom spreading across the world. After graduating from college, I had the privilege of traveling to Europe and spending time in the countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union that were struggling to gain a place in the world as free nations. My travels included a stop in Berlin to celebrate the reunification of Germany. I hammered away with a sledgehammer at the Berlin Wall with thousands of people from all over the world. I still have a piece of that wall, which sits on my desk.

It was inspiring to be a part of history in this way, and I can only imagine how wonderful it must have been for President Reagan to have played such a seminal role in the transformation of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc nations. With the end of the Cold War, we face an exciting new world of independent nations throughout Eastern and Central Europe.

As we face current challenges throughout the world, I look back to the patriotism and optimism with which President Reagan approached international and domestic issues, and I feel grateful that we have his example.

Aside from his leadership on issues of international importance, I also appreciate President Reagan's willingness to find bipartisan compromise in order to achieve results. To him, politics was not a blood sport; it was the art of the possible. Coming to Congress several years after both President Reagan and Speaker Tip O'Neill had retired, I always enjoyed listening to my colleagues tell of the two men swapping stories and jokes as they negotiated important pieces of legislation.

President Reagan's bipartisan spirit and constant optimism are testament to his leadership skills and his love for his country. It is an approach to governing and it is an approach to leadership that we need to restore.

May God bless his soul.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE).

Mr. CRANE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to and express my sympathy on the passing of one of Illinois' greatest sons, Ronald Reagan.

□ 1330

I was inspired by Ronald Reagan some 40 years ago when he, the Great Communicator, first outlined his vision for America. His vision was one of free enterprise, strong defense, and limited government. I was so drawn to these

principles that I worked with fellow conservatives to nominate him for President in 1968 and again in 1976.

The biggest heartbreak in my political career came in 1976 when we were unable to secure Reagan the nomination. But we stayed at it. Ronnie stayed true to his principles; and, finally, in 1980 we had a man in the White House who I knew would turn this country around. Reagan did just that. He turned around our economy, he ended the Cold War, and he renewed hope for Americans.

Reagan was able to accomplish so much in his years as President because he approached everything as a gentleman. He never allowed politics to become personal. He treated everyone with respect even when he disagreed with you. And always his wit and humor won you over.

I am proud to say that I knew Ronald Reagan not so much for his accomplishments, and there were many, but I am more proud to have known him for the man he was. As President, Reagan brought his hometown-Illinois values with him to the White House. And these are the same values we all share in Illinois, the value of hard work, of faith, family, and unlimited opportunity.

Reagan was, as history will bear, one of America's greatest Presidents. And I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering his family and this Nation during our season of mourning. And may God bless us all.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the other side. I understand they have a number of speakers who would like to address the House.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his kindness.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, what do you say about a man like Ronald Reagan that has not already been said? Ronald Reagan took the oath of office here in Washington D.C. in 1981 and, actually, just a short distance from where we are standing here this afternoon. At that time that he took office, I was 15 years old. I did not realize at that time the impact that this new President would have on this Nation and the world. I did not realize the moral and strong leadership that he would provide this Nation.

Ronald Reagan served in the highest office of our land throughout my time in high school, college, and my first couple of years of law school. And with most of America, I listened to the tributes as they started pouring in over this past weekend. During the weekend and since that time, President Reagan's speeches, his remarks and comments have been played and reviewed time and time again.

However, over the weekend I heard one speech that I had never heard before. It was a speech that President Reagan delivered at a prayer breakfast

in Dallas, Texas, on the morning of August 23, 1984. It is so relevant to our situation today that if you did not know better, you would think he delivered the speech just a few days ago.

He discussed religion and its role in the political life of our Nation. He made clear from the beginning of his speech that he was not speaking as a theologian or as a scholar, but rather as someone who had been around for quite a few years.

He talked about the critical role in the political life of this Nation that faith and religion had played and, furthermore, how that had worked to benefit our Nation.

He went on to say that the Founders understood that there was a divine order which transcends the human order. He then eloquently stated that he believed George Washington knew the city of man cannot survive without the city of God, and that the visible city will perish without the invisible city.

While time will not permit me to discuss all of his remarks today, I would like to include his remarks in the RECORD that President Reagan made at that prayer breakfast in Dallas in 1984. Of course, it would not be appropriate to talk about Ronald Reagan without talking about how much he loved life and how much he valued life. He was a man of compassion, and people of all ages would do well to emulate Ronald Wilson Reagan.

REMARKS AT AN ECUMENICAL PRAYER BREAKFAST IN DALLAS, TEXAS, AUGUST 23, 1984

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, very much. And, Martha Weisend, thank you very much. And I could say that if the morning ended with the music we have just heard from that magnificent choir, it would indeed be a holy day for all of us.

It's wonderful to be here this morning. The past few days have been pretty busy for all of us, but I've wanted to be with you today to share some of my own thoughts.

These past few weeks it seems that we've all been hearing a lot of talk about religion and its role in politics, religion and its place in the political life of the Nation. And I think it's appropriate today, at a prayer breakfast for 17,000 citizens in the State of Texas during a great political convention, that this issue be addressed.

I don't speak as a theologian or a scholar, only as one who's lived a little more than his threescore ten—which has been a source of annoyance to some—[laughter]—and as one who has been active in the political life of the Nation for roughly four decades and now who's served the past 3½ years in our highest office. I speak, I think I can say, as one who has seen much, who has loved his country, and who's seen it change in many ways.

I believe that faith and religion play a critical role in the political life of our nation—and always has—and that the church—and by that I mean all churches, all denominations—has had a strong influence on the state. And this has worked to our benefit as a nation.

Those who created our country—the Founding Fathers and Mothers—understood that there is a divine order which transcends the human order. They saw the state, in fact, as a form of moral order and felt that the bedrock of moral order is religion.

The Mayflower Compact began with the words, "In the name of God, amen." The

Declaration of Independence appeals to "Nature's God" and the "Creator" and "the Supreme Judge of the world." Congress was given a chaplain, and the oaths of office are oaths before God.

James Madison in the Federalist Papers admitted that in the creation of our Republic he perceived the hand of the Almighty. John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, warned that we must never forget the God from whom our blessings flowed.

George Washington referred to religion's profound and unsurpassed place in the heart of our nation quite directly in his Farewell Address in 1796. Seven years earlier, France has erected a government that was intended to be purely secular. This new government would be grounded on reason rather than the law of God. By 1796 the French Revolution had known the Reign of Terror.

And Washington voiced reservations about the idea that there could be a wise policy without a firm moral and religious foundation. He said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man (call himself a patriot) who (would) labour to subvert these . . . finest [firmest]¹ props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere Politician . . . (and) the pious man ought to respect and to cherish (religion and morality)." And he added, ". . . let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion."

¹White House correction.

I believe that George Washington knew the City of Man cannot survive without the City of God, that the Visible City will perish without the Invisible City.

Religion played not only a strong role in our national life; it played a positive role. The abolitionist movement was at heart a moral and religious movement; so was the modern civil rights struggle. And throughout this time, the state was tolerant of religious belief, expression, and practice. Society, too, was tolerant.

But in the 1960's this began to change. We began to make great steps toward secularizing our nation and removing religion from its honored place.

In 1962 the Supreme Court in the New York prayer case banned the compulsory saying of prayers. In 1963 the Court banned the reading of the Bible in our public schools. From that point on, the courts pushed the meaning of the ruling ever outward, so that now our children are not allowed voluntary prayer. We even had to pass a law—we passed a special law in the Congress just a few weeks ago to allow student prayer groups the same access to schoolrooms after classes that a young Marxist society, for example, would already enjoy with no opposition.

The 1962 decision opened the way to a flood of similar suits. Once religion had been made vulnerable, a series of assaults were made in one court after another, on one issue after another. Cases were started to argue against tax-exempt status for churches. Suits were brought to abolish the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance and to remove "In God We Trust" from public documents and from our currency.

Today there are those who are fighting to make sure voluntary prayer is not returned to the classrooms. And the frustrating thing for the great majority of Americans who support and understand the special importance of religion in the national life—the frustrating thing is that those who are attacking religion claim they are doing it in the name of tolerance, freedom, and openmindedness. Question: Isn't the real truth that they are intolerant of religion? [Applause] They refuse to tolerate its importance in our lives.

If all the children of our country studied together all of the many religions in our country, wouldn't they learn greater tolerance of each other's beliefs? If children prayed together, would they not understand what they have in common, and would this not, indeed, bring them closer, and is this not to be desired? So, I submit to you that those who claim to be fighting for tolerance on this issue may not be tolerant at all.

When John Kennedy was running for President in 1960, he said that his church would not dictate his Presidency any more than he would speak for his church. Just so, and proper. But John Kennedy was speaking in an America in which the role of religion—and by that I mean the role of all churches—was secure. Abortion was not of religion—and by that I mean the role of all churches—was secure. Abortion was not a political issue. Prayer was not a political issue. The right of church schools to operate was not a political issue. And it was broadly acknowledged that religious leaders had a right and a duty to speak out on the issues of the day. They held a place of respect, and a politician who spoke to or of them with a lack of respect would not long survive in the political arena.

It was acknowledged then that religion held a special place, occupied a special territory in the hearts of the citizenry. The climate has changed greatly since then. And since it has, it logically follows that religion needs defenders against those who care only for the interests of the state.

There are, these days, many questions on which religious leaders are obliged to offer their moral and theological guidance, and such guidance is a good and necessary thing. To know how a church and its members feel on a public issue expands the parameters of debate. It does not narrow the debate; it expands it.

The truth is, politics and morality are inseparable. And as morality's foundation is religion, religion and politics are necessarily related. We need religion as a guide. We need it because we are imperfect, and our government needs the church, because only those humble enough to admit they're sinners can bring to democracy the tolerance it requires in order to survive.

A state is nothing more than a reflection of its citizens; the more decent the citizens, the more decent the state. If you practice a religion, whether you're Catholic, Protestant Jewish, or guided by some other faith, then your private life will be influenced by a sense of moral obligation, and so, too, will your public life. One affects the other. The churches of America do not exist by the grace of the state; the churches of America are not mere citizens of the state. The churches of America exist apart; they have their own vantage point, their own authority. Religion is its own realm; it makes its own claims.

We establish no religion in this country, nor will we ever. We command no worship. We mandate no belief. But we poison our society when we remove its theological underpinnings. We court corruption when we leave it bereft of belief. All are free to believe or not believe; all are free to practice a faith or not. But those who believe must be free to speak of and act on their belief, to apply moral teaching to public questions.

I submit to you that the tolerant society is open to and encouraging of all religions. And this does not weaken us; it strengthens us, it makes us strong. You know, if we look back through history to all those great civilizations, those great nations that rose up to even world dominance and then deteriorated, declined, and fell, we find they all had one thing in common. One of the significant fore-runners of their fall was their turning away from their God or gods.

Without God, there is no virtue, because there's no prompting of the conscience. Without God, we're mired in the material, that flat world that tells us only what the senses perceive. Without God, there is a coarsening of the society. And without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.

If I could just make a personal statement of my own—in these 3½ years I have understood and known better than ever before the words of Lincoln, when he said that he would be the greatest fool on this footstool called Earth if he ever thought that for one moment he could perform the duties of that office without help from One who is stronger than all.

I thank you, thank you for inviting us here today. Thank you for your kindness and your patience. May God keep you, and may we, all of us, keep God.

Thank you.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, the people of Pennsylvania join me in offering their sympathies and prayers to Nancy Reagan and all the members of the Reagan family. But more so, we offer our gratitude for sharing this great man.

In his memory, I humbly offer these words: While flags fly low we gather here to offer words of praise. With tributes to our leader gone, reflect, remember, pray. Our Nation's forests, oceans, plains, majestic mountain skies where some saw only clouds above, he saw hopes spirit rise.

While enemies in shadows crept where evil's hatred stood, some brooded and in weakness slept. He saw strength in our good. America, your song shall soar over this Nation blessed, though some will turn to doubt and fear, his hope shall never rest. The sun shall set and darkness fall, yet stars their beacons give. Do not ye grieve that he is gone, rejoice that he has lived.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER).

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a long delayed thank you to President Reagan for his help with a personal matter of mine. By the time I turned 15 in 1980, I had grown acutely aware of a quadrennial rift between my parents. My father was a Truman Democrat, my mother was an Eisenhower Republican, and my brother and myself were, of course, KISS fans.

Then one cold November night, there was a thaw. My father walked in the door, sat my mother down and, in a hushed, tremulous tone, as if every fellow Irish Catholic Democrat he had known from his days in the St. Francis Home for Boys Orphanage, every worker in a Detroit Labor Day parade, and everybody on every St. Patrick's Day pub crawl might somehow overhear him, Dennis Vincent Patrick Mullen McCotter admitted to his wife, quote, "I cannot believe I went and did it, Joan, I voted for him." Him was Ronald Wilson Reagan.

This vignette of American democracy's unifying force occurred in millions of homes across our Nation in 1980. The resulting national unity, which was brought about through the thawing of so many families' political Cold Wars, ultimately led to the end of the global Cold War.

Madam Speaker, today the words of Albert Camus ring true: "A man does not show his greatness by being at one extremity or the other, but rather by touching both at once." Truly, President Reagan was a unifying force for moral good in our Nation and our world. And thus his great humility would have precluded him from ever agreeing, Ronald Reagan was a great man. He will be mourned and missed and forever remembered.

I offer my perpetual gratitude to the man, and my profound condolences to his family.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), the chairman of the Republican conference.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, the citizens of Ohio join me in my sincere condolences to Mrs. Reagan and her family during these very difficult times and to express my humble thoughts on the legacy of Ronald Reagan. While we have all heard him called the Great Communicator, he was so much more. He had a commanding presence. He captivated all who listened by his simple and eloquent demeanor, but he was so much more. He was great at communicating, yes, but, more importantly, he communicated great things.

His ideas resonated with the American people because they were the people's ideas. His vision for America made sense to us all because we had those same dreams in our very own hearts. His principles were clear because they were the very values we all held so dearly then as we do now: freedom, responsibility, peace through strength.

The irony is that Ronald Reagan did not speak to the people; we somehow spoke through him. We saw ourselves and we heard our own hearts in the words that he spoke. He was one of us, and that is why this Nation truly mourns his loss this week.

May we all seek to promote the principles that Ronald Reagan embodied, lived and enunciated so courageously over the course of his magnificent life.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

Mr. BURR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and the rest of the Nation to mourn the passing of one of our Nation's greatest Presidents, but also to celebrate his legacy. While Ronald Reagan is considered by almost everyone as an extraordinary leader and one of the greatest Americans, it was not Ronald Reagan's vision, his confidence, his charm or his strength that truly set him apart.

It was his boundless optimism and his overflowing love and concern for his fellow men that made Reagan who he was and which were his underlying source of everything he accomplished. Reagan saw himself as an ordinary man, called to serve his country to the best of his ability, and serve he did.

He inspired a Nation to rediscover the principles of freedom that have made our country great. We remember Ronald Reagan as a man who maximized his gifts from an unknown to an actor to a Governor to the leader of the Free World. Our President was one who never stopped growing and giving.

President Reagan's life provides a witness to how we should all live, stirring up whatever gifts and potentials we have so that the world is a better place when we leave, more so than when we arrived. We remember President Reagan as one who named bad leadership for what it was, and turned his people towards a nobler path. He said the only places communism would work are in heaven because they do not need it and in hell because they already have it.

Today, we are enjoying a world where communism is de-fanged and former communist nations rank among our closest allies, much of which is due to President Reagan's unflinching commitment and resolve to seeing peace and freedom flourish throughout the world.

President Reagan was a true man of the people. What Reagan did more than anything else, and it will be his lasting legacy, is replace despair with hope. Most people, even his detractors, admired and respected his integrity. He never thought that he had all the answers or that he was put on Earth to reveal and implement God's plan for the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, he has now, and as he noted in the eulogy of the crew of the *Challenger* shuttle, and I quote, "slipped the surely bonds of Earth and put out his hand and touched the face of God."

The days of this week will be remembered for many, many years. Let them be remembered well. Let them be the passing of the torch. A new day is dawning. Leadership, vision, optimism, and faith most of all are needed at every level in our great country and in our homes. Reagan used to say that America's greatest days are ahead of it. Now it can be said so are his.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2¼ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing condolences to the family of President Ronald Reagan but also, of course, to celebrate the life of one of America's true heroes.

President Reagan once announced America is too great for small dreams. It was this optimism about America and his confidence in the American people that I remember most vividly when I first met him in 1981. He had an

infectious optimism that, like so many, I was infected with. It had a lasting impression on me.

Shortly after taking office, President Reagan acted on his optimism and his certain beliefs launching the boldest economic plan since Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

□ 1345

His program for economic recovery called for the largest tax cuts in American history. Think about this. Over his tenure, our Federal tax system went from 14 income tax brackets with a top rate of 70 percent to a much simpler 2 brackets with a top rate of 28 percent. This unleashed growth and brought America's economy roaring back.

He also acted on his strong beliefs in dramatically strengthening our Armed Forces. He chose to go toe to toe with the Soviet Union in the Cold War and confront the failure of communism, leading to the freedom of millions of citizens in Eastern Europe and what was to become the former Soviet Union.

I see that legacy of Ronald Reagan today. I see it in our approach to the economy that this body has undertaken to try to strengthen the economy and grow jobs, and I see it in our effort to win another global war, this one against terrorism.

For all of his accomplishments, one of Ronald Reagan's traits I most admired was his humility. He was a regular guy. His Midwestern modesty and intuitive understanding of the role of leadership in an America founded on equality and democracy made him a natural leader and a beloved figure.

One also had to appreciate President Reagan's humor. He once said, "Politics is a very rewarding profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards. If you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book." Well, fortunately for our country and the world, he was a very successful politician, and we all, all of us, continue to share in the rewards.

In his 8 years as President, so much of his ambitious vision for American and the world was accomplished. And for his optimism, his ideas, his humility, his humor and public service, our Nation and the world are better off today. May God bless him and his family and continue to bless the country he so loved.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT).

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Madam Speaker, last Saturday our Nation lost one of its greatest leaders. As we mourn Ronald Reagan's passing, we celebrate his life of service as a lifeguard, an entertainer, a union leader, a spokesman, a Governor and a President.

As leader of the free world, he not only defended liberty, he expanded the realm of freedom. He liberated millions with the power of his ideas.

As President, he revitalized the American political system. The bipartisan celebration of his life here is a tribute to his greatness. Let us remember Mr. Reagan's example and work to improve civility and public discourse in American politics.

President Ronald Reagan was an American hero and a personal hero of mine. I met him 18 years ago, but it feels like yesterday. We all feel we knew Ronald Reagan. When he stepped off Air Force One in Spokane, we realized that he was a big man. He was larger than life. He was very personal. He was gracious. He wowed the crowd, and he touched each individual.

Having met Mr. Reagan, I know firsthand how his unwavering vision for our shining city willed the Nation to new heights. Even after his passing, his vision must and will continue to guide us.

God bless Ronald Reagan and his family and his lasting legacy of freedom.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise, as my colleagues before me, to recognize this great President, Ronald Reagan. He was a visionary leader who challenged the entire political order of his day. He had the courage to call evil evil; the Soviet empire the evil empire. For that, and for his conviction that freedom would prevail, he was bitterly criticized by his detractors.

Along the same lines, he pioneered a concept of economics that said if we have lower taxes, that it would energize the economy and ultimately that the government would raise more revenue. That was also bitterly criticized. It was called Reaganomics, and yet it worked, and it has worked again to bring us out of the last recession, the same principles.

He believed in the concept of defending America. It was the idea of a missile defense. They called it Star Wars, his detractors, and yet we are building those very things.

He was a man who challenged the political order of his day and redefined an entire political movement and advanced the cause of freedom around the entire world, and for that we all need to say to God, thank you for this great President.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the chief deputy whip.

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for the time.

I rise today to proudly stand with my friends and colleagues to pay tribute to President Ronald Reagan. President Reagan had the courage to lead America to greatness again after so many others had written us off as a country whose best days had passed. He was a

lone voice who dared to believe that the Cold War could be won and communism could be conquered peacefully through strength.

He led United States from double-digit inflation, skyrocketing interest rates and recession to unprecedented economic growth and prosperity. His commonsense ideas of lower taxes and limited government brought us out of those troubling times. His ability to inspire and effect change was truly unique.

I remember fondly my parents' pride in being delegates to the 1980 Republican convention and casting votes to nominate Ronald Reagan to be President. While in high school and college during his Presidential term, I was dramatically impacted by his moral clarity and courage.

President Ronald Reagan had the positive spirit and courage of his convictions that inspired our generation and future generations to enter public service and make a difference in our country.

My family and I send our condolences to Mrs. Reagan and the Reagan family. Nancy Reagan deserves our steadfast support at this time and has earned our respect alongside her husband for her faithful service to our country.

Religion played a crucial role in his life. Ronald Reagan knew he could set out and accomplish his goals because of his strong faith in God. His mother Nelle taught her son to believe in a loving and merciful God. Her teaching helped guide her son throughout his life as actor, Governor, and President.

Having spent several decades battling the evils of Communism as president of the Screen Actors Guild and as Governor of California for two terms, Reagan held strong convictions that were based on his faith in God and led him to run for President in 1980. He would win in a landslide and become our nation's 40th President.

Reagan's religious convictions would immediately be put to the test. After surviving an assassin's bullet in the third month of his Presidency, Reagan believed God saved his life. He wrote, "I've always believed that we were, each of us, put here for a reason, that there is a divine plan for all of us. I know now that whatever days are left me belong to Him [God]."

He believed God saved his life for a reason, and he set out to ensure that he fulfilled God's plan for him in the White House. In an era when people tried to diminish the role that faith and religion play in the political life of the United States, Reagan knew that the United States was "richly blessed with His [God's] love and generosity." Reagan also knew that if we failed to remember that the United States is a Nation under God, then the United States would be a "Nation gone under."

During the 1980s, Reagan's religious convictions allowed him to set an agenda that was new and optimistic. His strong faith enabled him to preserve and never waiver when opponents called his economic and foreign policy plans "radical" and "dangerous." As a result, Reagan played an integral role in winning the Cold War, in restoring economic prosperity to the United States, and in helping liberate millions of people from the evils of Communism. He entered the White House with a

goal to change the country—he ended up changing the world. He led his life with a mission to fulfill God's plan and, in turn, accomplished so much for all of us.

My family and I send our condolences to Nancy Reagan and her family. Nancy Reagan deserves our steadfast support at this time and has earned our respect alongside her husband for her faithful service to our country.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2¼ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER).

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, today we come before this House in a saddened state. A man of unquestioned integrity and strong character has passed from our Nation's midst into the hands of God. Ronald Reagan was a man with a good heart, and he had more of an impact on the world than any living American today.

We express our condolences to Mrs. Reagan and the Reagan family.

Many of us are very grateful because of how Ronald Reagan inspired us, encouraged our activity in public service, and I know he encouraged my involvement in public service. I cast my first vote in 1976 for Ronald Reagan in the Republican primary, and I had the privilege just 5 years later to serve in the Reagan administration. I have many fond memories of Ronald Reagan.

Man is not measured by what we say, but by what we do. President Reagan believed in the right of freedom for individuals and nations. He spoke honestly of the need for government reform in the United States and publicly hoped for a brighter future for the citizens of the Soviet empire.

Yet his words were not empty and did not ring hollow. President Reagan backed up these beliefs by reducing the government's burden of taxes on individuals. He committed himself to rebuilding our American military. He inspired Americans to believe in themselves and their country, and, through almost sheer will, defeated communism without firing a single shot. As he spoke, the world listened because the force of America was behind his voice.

When President Reagan uttered those fateful words, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," a collective shiver shot down the spine of the Soviet Union, as if communism's death knell was being rung for all the world to hear. Even President Reagan's opponents concede that he defeated the Soviet empire.

Under President Reagan's leadership, America experienced an unmatched period of economic growth. Under President Reagan's legacy, hundreds of millions of people around the world now live safe from the fear of the threat of communism, free from the threat of Marxist-Leninism, and eager to extend an open hand to our former enemy and now our friend, Russia and the former Soviet states.

The spirit Ronald Reagan embodied was of a special sort. Whether it was

reinvigorating the American economy or comforting the loved ones of those lost on the *Challenger* space shuttle, President Reagan never forgot who he worked for and what cause he was dedicated to. Ronald Reagan was committed to the American citizen, the American dream and the American spirit.

Madam Speaker, as a man, a patriot, a fellow Illinoisan and United States President, Ronald Reagan will be greatly missed, and I deeply mourn his passing, but I cannot help but think that long after the pain and sorrow of his departure has diminished, the legacy that President Reagan left with us of commitment to one's country, of faith in one's resolve, of hope for a better tomorrow will be remembered and live on in the hearts and minds of Americans for generations to come.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, my colleague, for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in marking with sadness the passing of President Ronald Reagan. I send my deepest condolences to Mrs. Reagan and the entire Reagan family and to those friends who knew the President best.

Ronald Reagan was a man of principle, deep patriotism and great humor. He loved his country, and he loved the American people. His was, in many ways, the quintessential American life: moving from a small town to chase the American dream in California, achieving success through hard work and determination, and finally giving back through public service.

One of the things I most admired about President Reagan was his ability to disagree without being disagreeable. During the 1980s, I was a staff member for the late Congressman Joe Moakley from Massachusetts. We had a front row seat to the great political battles between the Reagan White House and the House of Representatives under Speaker Tip O'Neill. While President Reagan and Tip O'Neill had sharp political differences, they never had sharp words. Their arguments were never nasty. They were never personal. At the end of the day, their battles shifted from policy to who could tell the most outlandish story or the funniest Irish joke. It is an example that I believe all of us should try to do a better job of following.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to say just how much respect and admiration I have for Nancy Reagan. These last several years have been extremely difficult for her as President Reagan battled Alzheimer's disease. Mrs. Reagan has faced this tremendous adversity with strength, dignity and class, and she serves as an inspiration to us all.

Again, my wife Lisa and I send our sympathy and our prayers to the

Reagan family during this sad time, and I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the death of President Ronald Reagan and to pass along the thoughts and prayers of the people of the Second District of Kentucky to the Reagan family.

So much of President Reagan's life was dedicated to public service. From the summer shores of his Illinois hometown to the silver screens of Hollywood, to Sacramento, Washington, D.C., and his final heroic battle with Alzheimer's disease, President Reagan's vision and confident leadership continues to inspire national spirit, improving quality of life in the United States and extending freedom and democracy across the globe.

□ 1400

During his inaugural address in 1981, President Reagan remarked, "We are too great a Nation to limit ourselves to a small dream." His dream, family, work, neighborhood, peace, and freedom embodied the hopes of millions of Americans, shepherding the Nation into economic recovery and renewed national pride while demonstrating an uncompromising moral leadership abroad that brought communism to its knees.

He was a man whose love for his country stirred the spirit of his countrymen to a new age of patriotism and pride in America. His keen understanding of right and wrong, good and evil provided the leadership needed to defeat an Evil Empire.

His was an exemplary life, uniquely American, and worthy of the love and admiration of so many men and women across the world. May he rest in peace.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise with my friends and colleagues today to pay tribute to a man who inspired a Nation and a generation. His America was a strong Nation, where opportunities were limitless.

His list of accomplishments is long and distinguished. He won the Cold War, he brought back our confidence, he cut taxes and grew the economy. He was an outstanding leader throughout the world.

I did not have the pleasure of knowing President Reagan personally; but like millions of Americans, I marveled at his abilities. He comforted us after the *Challenger* disaster, he stood tall against communism, and he made it morning again in America.

Ronald Reagan's enduring legacy, though, will be that he was a people's President. His concern for every American was genuine. He spoke with a twinkle in his eye and always had a story that illustrated his point perfectly. He was for us, because he was one of us.

America will soon say goodbye to one of our greatest Presidents. Mr. Speaker, his courage, humor, and grace will be missed by all of America. The shining city on the hill will continue, but for now with a heavy heart.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS).

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, once or twice a century we are given a President who stands above the rest. President Reagan was such a leader. He united this country in a way that we have not been united since. He did so by simply speaking out for what the vast majority of the people of this country knew to be the truth: President Reagan declared that there is a God and that we, as a Nation, are under his authority.

Like President Washington before him, he made no apology to anyone's sensibilities. He called the Evil Empire of communism exactly what it was and committed this Nation to defeating it. He was the first President to begin the battle to reverse the overreach of Federal bureaucracy in the lives of our citizens.

Let us truly honor the memory of Ronald Reagan by never ending the fight he so nobly waged for God and for country.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) has 11½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOSTETTLER).

(Mr. HOSTETTLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Eighth Congressional District, I rise not only to pay tribute to Ronald Wilson Reagan but to also thank him for a Commander in Chief we could always be proud of.

The most important role of any American President is that of Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces; and I, for one, do not need to wait for history to conclude that he was one of the greatest Commanders in Chief this Nation has ever had.

Last year, my son Matthew and I were honored to attend the commissioning of the newest U.S. Super Carrier, CVN-76. I could not think of a better namesake for CVN-76 than Ronald Wilson Reagan. The ship's motto is appropriately, "Peace Through Strength." While he is rejoicing in heaven, the American people should feel comforted in knowing that his legacy lives on in a mighty U.S. warship that bears his name and will provide firepower for freedom for another 50 years.

So Communists and terrorists and other enemies of freedom, you have been forewarned. You have not heard the last from Ronald Reagan. And as he used to say when he was President, "You can run, but you cannot hide."

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, may the prayers and thoughts of a loving free world comfort his wife, Nancy, and their children during their time of supreme sorrow and unimaginable loss.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is truly unfortunate that it takes a time of crisis or tragedy to bring our Nation together. This week, for example, we have seen and heard from Members of both sides of the aisle a tribute to a great President, Ronald Reagan. He was a humble man; he was a gracious man and kind. We may have had differences of opinion on policy, but I think we all concede he was a good, good, decent man.

I never presume to speak for my friends on the other side of the aisle, but I think all of us would agree that we have the greatest Nation in the whole world, and one of the things that makes us so great as a Nation are the personal liberties and individual freedoms that we all share here in this country. The Bill of Rights of our Constitution gives us more economic and personal freedoms than people almost anywhere in the world, and we are a better Nation for that. And I think that is something Ronald Reagan would say if he were here right now.

I think we can learn a lot of important things, and a lot of speakers on both sides of the aisle have announced some of those things this morning. We should try harder to disagree without being disagreeable. We should always treat each other with respect. And we should understand that we are all Americans and we are all in this together. We all want basically the same thing for our country and for our people.

If we can do that, I think we are going to be better as a Nation and stronger as a people. We need to find ways to bring us together and not to divide us. I think 85 to 90 percent of the people in this body are good, decent, honorable people who want to do the right thing for our country, Republicans and Democrats.

We need to understand that even when we have honest good-faith differences on policy issues, such as the \$7 trillion debt we have right now, and the \$500-plus billion deficit, this should not be about Republicans and Democrats; this should be about what is right for our country, and this should be about what is right for our children and our grandchildren and future generations in this country.

I hope that we will take this occasion, the passing of a great President, Ronald Reagan, to come together and again dedicate ourselves to doing what is right for our country and putting aside partisan politics.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the chorus extolling the life of President Ronald Reagan. On a similar occasion, over a century ago, Lincoln said of Washington, "How do you add glory to the sun?"

I was at President Reagan's inauguration, and when he said, "It is time for us to realize that we are too great a Nation to limit ourselves to small dreams," my spine stiffened, and so did that of so many people in the crowd. I got goosebumps when he called out that "peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it; we will not surrender for it, now or ever."

From that day on, I knew America was back. You see, many people speak of the Reagan Revolution. I like to think of it as the Reagan restoration. Reagan restored our optimism, our belief in our ability to create, and the belief that God put man on this Earth to be free and that he made America to prove it.

President Ronald Reagan changed the paradigm. He changed America's foreign policy from one of benign containment to active confrontation. And for the first time since communism began extending its sinister reach, we saw its hand pushed back.

Our sympathies certainly go to the entire Reagan family.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, as we consider world history, we know that each generation will be faced with its own challenges. And though I am certain that the human race will survive; for a Nation to survive these challenges, each generation must continually produce men and women who are sufficient to the moment and equal to the task. It needs to generate men and women who see without limits, who work without tiring, and who sacrifice without restraint. A nation must find within itself in these times of trouble those who will forego comfort and give up the beaten paths of certainty to find new courses of action and overcome all obstacles in pursuing the truth. Mr. Reagan was sufficient for the moment and equal to the task.

Mr. Speaker, we are here to mourn the passing of a President, but we are here to celebrate the life of leadership and sufficiency that Mr. Reagan represented.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I am pleased to join with my colleagues in recognizing the lessons of the life of Ronald Reagan and his legacy. Among those lessons would be a

sense of civility in debate. Among those lessons would be disagreeing without being disagreeable. Among those lessons would be the ability to recognize the humanity of our opponents, and they are lessons that we should all take to heart.

Another part of the legacy, and I think the lasting legacy of President Reagan, will derive from the painful period as we watched Alzheimer's take this vibrant and warm and really great person into, as Mrs. Reagan said, a different place, a different world. And I hope we will use this to rededicate ourselves to research in Alzheimer's and stem cell research so that others will not follow the former President in this path that was really painful for all of us to watch.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I first heard about Ronald Reagan in probably 1970, when Joan Baez, on my Woodstock album, referred to the Governor of California as Ron Ray Gun. And this was a young person, so I thought if Joan Baez is against him, it is probably a good thing. Yet as I went through my years and got in college, I had an opportunity to hear Mr. Reagan speak at the Kansas City Republican convention in 1976. And in his concession speech on the nomination going to Gerald Ford, he gave a great speech and he talked about what we have to do as Americans to preserve the great life-style that we live. I was very impressed with that speech. So in 1980, when he ran for President and was the nominee, certainly I was very enthusiastically in support of him.

He was elected in a year when we had hostages in Iran, the economy was in the tank, and the spirit of America was in the doldrums. He won by a landslide, with great expectations, though, and a great mandate. He needed to cut taxes, and he did. He moved along and created an economy that gave 19 million new jobs over the next 8 years. Inflation was reduced, as well as interest rates. He built defense to the extent that we got over, finally, Vietnam. He talked about things like the Evil Empire of the Soviet Union and peace through strength. And he said things that were politically incorrect at the time, like "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down that wall," even though people in our own party did not like him saying those things.

He was very basic. Nancy Reagan led the Just Say No to Drugs campaigns, and I think it was very effective in getting young people to think twice about it.

He had that Irish twinkle in his eye. And when he got shot, even though it was a very serious wound, he said, gee, I hope you are all Republicans. He had that kind of calmness and happiness about him as he went through things. And I, as so many young people, were inspired by him. So when I ran for the

State legislature in 1984, I pulled out a photograph that Libby, my wife, and I had taken with Ronald Reagan in 1980, and I ran an ad that said, "Reagan/Kingston: Face it, we need conservatives at all levels of government."

□ 1415

But I believe that was a key factor in helping me. He had those kind of coattails. He believed in family, America. He loved Nancy. He showed us a husband-and-wife relationship at its finest. He was kind. The Carter-Reagan, Mondale-Reagan campaigns were not nasty, mean or vicious. In fact, he would say to Jimmy Carter if he disagreed with some of Mr. CARTER's facts, "There you go again."

He liked joke-telling and told the jokes about the Soviet Union and got his point across, but when he was in the Oval Office, he always wore his coat out of respect for the Oval Office and the office of the Presidency.

In his final speech as he left Washington, D.C., he said, and I quote, "As I walk off the city streets, my final words to the men and women of the Reagan revolution: My friends, we did it. We were not just marking time. We made a difference. We made the city freer and left her in good hands."

The lights of this city shine, but the future will burn brightly because of men and the leadership of Ronald Reagan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The Chair would remind Members that the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) has 8 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) has 3½ minutes remaining and the right to close.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. Cox) controls 6 minutes.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. Cox) has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I count my blessings for President Ronald Reagan. I count my blessings for this man because he spoke from his heart and he spoke the truth. Obviously he was an exceptional communicator, but he was also extraordinarily honest. You did not have to wonder where Ronald Reagan was coming from. He had core principles: confronting tyranny, expressing strength to the world, believing in our market economy, reducing the size of government.

The bottom line is, he had extraordinary faith in our country, in the promise of America that the best of America is yet to come. And the best generations of Americans are yet to come. He trusted Americans to spend their own money and lead their own lives. In the process he knew our country and the world would benefit.

I am absolutely convinced President Reagan totally changed the debate. He helped our country recognize that people have their own sense of self-worth and that we trust them to do the right thing.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when President Reagan took office on that cold day in 1981, the world needed a hero, and on that day President Reagan sent a message to every American and to every human being enslaved by the Soviet empire. Confronting not the armies of Saddam Hussein or Slobodan Milosevic, but the largest military machine in the history of the world, President Reagan simply said, "No weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

Then he led a worldwide movement for individual liberty and the human rights of all people. Today the Soviet Union sits on the ash heap of history, and the Reagan legacy can be measured in lives liberated and dreams fulfilled.

Before Ronald Reagan became President in 1981, there were 56 electoral democracies on Earth. Today there are 117. Today more than a billion more people are living in freedom than on the day that he took office.

President Reagan also liberated America, the land that he called the last best hope of mankind. Many Washington pundits at the time believed that the United States was suffering from an inevitable decline. President Reagan had a different view. He believed that America's greatest days were ahead, if only we could free our people from the shackles of big government. He knew that people, not governments, create prosperity, and that markets are the dynamic expression of individual freedom reinforced by property rights and the rule of law.

He believed that the government management of an economy, whether in the form of wage controls, price controls, or regulation of production, produced growth and misery in direct proportion to the loss of freedom. Upon assuming the Presidency, he immediately ended price controls on oil, and within 4 months the price of oil fell over 60 cents per gallon.

When a government union broke the law and mounted an illegal strike against the taxpayers, President Reagan upheld the rule of law, and even the Soviet Union noticed. Secretary of State George Schultz said this may have been the best foreign policy decision Ronald Reagan ever made.

Ronald Reagan and a Democratic Congress cut marginal income tax rates from 70 percent to 28 percent and ushered in the longest peacetime economic expansion in American history. Inflation fell from over 12 percent to 1 percent, and interest rates dropped dramatically. People were free to work and keep most of what they earned and to save for their family's future instead of relying on the state.

In 1981, Ronald Reagan was the first President to take the oath of office on the west front of the Capitol. He said he wanted to be looking west to symbolize the pioneer vision and spirit that he knew still lived in America. Later today his body will be carried up those same western steps of the Capitol. In just a few hours, President Reagan will lie in State a few feet from where we are now gathered.

As we imagine him looking up at the monumental artwork in the dome, at the Apotheosis of George Washington, perhaps we will hear him again speaking to us in the words he once used in this very place: Now we are standing inside the symbol of our democracy. Now we hear again the echoes of our past. A general falls to his knees in the hard snow of Valley Forge; a lonely President paces the darkened halls and ponders his struggle to save the Union; the men of the Alamo call out encouragement to each other; a settler pushes West and sings a song, and the song echoes out forever and fills the unknowing air.

As we gather in the rotunda and gaze upon the flag-draped vault that holds the mortal remains of our 40th President, I know that if we listen, we will hear those echoes of the past. We will hear that pioneer song because it is the American sound. Like Ronald Reagan, it is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent and fair.

Mr. President, we loved you in life because you helped us love America, and you so nobly represented the country we love. As we lay you to rest, we will always respect and honor your leadership, your humility, your strength, your humor and your character. You told us that those who say we are in a time when there are no heroes just do not know where to look. Mr. President, all of America now knows where to look. You and our beloved First Lady, Nancy Reagan, will be our heroes for as long as there is an America and as long as love of freedom is carried in human hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield my self the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for his very cogent remarks, and I really appreciate the civility with which this has been conducted today.

The gentleman from California mentioned the fact that President Reagan and a Democratic Congress presided over large tax cuts back during President Reagan's term, and I grant that. But at the same time, President Reagan was not a strict ideologue and he understood that when large deficits appeared, that we as a Nation needed to do something to deal with those large deficits and not put our country deeper and deeper in debt.

He agreed to actions to correct that course, and I think we as Democrats and Republicans hopefully can come together here and recognize that a \$7

trillion debt and deficits of over half a trillion dollars cannot go on, and our kids and grandkids and the future generations of this Nation cannot sustain that kind of problem if it continues.

I hope we will come together with an attitude of civility that was characterized by President Reagan and work on these problems together because we have a lot more in common than we have differences. We are all Americans. We all love our country, and we want to do what is right by our country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by saying that I think if we work together and understand that we are all in this together, we will do the very best we can for the Nation we love, the United States of America.

May God bless Mrs. Reagan and the Reagan family, and may God hold Ronald Wilson Reagan in His loving arms.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, heaven is a little sunnier and little more optimistic with the arrival of one of the greatest American patriots and Presidents of the 20th Century, President Ronald Reagan.

He inspired me, as he did many others. Across the country and around the world, millions are mourning the death and remembering the life of this man, patriot, and President. There is a sense of profound loss, and rightly so, in the hearts of all Americans. This week we will all search for a way to pay our respects to a man who made it "morning in America" again.

President Reagan's message of hope restored America's faith in what we could become. He loved this country, and he believed in the people that called it home. His optimism was infectious and at the end of his term as President—Americans had caught his vision and understood their place in the world.

Reagan's stewardship ushered in an era of peace and economic prosperity. Reaganomics—reducing the size of government, allowing Americans to keep more of their own hard earned money instead of having it taxed away—brought about an economic revival in our nation.

Reagan's leadership ended the Cold War, brought down the Berlin Wall, and charted a new course for both America's and the world's future. A future that was secure—made possible by "peace through strength." We would do well to bear this wisdom in mind as we continue to defend America against the threats posed by adversaries.

It is very difficult for one person or a single nation to pay tribute to a life as big, as bold, and as heroic as Ronald Reagan's. His own words are perhaps the best testament of his convictions. His actions are the most sincere depictions of the character that defined his life. His humility and grace endeared him to all American's hearts.

In announcing to the world that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Mr. Reagan wrote, "Let me thank you, the American people, for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve as your president. When the Lord calls me home, whenever that day may be, I will leave with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future. I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

President Reagan's legacy will live on in the hearts and memories of all Americans. His integrity, dignity and wisdom are immortal and will challenge us each day to "act worthy of ourselves"—worthy of America.

Thanks to Ronald Reagan—there are bright days ahead for America.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, Great American Patriot, and conservative stalwart.

This past weekend, I joined a delegation of Members from this body in honoring the veterans—both living and fallen—who brought freedom to Europe by storming the beaches of Normandy. Unfortunately, transportation problems have prevented me from participating more fully in commemorating the passing of a truly great president. Had I been able, I would have certainly joined my colleagues in unanimously voting to mourn the passage of Ronald Reagan.

Ronald Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois, a small town in the heart of America. His Midwest Christian upbringing helped to mold Reagan into the conservative icon that he has become. When I was 14 years old, living in a small rural Midwest town, I heard Ronald Reagan's "A Time for Choosing" speech for Barry Goldwater. That speech and many of his other speeches, which I would listen to on records, inspired me to get involved in politics and to fight for conservative values. I know Reagan did not inspire me alone.

Ronald Reagan did not just speak about conservative ideals. He lived them and led with them. At a time when conservatives and conservatism were derided and ridiculed, he showed young politicians a new way to be a conservative.

In 1981, President Reagan became the President of the United States. A boy from a small town had proven the American dream was still alive. At a time when a belief in America and freedom seemed to be at an all time low, Reagan's optimism renewed the confidence of a Nation. Reagan's plans for economic revitalization, smaller government, and a strong military moved the United States toward a brighter future.

Over the course of two terms, he turned the United States and the world around. He was not content with the status quo domestically or internationally. Today, the world and the country are better for it. Our current prosperity is based on the course he charted. The freedom that millions of people enjoy can be attributed in part to him.

This past weekend was the 20th anniversary of Reagan's moving D-Day speech. This Saturday marks the 17th anniversary of his Berlin Wall speech. Both of these speeches were devoted to freedom. As one of the 20th Centuries greatest advocates of freedom—both political and economic—Ronald Reagan has few equals.

As Ronald Reagan ends his journey, I mourn his passing, but I am overwhelmed with gratitude that he was able to accomplish so many things for the United States of America.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan ran for President to change America. In the end, he had changed the world. As Arizonans, we can be proud that our state played a vital role in the "Reagan Revolution".

Barry Goldwater started what became the Reagan Revolution with his own run for the Presidency. For the first time since Calvin

Coolidge, conservatives had a champion. Some dismissed Goldwater's loss as the end of the nascent conservative movement, but they were wrong: it was just the beginning.

Reagan took to the national political stage during the Goldwater campaign 40 years ago with his seminal speech "A Time for Choosing."

In losing the battle for the White House, Goldwater passed the conservative torch to Ronald Reagan to continue the war of ideas. Together they nurtured the conservative movement and helped it grow. In 1966, Reagan's campaign for Governor of California struck the same themes as Goldwater's presidential campaign. He won in a landslide. It was the biggest political victory of the conservative movement since Goldwater had defeated the sitting U.S. Senate Majority leader in 1952.

My father, Stephen Shadegg, was Goldwater's campaign manager, speechwriter and a close friend. Growing up in Goldwater's shadow and being a part of the conservative movement from birth gave me a special appreciation for who Reagan was. Just as Goldwater, Reagan's greatest tool was the truth. When Ronald Reagan said something, you knew it came from the heart.

Reagan was one of the few politicians who had deeply held beliefs and never strayed from fundamental principles. The rarest commodity in Washington, D.C. is courage, yet Reagan was nothing if not courageous.

He also touched people's lives. Just look at the hundreds of thousands of people who stood in line for hours this week to pay their last respects. A telling tribute to a man who had done so much for his country and whose citizens admired and loved him in return.

President Reagan is rightly remembered for numerous accomplishments. We are all better off today thanks to the economic revolution that brought double-digit interest rates and inflation to its knees. His tax policy proved that "a rising tide" of economic recovery "lifts all boats."

Reagan is best known as the aggressive opponent of communism, the strong cold warrior that stood up to the Soviets and their allies across the globe. Less known is that this doctrine of "peace through strength" allowed President Reagan to sign the largest arms reduction treaty at the time.

Ronald Reagan was a normal citizen who used his charm and steadfast beliefs to shape the United States into the Country it is today. He provided great optimism, sparked economic growth, gained military superiority, and bridged international relations.

We all have a special memory of Reagan. Obviously for me, the 1964 speech was a formative part of my political life. In the speech he outlined his dedication to limited government and personal responsibility, ideals that guide me as I serve the people of my district and Arizona.

This idea that government was beholden to the people, that it had no other source of power is still the newest, most unique idea in all the long history of man's relation to man. This is the issue of this nation: Whether we believe in our capacity for self-government or whether we abandon the American Revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far-distant capital can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves.

He had a simple vision. He knew that individual choice and freedom was essential for

people to feel pride in themselves, instead of dependence on the government. Reagan knew that the true American dream was to be free to live your life and achieve your goals without government interference or regulation.

President Reagan was one of the towering figures of the 20th century and one of the greatest defenders of freedom that America and the world has ever known. Ronald Reagan was an heir to Barry Goldwater's vision that the greatness of America lies not in its government but in its people. His faith in the individual, belief in free enterprise, and unending conviction in providing freedom of choice in everyday decisions, helped to restore "the great, confident roar of American progress, growth, and optimism."

Rather than mourn our loss following the passing of President Ronald Reagan, we should instead celebrate his life and his countless contributions to our country. And, we should renew the promise to keep America "that shining city upon the hill."

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our Nation's greatest Presidents and a fellow Californian, President Ronald W. Reagan.

A child of America's heartland, he became a man of the west. A towering presence, he gained fame as a movie star and entertainer before turning his considerable gifts to public service. A man of great wit, faith, optimism, conviction and conscience, he believed fervently in the good of all men but especially the American people.

It was from his unwavering faith and from the people, first in his adopted state of California and later throughout the nation, that he drew his great strength. A natural leader, he commanded respect and loyalty from all who had the honor of serving with him. President Reagan brought grace and dignity to the high office he held, always treating those around him with respect and kindness. He never lost his connection to the working people and spoke to all Americans with such clarity and honesty that he will be forever known as "the great communicator."

Along with his beloved wife, Nancy, President Reagan was a frequent visitor to the Palm Springs area which I have the honor of representing in Congress. The Reagans frequently spent New Year's Eve with their dear friends, Ambassador and Mrs. Walter Annenberg, enjoying the relaxing desert environment and a friendly round of golf. A playground for movie stars and Presidents, the Palm Springs community was a welcome haven from the hectic world of celebrity and politics. The Reagans had many local friends and contacts, and the Palm Springs area was and still remains Reagan country.

As someone who has always said that it is perhaps harder to be the spouse than the individual holding elected office, First Lady Nancy Reagan was a reservoir of strength for the President throughout their remarkable life together. His most fervent supporter and staunchest defender, Nancy deserves our recognition and thanks for her role in this most American story.

President Reagan's many achievements are now part of our Nation's proud history, and the contributions he made ensured a safer world and a brighter future for the American people. History will recall that his words helped bring down the walls that kept the people of the Soviet Union oppressed and isolated from the

freedom of the west. His economic policies and the strength of his convictions laid the foundation for the greatest economic boom in America in the "American century." But, the history lessons will never be able to convey the sense of purpose and pride he instilled in our nation through the sheer strength of his spirit and the optimism of his words.

We owe this remarkable American a tremendous debt of gratitude. His leadership re-defined the political landscape in our country and energized our people with purpose and hope. To paraphrase the poet, "we shall not soon see his like again."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of California's 45th district, I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to First Lady Nancy Reagan, their children and the entire Reagan family. I have no doubt that President Reagan has seen his faith rewarded as he goes to his rest. May God Bless President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues and remember the vision and achievements of our 40th President, Ronald Wilson Reagan. Ronald Reagan came to Washington with a core set of values that guided him through his two terms as our Nation's leader. President Reagan fought to reduce taxes, diminish the role of an intrusive Federal bureaucracy, and to end forever the oppressive Communist regime in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The times during which Reagan sought to achieve these goals could not have been more daunting. America in 1981 was a land of broken spirit. Many citizens could not live the American dream due to interest rates in the double digits. The Soviet Union had surpassed the United States in military capability. But Ronald Reagan achieved what he set out to do through a combination of ideology, pragmatism, charm, self-effacing humor, and, yes, hard work.

When the President left office in 1989, the Nation was in the midst of an economic renaissance. The Reagan tax cuts led to 96 straight months of economic growth. Record numbers of Americans were experiencing the pride that goes along with home ownership and economic self sufficiency. The Communist bloc would soon be a memory due to Reagan's determination. Ending communism was a stand upon which Reagan absolutely would not compromise. To him, the Soviet Union was truly an "evil empire" which was morally at odds with the United States and the principles of human dignity. Reagan battled head-to-head with Gorbachev at five peace summits and at home secured more money for our Nation's defense. Thanks to this combination, millions upon millions now live in freedom and Russia is a valued ally in America's quest for global freedom.

Perhaps the most enduring legacy of Ronald Reagan was his ability to make us proud to be Americans. Reagan gently lifted our spirits with his cheery optimism and geniality. He soothed our fears with a good joke or a funny story. He could have been our friendly neighbor or our favorite uncle. A reporter once asked Reagan what Americans saw in him, to which he replied "Would you laugh if I told you that I think, maybe, they see themselves, and that I'm one of them? I've never been able to detach myself or think that I, somehow, am apart from them."

On a personal note, I cannot forget the warmth and kindness that I was shown by this

great man. I first met Reagan in 1976 and later visited him at the Oval Office. He provided me with invaluable advice during my first run for Congress. During this meeting, he spoke of the beauty of our mountains and the kindness of the people of North Carolina. He remembered fondly his visits to Western North Carolina before he was a candidate and afterwards. During every meeting with Ronald Reagan I was treated with kindness, grace, and great humility.

Few political leaders have had the vision and integrity of Ronald Reagan. He had the guts and the courage to tackle the toughest problems of 1980s America. He left his office with a stronger and prouder nation than he inherited. He made us want to believe in ourselves and he made us a better people. Mr. Speaker, I and my constituents in Western North Carolina will always be grateful for Ronald Reagan's service to our Nation.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, this week our Nation lost an individual who had an enormous impact on our country and the world. Ronald Wilson Reagan, our Nation's 40th President, had a great and positive impact on our economy, our security, and our national pride. I believe that just as his achievements will remain with us for many decades, so too will his legacy of exercising sincerity and consistency in all actions, both inconsequential and monumental.

President Reagan was an ordinary man who became an extraordinary leader. I will remember him most for his sense of optimism and hope. In the most difficult of times, it was President Reagan who had the power to allay our worries, raise our spirits, and guide this Nation to prosperity.

Working on Ronald Reagan's first campaign in Jacksonville in 1980, I saw first hand his strength of character and his sense of optimism and hope. Ronald Reagan lifted this Nation up at the time when we needed it the most. He made us feel good about being American. Ronald W. Reagan knew who he was and he knew what he believed. These are the qualities of a great leader.

President Reagan's strength of character and firm beliefs led to revolutionary policies in dealing with the economy, national security, and federal taxation.

Under the presidency of Ronald W. Reagan, our Nation experienced a lengthy period of economic revival where inflation was brought under control, employment grew, and a stifling federal tax burden was lifted from millions of hard working Americans.

President Reagan's defense policies were pivotal in the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. His commitment to a strong national defense and a safe and secure world is personified through the phrases, "Trust but verify," "Peace through strength," and most of all, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

At the end of his two terms in office, the Reagan Revolution had succeeded in giving the Nation its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity without recession or depression. President Reagan succeeded in keeping his campaign promise of restoring the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism.

Mr. Speaker, I am so very pleased to have known this man. I am even more pleased that Ronald Reagan answered the call to public service and contributed all that he did. His

leadership blessed our great Nation. Our country will never forget his awesome contributions. For now and years to come, may the people of the United States examine the life of our 40th President, and reflect upon his great achievements. Ronald Wilson Reagan lifted this Nation, and changed the world.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, like millions of Americans, I want to pay tribute to President Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States. I have shed many tears this week, because I loved Ronald Reagan, and I know how much he loved this country and the American people.

President Reagan inherited a country disillusioned and with serious economic problems, yet when he left office eight years later, it was truly "Morning in America." This was more than an economic boom. President Reagan restored pride and dignity to the United States and to the office of the presidency. He advocated personal responsibility and limited government—government that gives a hand up, not a hand out.

He deserves more credit than anyone else for the collapse of communism and the fall of the Iron Curtain, bringing freedom to many millions of people. He spoke proudly and freely of morals and principles, of right and wrong, of good and evil. He believed in the goodness of the American people, and he helped us believe in ourselves.

Recently, my wife and I made a special trip to visit the Reagan ranch near Santa Barbara, California. The humble and simple nature of his beloved ranch home reflects the genuine basic values that he cherished and lived by. America is a better place because of Ronald Wilson Reagan, who greatly loved our country and who championed our ideals.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to have served in Congress for the last 2 years of President Reagan's second term.

President Reagan devoted his life to the preservation of freedom. He believed that "no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

His global fight against communism is one of the most significant events in world history. Many said this enemy of freedom could not be conquered. But the Berlin Wall fell because President Reagan made it fall.

Since the president's death last Saturday we have heard all or parts of the speeches that inspired so many for so long. They earned him the nickname "The Great Communicator."

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan will always be The Great Communicator because of what he said and did. But his public remarks were also notable for what he did not say and what he did not do.

He did not pound the podium. He did not flail his arms, or yell. He did not substitute manufactured emotion for reason. He did not exploit human suffering.

The style and manner of his speech combined with the power of his ideas made verbal and physical gimmicks completely unnecessary.

Mr. Speaker, there are many ways to judge a president's place in history. I believe a question we must ask is: What kind of impact on world and national events does a President have after he leaves office? By that standard President Reagan is a historical giant. Consider two examples:

First, President Reagan initiated the largest peacetime expansion of our military ever. It gave him the strength to win the Cold War without firing a shot.

But would our soldiers, sailors and airmen have achieved such rapid success in the first Gulf War if we sent our 1980 forces and weapons to fight? Would we have won the ground war in 100 hours without President Reagan's military build-up? Of course not. I believe we would have prevailed, but not with such stunning success.

And our modern, 21st Century military that is fighting the war on terror in Iraq today would be years, if not decades away, without President Reagan's "Peace Through Strength" doctrine.

Second, President Reagan launched the boldest economic growth plan since the New Deal. When he came to office 14 income tax brackets, with the top rate a suffocating 70 percent. After he left office there were only two income tax brackets existed, with a top rate of 28 percent. Yes, we know this created the longest economic boom in history throughout the 1980's. But what about the 1990's?

Mr. Speaker, without President Reagan's three-year across-the-board tax reduction plan in 1981, and without the fundamental restructuring of the nation's income tax code in 1986, we would not have experienced the job creation machine of the 1990's. We would not have created a new class in America—the Investor Class. And our economy certainly would not have survived and rebounded as it did after the 9–11 terrorist attacks and corporate scandals.

President Reagan left office with a united America, a strong America, and a prosperous America. His America is the country every president—every American—aspires to live in.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan forever changed the landscape of American politics. He will be remembered as a President who loved his country and inspired us all to be better Americans.

President Reagan was a principled leader, and many times his beliefs put him at odds with Democrats. Despite these disagreements, he taught us that there is a big difference between bitter partisanship and strong beliefs.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Reagan and her children at this difficult time.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, on the passing of President Reagan it is right and good that our Nation gathers for mourning, prayer, and remembrance.

As I inventory my memories of Ronald Reagan, I can't help but smile at the recollection of such a good and sensible man. The first time I voted for a President, I voted for Ronald Reagan. Each time since I cast my first ballot, I have compared every candidate to President Reagan.

That's because Ronald Reagan set the standard, he personified leadership. He . . . was . . . America. He was our greatness, our promise, our free will, and our character.

Ronald Reagan showed us love of family, even in the midst of challenges to our values and bars to tradition.

He and Nancy were unafraid to show their affection, to put their pure love for each other on display. When you saw the Reagans together, you couldn't help but feel part of their family. Their mutual fondness and love brought true meaning to the term "first family."

Not only a defender of traditional values, Ronald Reagan brought common sense to

bear on government. He reigned in the scope of the federal government, while spurring growth in the private sector.

Ronald Reagan changed the world. He spread democracy to places where freedom was a term without meaning. President Reagan stood up to the rising tide of communism, instead presenting the future that liberty ensures.

He changed the world by example, showing the power of a free people. He ended the cold war with fearless resolve, lifting our fears of imminent attack by soviet missiles and giving a future to nations ravaged by the ills of communism.

Not only did Ronald Reagan change the world, he changed America. He led us back to prosperity. He made us proud to be Americans again. Ronald Reagan brought us closer to his image of a "shining city on a hill," and showed us that we could be great again. Under Reagan's guidance the rest of the world came to look to us for our leadership again.

And although we are saddened by his death, we are comforted by the promise he restored in America. President Reagan said "For while I take inspiration from the past . . . I live for the future." So must we.

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I remember working in Washington during Ronald Reagan's transition in 1980. It was heartening to see the change in attitude and renewed patriotism among the public and in Washington. You see, in those days so many Americans felt discouraged about their government and their future.

And then the sheriff rode into town. He brought with him a wholesome, Western perspective. His optimism was contagious, and he had a love for this country and its people as big and as colorful as the Montana sky. His was a kind of hope that people hadn't seen in our Nation since well before Vietnam, Watergate, and the tough economic times that he came to vanquish.

"Sheriff" Reagan's determination and infectious charm disarmed this town of its grip on the American taxpayer, in favor of limited government, free enterprise, and a renewed faith in the power of the American Dream. Abroad, our President's unwavering stand for liberty brought down the Iron Curtain, ended the Cold War, and helped restore freedom to millions of people around the world. He made us—made me—proud to be an American.

Several years ago, that sense of pride motivated me to successfully lead the effort in Montana to change the name of our annual Republican Lincoln Day Dinners to Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinners, in honor of the two greatest Republicans, Abraham Lincoln and, of course, Ronald Reagan.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sorrow on the passing of President Ronald Reagan.

I had the privilege of meeting President Reagan twice—once when I participated in a G.I. Forum event in El Paso, TX, honoring veterans, and the other time while I was in the Border Patrol providing security as the President visited Brownsville, TX.

It was easy to see that President Reagan was blessed with a good nature and positive spirit. All Americans remember his abiding love of country and strong defense of freedom.

President Reagan has left a lasting legacy in the way he confronted communism and

helped to end the Cold War. He was the kind of leader we needed during those difficult years. For that, our Nation, and the world, will be forever grateful.

On behalf of my constituents in El Paso, I extend heartfelt condolences to the Reagan family during this very sad time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, during our week of mourning for President Ronald Reagan, I want to take a moment to honor the life and memory of a great Reagan Republican, Jack Vaughan, who died June 11, 1994, at the age of 33. Jack campaigned for Ronald Reagan on both Presidential campaigns, worked for Newt Gingrich out of college, and served three terms in the Georgia General Assembly before falling victim to cancer 10 years ago.

Jack was a College Republican who really took Reagan's message of optimism to heart. His love for his country and State propelled him into public service and led him to three unopposed terms in the Georgia State House of Representatives. He was a leader to Cobb County, the State of Georgia, and served as inspiration for young Republicans seeking careers in public service.

Since his death in 1994, the Georgia Republican party has named their young Republican of the year award after Jack Vaughan, for the most distinguished individual going above and beyond his or her means to serve party and country.

Jack Vaughan was the son of Gretchen and Jack Vaughan; he is survived by his wife Diane Vaughan Rainey and son John Vaughan III.

Although Mr. Vaughn is no longer with us, his spirit of hard work and dedication lives on in the hearts and memories of all those who wish to better our country and see the worth and value of the American people and citizens of Georgia.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, former President Reagan's influence on the world was tremendous. He was bigger than life. Whether it was on the silver screen or before thousands of cheering Americans—he was, in so many ways, the American dream. His messages of hope and possibility touched so many people around the world.

Many Iowans have a special place in their heart for Ronald Reagan or "Dutch" as he was known to those who used to listen to him on the radio during the 1930s.

In 1932, after graduating from college, Reagan began working as a temporary staff announcer for radio station WOC in Davenport, IA. In 1933, WOC merged with radio station WHO in Des Moines, and Reagan was hired as chief sports announcer for the new station. Here, Reagan announced Chicago Cubs baseball games—reading them from teletype reports. I remember him recounting how he was forced to improvise games for as long as 15 minutes when the teletype machine would unexpectedly stop.

At the time, radio personalities were treated as big stars and what a great place to start a career in entertainment—in Iowa. As we all know, Mr. Reagan went on to a career in movies but many Iowans remembered listening to his sportscasts and helped him in pursuit of higher office in the 1970s and 80s.

I can remember "Dutch's Dollies"—a group of ladies who were longtime fans cheering wildly at his campaign events. They were loyal supporters with very long memories of their man Dutch.

There are many great stories about Ronald Reagan and his ties to Iowa, but I want to express my admiration for the entire Reagan family.

Ronald Reagan touched me in a manner I could not anticipate—through Alzheimer's disease.

For the better part of the last decade I shared the sadness of this disease with the Reagan family. Like all Americans, we read about the Reagan family's long goodbye to the President. During their painful days, the entire Latham family was saying their own long goodbye to my father Willard Latham, who succumbed to the disease in 2001.

Ronald Reagan will be remembered for many things but for millions this week we are reminded of the ravages Alzheimer's disease has on its victims and their families. Let us all pray for those who are devastated by this affliction and let us keep the Reagan family in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of reflection. We reflect on the life and leadership of former President Ronald Wilson Reagan. We remember all that is good in our country, and all our Nation has to offer its people. Ronald Reagan made a significant and lasting contribution to the strength of our economy, our military, and restored America's self-confidence.

President Reagan was an inspiration to me as I embarked upon a political career in Boulder City, NV, more than 20 years ago. He instilled in me that America was indeed a place everyone can rise as high and as far as his ability will take him. His own humble beginnings are proof of that. He taught me the meaning of civility, and to respect your political adversaries despite your disagreements.

President Reagan changed the course of history, for both the United States and the world. He implemented foreign policy that would later end the cold war and free many nations from the iron curtain.

President Reagan strengthened our economy. His leadership taught us that the Federal Government is not the solution for our problems and set us on a course that would lessen taxes and decrease inflation, helping many Americans achieve the American dream.

On behalf of the people of the Third Congressional District from the great State of Nevada, I offer my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Reagan and the entire Reagan family.

To conclude, let me recap the final words of President Reagan's farewell address to the American people from the Oval Office—"My friends: We did it. We weren't just marking time. We made a difference. We made the city stronger. We made the city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all."

Mr. President, thank you for all you've done for the Nation and the world. Americans will miss you.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we have lost a giant in American politics and world history. Ronald Wilson Reagan was not only a great President, he was a good man. He will be remembered fondly for his character and with great appreciation for his tremendous triumphs in spreading peace and freedom throughout the world.

In addition to tearing down the iron curtain of communism, rebuilding America's military, presiding over the Nation's longest period of growth and prosperity, it was the little things

that made him great. He cared about people, including the smallest among us. His heart of kindness reflected that of his Creator's in its compassion toward "the least of these."

Ronald Reagan comforted us when we grieved. Whether to the families of the 101st Airborne Division or to a Nation in shock after losing the space shuttle *Challenger*, President Reagan knew what to say and how to say it. He also knew when to be silent and simply offer a reassuring embrace. He was the most powerful man in the world, yet he exuded the warmth and kindness of a gentle grandfather. We respected not just the office he held, but the man who held it.

President Reagan earned his respect. He knew what he believed, established his goals upon those beliefs and committed to achieve his dreams. The world is a much improved place because he lived by his deeply held convictions.

Ronald Reagan knew you shouldn't penalize people for working hard, so he fought to enact sweeping tax relief that spurred unparalleled economic growth. He knew there was a difference between good and evil, so he called out the "evil empire," and it ultimately crumbled. Ronald Reagan knew people wanted to feel good about this country again, so he told us it was morning in America—and we saw that it was.

He touched numerous lives in the Fourth Congressional District of Kansas. Every year I attend the Lincoln Day Celebration in Independence, KS, I am reminded by local residents of Ronald Reagan's visit there in 1966. They remember it as if it were yesterday. And they still love him.

We love Ronald Reagan. We have named our national airport, Washington's largest government building and more than 50 other sites across this country in tribute to our Nation's 40th President. He captured our hearts with his next-door-neighbor kindness, rekindled our patriotism with his effusive and infectious love for this country, and he inspired us with his principled leadership.

In his personal and moving letter disclosing his bout with Alzheimer's disease, the President conveyed the essence of his entire being. In that letter, he was optimistic about America, and he asked us to take care of his beloved Nancy because he was concerned about the burden she would bear. There was not a word of self pity or dread. Ronald Reagan wrote about the sunset of his life, but proclaimed for America, "a bright dawn ahead."

Mr. Speaker, we too believe that America's future is bright, but it pales in comparison to the place where Ronald Reagan now lives.

President Reagan had a strong faith in God and spoke of his reliance on prayer in both good and difficult times. During his address at the National Prayer Breakfast in 1982, President Reagan said he believed the United States was a blessed land that had been set apart in a special way. But, he also had the following warning:

Sometimes, it seems we've strayed from that noble beginning, from our conviction that standards of right and wrong do exist and must be lived up to. God, the source of our knowledge, has been expelled from the classroom. He gives us His greatest blessing, life, and yet many would condone the taking of innocent life. We expect Him to protect us in a crisis, but turn away from Him too often in our day-to-day living. I wonder if He isn't waiting for us to wake up.

President Reagan went on to urge Americans of faith to get involved and to restore "our spirit of neighbor caring for neighbor." In his conclusion he added:

We are told in II Timothy that when our work is done, we can say, "We have fought the good fight. We have finished the race. We have kept the faith."

Ronald Reagan's struggles on this earth are finished, but his work carries on. He indeed fought the good fight, and we are all better off because of it.

May God bless Ronald Wilson Reagan, and may God provide strength, peace and encouragement to Mrs. Reagan and the Reagan family in the days ahead.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's 40th President, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

President Reagan was an ordinary man who led an extraordinary life. He came from a middle-American family of modest means to become the leader of the most powerful Nation in the world, inspiring its people along the way.

President Reagan was a decisive leader. He was a strong commander-in-chief. He was a statesman. He was a gifted communicator. He was a skilled political adversary. He was an eternal optimist. He was a patriot. He was, above all, an American. He used these skills, and his love for our country, to change the course of history for the better.

President Reagan accomplished much during his presidency. He helped defeat communism and end the Cold War. He rebuilt our national defenses. He advanced freedom throughout the world. He led the longest economic recovery in our Nation's history. He lowered taxes. He fundamentally changed the way we think about government. "We meant to change a nation," he said in his farewell address to the American people, but instead, "we changed the world."

President Reagan literally helped save a world that needed saving.

President Reagan also convinced us to believe in ourselves again. He took charge of a wounded Nation that doubted itself and helped us rediscover our pride and patriotism. He reminded us that America and its people are fundamentally good, decent and deserving of God's blessings. He restored America's greatness and instilled in us his eternal optimism that our best is always yet to come.

President Reagan left America better, stronger, freer and more prosperous than we ever had been. Looking back on his accomplishments in the White House, he said that he was proud that "we weren't just marking time; we made a difference," adding with his usual humility "all in all, not bad, not bad at all."

Not bad at all, Mr. President.

President Reagan battled Alzheimer's disease with the same dignity and courage with which he lived his life. He asked us, in his last letter to America, to remember that he had "the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future." We know he loved America. I think it is clear America loved him.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have known President Reagan and am honored to have, in some small measure, done my part to ensure that his vision for America and the world came to pass. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for dedicating his life to improving ours.

In this time of great sadness for the Reagan family and the American people, let us take comfort in the knowledge that the leader we so loved has fulfilled his earthly mission and has finally reached the place of peace in which we all may one day rejoice. May God eternally bless Ronald Reagan and continue to watch over the shining city on a hill he so loved.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay tribute to a great American, our 40th President, Ronald Reagan.

Under Ronald Reagan's presidency and leadership, America stood tall again in the world as a "shining city on the hill." Americans were proud once again to be Americans.

Ronald Reagan assumed the presidency when America was facing an Iranian hostage crisis, a rising inflation rate, increasing unemployment, and an energy crisis that saw Americans waiting in lines to purchase gasoline.

Upon assuming the presidency, Ronald Reagan proposed a bold economic and defense program. His economic policy created the longest peacetime job expansion in history. Under his leadership, our defenses were rebuilt to handle any adversary. It was his leadership that saw America triumph as the communist evil empire that scarred Europe fell.

President Reagan fought for his convictions and followed up his campaign promises with successful action. Under his leadership, government bureaucracy and regulations were reduced. Taxes were lowered and a strong national defense was rebuilt to fight against the spread of communism. These moves won him a landslide re-election victory.

I agree with the words of this great President when he said, "government is not the solution. Government is the problem."

I also agree with President Reagan's words at the 1992 Republican National Convention in Houston, TX, when he said:

A lot of liberal democrats are saying it's time for a change; and they're right; the only trouble is they're pointing to the wrong end of Pennsylvania Avenue. What we should change is a Democratic Congress that wastes precious time on partisan matters of absolutely no relevance to the needs of the average American. It's time to clean house. Clean out the privileges and perks. Clean out the arrogance and the big egos. Clean out the scandals, the corner-cutting and the foot-dragging.

Ronald Reagan was a president who, in a time of politicians, proved himself a statesman. He was a leader who, when others demanded compromise, preached conviction; a gentleman who, in time of average men, stood taller than anyone else.

He ranks as one of the finest men ever to hold the office. He was successful as a radio broadcaster, actor, union leader, Governor and President. But, above all else, he was a successful American whose legacy lives on in these halls and across this land. May God bless this great man, his family and this land that he so dearly loved.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mr. Alan VanderMeer on his retirement from the Plumbers Local Union 210. Alan has spent over 40 years dedicating his life to the interest of the Plumbers Union as well as his community in Northwest Indiana. There will be a celebration of his accomplishments on June 10, 2004 at the Plumbers Local Union 210 in Merrillville, IN.

Alan has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. After being initiated into Plumbers Local 130 in Illinois, Alan admirably served in the Armed Forces in 1962. He also served as an Apprentice for Plumbers Local 130 from 1960 to 1964, and in 1978 he transferred to Local 519 in Miami, FL.

Alan later demonstrated his loyalty by his outstanding service to Plumbers Local 307 in Hammond, IN. He transferred to Local 307 in 1980 and was appointed J.A.T.C. member in 1984. In July 1990, he was elected as Business Manager and he served as J.A.T.C. Chairman, Retirement Trustee Chairman, Welfare Trustee Chairman, Arbitration Board Chairman, Property Trustee Chairman, Local 307/433 Joint Organizing Trust Co-Chair, PAC Chairman, and Golf Committee Chairman. During the years 1991, 1996, and 2001 he was a Delegate to the United Association Convention. He is presently a Delegate to the Indiana State Pipe Trades, where he served as Vice President from 1990 to 2000.

Alan was initiated into Plumbers Local 210 in July 2000 and was appointed Business Agent. He currently serves as J.A.T.C. member, Retirement Fund Trustee, Welfare Fund Trustee, Vacation Fund Trustee, Market Recovery Fund Trustee, Arbitration Board Member, Property Fund Trustee, and Golf Committee Chairman.

While Alan has dedicated a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of union members he has always found the time to serve his community as well. Since 1990 he has been the Chairman of Plumbers Local 307 and Local 210 Children's Christmas parties. Alan currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Lake County Contractors Licensing Board, the Hammond Urban Enterprise Association, and the Workforce Investment Board. He is a member of Pirates and the American Legion. Alan was also awarded the 2004 Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Joe Kernan.

Mr. Speaker, Alan VanderMeer has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his years of service. His family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made. I sincerely wish Alan VanderMeer a long, happy, and productive retirement. Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Alan VanderMeer for an outstanding career, not only with the Plumbers Union, but in service to his community as well.

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and remember a great man, a great leader and a great President.

Ronald Wilson Reagan is a man none of us will soon forget. In the annals of American and world history, Ronald Reagan will be recognized and remembered with the great leaders of our past like Winston Churchill, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

As a principled leader, he challenged political leaders in our Nation, in both parties, to go beyond the status quo, to think beyond the realms of the possible, to reach new heights in public discourse by doing more than debate the problems ailing the American people, and to actually find a solution.

He actively worked to enact new policies that brought our Nation out of the malaise of the 1970's.

He fought communism and tyranny, bringing freedom to more people in the world than has ever been achieved in history.

His principle of, "Peace through strength," not only led our Nation to become the pre-eminent superpower in the world, but it also brought the Soviet empire down to its knees, ending the Cold War once and for all.

When was the last time we have seen a world leader stand boldly on the doorsteps of an enemy and challenge him to "Tear down this wall"? President Reagan knew what had to be done and he did it. Why? Because it was the right thing to do.

I think most Americans will remember Ronald Reagan for the inspiration he gave us all. He helped us to believe in ourselves again. After our failed efforts in Vietnam and the protests and marches against our actions there, after Watergate, after economic malaise, and after the Iran Hostage Crisis, America was in a state of despair with very little hope in the future.

But President Reagan helped us to believe we could be better, and became better. He showed us America could be strong and win the Cold War, and we became strong and won it. He promised us he would invest in the American people to turn the economy around. He made that investment and dividends are still paying off today.

President Reagan optimistically led the way. The Nation followed and we are better off because of it.

In spite of all that President Reagan did for our Nation, the one thing that speaks volumes about his character and the man that he was, was the way he loved Nancy. He was not embarrassed about his love for her, rather he demonstrated it at every opportunity.

President Reagan was committed to his family, to his Nation and to the world. He was dedicated to his integrity, principles and the belief that America could become that shining city on a hill.

Today, we say goodbye to this great man, leader, President and husband. We miss President Reagan. May God bless him and his family.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, my memories of Ronald Reagan are much like the memories of so many of those who met President Reagan and who were absolutely charmed by him.

Ronald Reagan wasn't just called the "Great Communicator" because he could give good speeches; he was a brilliant communicator on all levels. He understood how the everyday person on the street understood issues, and he framed things in such a way that people believed him. He presented his ideas simply and eloquently.

He was also excellent one-on-one. His Irish charm was all encompassing. That charm made him an agreeable opponent when we disagreed on issues. He welcomed opposition on a matter; he understood that democratic societies only flourish when both sides of an issue are clearly heard. He relished debate.

President Reagan's acting career was helpful to him in his political career, although his detractors often denigrated him for it. But he was a good actor; his performance in Kings Row was widely hailed. But World War II intervened and his advancing career was diverted to military service, making movies for the troops.

My personal memories of the President were times we saw each other in the White

House or the Capitol. The first time we met, my 10-year-old daughter, Yvette, accompanied me to the White House party for new Members of Congress. After being rebuffed by a security guard when she asked if she could get Reagan's autograph, the President found out and obliged her with his autograph.

I remember another meeting with him that was rather high stakes on the international stage. I'd just returned from El Salvador in the mid 1980s with a CODEL of House Members where we'd sought to bring back good information about the rebel uprisings in Central America, particularly there in El Salvador.

Talking about—and debating at points during the conversation—international policy with the President of the United States in the Oval Office was a heady moment. We marveled that a migrant worker from Robstown and a lifeguard from Illinois would wind up in this room, talking about such important things.

He loved this Nation and felt a great responsibility to it. When his tax cuts and economic policies produced mountains of massive deficit, he stepped up and reversed his policy, raising taxes higher than any president before him—or since—has ever done. His insistence that the Soviets tear down the Berlin Wall rang truer than anyone would have believed at the time.

He had a sweet soul. This was one of the central tenets of the man. He loved his wife deeply, and the entire Nation has come to love her even more after they left the White House. Nancy Reagan's monumental strength in the face of facing her dear husband's illness, without him entirely with her, might have broken lesser people.

One of the President's greatest contributions to humanity, and to this Nation, may have come after he left office to begin the long dark walk away from us, and his beloved family. That this strong, vigorous man was so removed, so empty, was chilling for all of us. The eyes that danced with Irish charm began to narrow with confusion.

The Nation was deeply moved watching this much-loved president face the indignities of Alzheimer's so bravely and with such conviction. We have been moved to seek new science and new treatments for the cruel disease that claims the last decades of many Americans, and drains their families.

For all we have said here today, Ronald Reagan will be remembered most profoundly as an eternal optimist, embodying the quintessential American spirit. At our core, we are all optimists, thinking about tomorrow. Former House Speaker Tip O'Neill once illustrated President Reagan's indomitable optimism with a story the President told him. President Reagan compared himself to the kid who walks into a room full of horse dung, and asks excitedly, "Where's the pony?"

I join the House of Representatives today in honoring the life and service of Ronald Wilson Reagan and offer my condolences, those of my family, and those of my South Texas constituents, to Mrs. Reagan and the rest of their family.

May the Lord bless President Reagan's soul, and comfort Mrs. Reagan and their family in this time of loss.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I remember Ronald Reagan as an enthusiastic American patriot. He truly enjoyed being President. He was just like everyone's uncle or grandfather. He always had a kind word to say. He could disagree, without being disagreeable.

I have served with six Presidents, and I liked him personally.

Even one of his principal opponents, House Speaker Tip O'Neill, liked him.

President Reagan was well known for his great sense of humor. On Saint Patrick's Day, Tip O'Neill invited President Reagan to the Speaker's dining room to have lunch with the Irish Members of Congress. In his remarks, President Reagan said, with great humor, "I am told that on Saint Patrick's Day, one should spend time with saints and scholars, so you know that when I leave here I will have to go to two other places."

We all loved it.

On the international level, President Reagan made it difficult for the Soviet Union to compete with us, either economically and militarily.

May he rest in peace.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former President Ronald Wilson Reagan and to extend my deepest sympathies to former First Lady Nancy Reagan and the Reagan family. I join with the millions of Americans who mourn the death of our 40th President. President Reagan demonstrated an unwavering commitment to freedom, justice and democracy and left an indelible mark upon our Nation and the world.

On this occasion of remembrance, we are reminded of the pain and devastation wrought by Alzheimer's disease, a neurological illness which President Reagan endured during the last decade of his life. From this challenge, Mrs. Reagan has led a valiant effort to enable ongoing embryonic stem cell research, in the hope for a cure for this debilitating disease, as well as Parkinson's, Diabetes, Cancer and Multiple Sclerosis.

On April 28, I joined more than 200 of my colleagues in the House of Representatives in sending a letter to President George W. Bush in support of Mrs. Reagan's efforts on behalf of scientific research on stem cells. In February 2003, Senators HATCH, FEINSTEIN, KENNEDY, SPECTER and HARKIN introduced legislation to ban human reproductive cloning but allow nuclear transplantation research to continue under strict federal guidelines. I commend them for their leadership on this important issue and know that with the continued support of Mrs. Reagan, progress toward a cure for Alzheimer's and other diseases will be possible, ensuring a brighter future for millions of Americans.

As we honor the life and legacy of President Reagan and extend our condolences to his family and friends, let us remember the dignity and grace with which he lived his life and provide a fitting tribute to his memory by renewing the commitment to this noble cause.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, indeed all Americans, in paying tribute to a great man, the 40th President of the United States—Ronald Wilson Reagan.

President Reagan was an extraordinary and visionary leader, who saw our great Nation as having a unique role, purpose, and destiny in the world. He saw it as a beacon of freedom, a land of unlimited opportunity, and in his words, a shining city on the hill.

Mr. Reagan took office during a time of great pessimism. There was Watergate; Vietnam; the hostage crisis in Iran; and gas lines, runaway inflation, and double-digit interest rates here at home. There were those who told us that we had to lower our expectations,

that we could no longer shape our destiny, and that our best days were behind us.

Ronald Reagan saw a different future. It was a future in which we were limited only by the size of our dreams; where the spirit of our pioneer ancestors was still alive, it just needed to be rekindled. It was a vision where hard work, imagination, creativity, and a little luck would allow ordinary men and women to accomplish extraordinary things.

Taxes were cut, inflation and interest rates were reduced, and gas lines disappeared. Americans went back to work; the economy roared forward; and in the process, Mr. Reagan restored our confidence, uplifted our spirits, and made us proud to be Americans again.

The rebirth here at home was accompanied by equally dramatic changes abroad. The march of totalitarianism, that seemed inevitable a few years earlier, was halted as Mr. Reagan rebuilt our defenses. The creaky Soviet system disappeared quietly, without a shot being fired. And the Berlin Wall, the greatest symbol of oppression, fell, and millions of people around the world tasted freedom for the first time.

We Americans, and indeed all freedom loving people around the world, owe President Reagan an enormous debt. We will miss him, but history will never forget what he accomplished in 8 short years. As a grateful nation comes together to say goodbye, our collective thoughts and prayers go to Mrs. Reagan and her family.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor President Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan once said, "We in government should learn to look at our country with the eyes of an entrepreneur, seeing possibilities where others see only problems." It is that spirit that brought me and many others into the public service profession. I am proud to have cast my first presidential vote for Ronald Reagan in 1980. Fortunately for this country and the world, a majority of my fellow citizens agreed.

Ronald Reagan served as a beacon of hope and inspiration. His vision of a stronger, optimistic America inspired me to action. In 1980 I was a young student at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and I jumped right into grassroots politics on my campus. I was selected to attend the Republican National Convention that summer and was one of the youngest delegates there.

Iowans are proud of our connection to President Reagan. WOC, a Davenport radio station in my district, gave Ronald Reagan his first job out of college and he lived in Iowa for several years.

Ronald Reagan made the future something to charge toward rather than fear. His philosophy was based on a brilliant truth: He knew without a doubt that having faith in Americans would create the best America.

The Reagan Revolution is still the foundation for my core beliefs: The American people make better decisions about their daily life than the government can for them. Keeping America secure is job one. Peace is best achieved when you negotiate from a position of strength.

I keep a plaque on my desk with a quote from Ronald Reagan. It reads "There's no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."

Today, I join my colleagues, thousands of Iowans and millions of Americans in giving

credit to Ronald Reagan for renewing our nation and for changing the world forever with his leadership and ideals.

Thank you, Mr. President for reminding us why we should be proud to be Americans and for making us feel safe when nothing in the world seemed safe. Above all, thank you for your humor, optimism and for believing the best in us. We will never forget you.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan was great world leader with a fierce devotion to freedom, democracy, and the sacredness of human life—including the unborn.

He advocated peace through strength and played a major role in dismantling Soviet Communism which he rightly called the evil empire and stopped its extension into Latin America and elsewhere. I remember some of his critics laughing when he challenged Gorbachev in Berlin to "tear down this wall." They're not laughing any more.

Ronald Reagan championed the 1981 tax cut—the largest tax cut in history—totaling \$750 billion by 1986. All wage earners—low, moderate and upper income levels—got a 25 percent across-the-board cut in personal income taxes. Long term capital gains were also cut and the results were stunning—19 million new jobs created as Americans began to believe and hope again.

Ronald Reagan was strongly pro-life and fervently believed that women deserved better than abortion and that unborn children are precious and deserve respect.

Having been elected to Congress in 1980 along with President Reagan, I saw firsthand and often how genuine he was. He was a man of abiding principle who inspired our Nation to greatness, always believing America's best years lay ahead.

He endured personal hardship—including an assassination attempt—with incredible poise, dignity, and even humor.

Who can forget President Reagan telling Nancy after he was shot, I forgot to duck.

President Reagan will be missed, but his legend will endure.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest leaders of the past century, a man who committed himself to making our Nation more powerful, united, secure, prosperous, and proud.

By definition, a leader is one who guides, and as President of this great country, Ronald Wilson Reagan guided us with grace and dignity through one of the most critical periods in our country's history. His optimism led our county into a new era and brought hope and freedom to millions of people in the world.

When the Cold War pitted the United States and the Soviet Union against each other in an ideological struggle of the highest stakes, President Reagan steered the nation and led the free world with steady resolve and confidence.

Throughout his time in office, President Reagan stood for the principles and ideals of the American people. His steadfast moral clarity was not expressed in political rhetoric but implemented by action. His style was clear and bold. He redefined and transformed his political party with a new image and momentum. He set a new standard of political cooperation in American government. He created a new economic policy. Finally, he reestablished American leadership through the force

of his vision and the power of his personality. Most poignantly, it was with that vision that he spoke boldly before the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin in 1987 to demand Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to "open this gate . . . tear down this wall". The rest is history. Within months the wall came down, Eastern Europe was free, and the Soviet Union collapsed.

Ronald Reagan spent 8 years turning American hopes and dreams into reality and affirming our status as the greatest nation on earth, and for that, America is forever indebted to him.

God bless Ronald Reagan.

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, steadfast leadership, eternal optimism, profound faith, inspirational articulation, fierce patriotism: when America needed these qualities in a leader, President Ronald Reagan stepped in to fill the void. We come here to the Congress today to celebrate and honor the life of a man whose will forever be etched in history as one of the greatest leaders of the 20th Century.

The stories have been told so often by those of us who supported President Reagan over the years that they seem mundane, almost like a fictional novel or a movie script. High taxes, a struggling economy, a need for international stature and respect, and low morale affected the nation. At that time, a man who had come from the most humble beginnings stepped up to offer his vision for America. Washington politics tend to bring a variety of characters to the capital city, and Ronald Reagan was the unlikeliest of candidates: a child of a transient family with little income. He dreamed of being a writer or an artist, became a sports broadcaster, then a Hollywood actor, later a union leader, even later a governor, and finally a President.

His political affiliation would change over the course of a lifetime, but his core belief system remained essentially unchanged. Throughout his life, Ronald Reagan believed America is capable of great things and its people could and would lead the way if left unburdened by taxation and regulation. President Reagan also had an insatiable thirst to let the rest of the world enjoy the gifts of freedom and liberty. The "shining city on the hill" would be the beacon for the rest of the world.

Often dismissed or underestimated by political opponents, President Reagan had the most valuable weapon in the political arsenal: a bond with the people. Even in the face of his political defeats, it was the support of the American public that sustained and invigorated him.

In 1980, a nation in need of change selected Ronald Reagan to restore the shine to a tarnished America. Over the course of two terms, President Reagan revolutionized the Republican Party and changed the political atmosphere in a way still being felt today. He did what he said he would do. He lowered taxes, igniting an economic boom that reverberates to this day. A more streamlined tax code was authored. Regulatory burdens were challenged. Our armed forces were restored and then strengthened. The threatening scourge of communism was confronted in a way that America's enemies had not anticipated. Not only did President Reagan turn to face this menace, he out-argued his opponents and used the tools of freedom and democracy to win a war few thought could be won without the use of massive weaponry.

After achieving these monumental victories, one would think that perhaps President Rea-

gan's ego would match the size of his victories. Nothing, however, was further from the truth. President Reagan always gave the credit to the American people and American ideals. He treated his job as a valuable temporary loan from the American people, a loan that should be respected and returned with dutiful appreciation. He left the office of the Presidency with a poignant farewell from the Oval Office:

We've done our part. And as I walk off into the city streets, a final word to the men and women of the Reagan revolution, the men and women across America who for eight years did the work that brought America back. My friends: We did it. We weren't just marking time. We made a difference. We made the city stronger. We made the city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all.

Truer words have never been spoken, as President Reagan left Washington having achieved the triad of goals he was elected to accomplish in eight short years: improving the economy, restoring American prestige internationally, and reestablishing the confidence of the American psyche.

Just a few years later, his quiet exit from public life was as graceful as his exit from the White House. Ronald Reagan's well documented final battles with Alzheimer's disease were fought with the same conviction and courage that his many public battles were fought. We all knew the "long goodbye" would eventually knock at the door. And, while we sadly mourn our loss today and send our deepest sympathy to Nancy and the rest of the Reagan family, we can also take solace in and celebrate one last Reagan victory: the "Great Communicator" now has been welcomed to a place where his faculties are restored, his great skills have been returned to him, and he probably smiles down on us as a grateful America says "Thank you, Mr. President" once again.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, we are blessed to live in a country filled with so many men and women willing to go beyond the call of duty, to accomplish great things for the benefit of their fellow citizens. Each day, ordinary souls are called upon to perform extraordinary tasks. I rise to pay tribute to one of the greatest individuals of our time—President Ronald Reagan.

Like the WWII veterans honored last week during the dedication of the National WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., and those honored this past Sunday on the 60th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, President Reagan was a great American, steadfast in his appointed duty, thorough in thought, long on compassion and short on vanity.

His love of freedom and embrace of optimism were virtues of many in the Greatest Generation. Let us pray that our generation, and the generations to come, remember that freedom is a worthy cause.

I traveled to the beaches of Normandy this week, joining President Bush, Speaker HASTERT, and others, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day. During the ceremonies, I could not help but feel Reagan's presence.

In his own speech on that shore twenty years ago, President Reagan said, "The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next.

It was the deep knowledge—and pray God we have not lost it—that there is a profound moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest."

President Reagan understood, like our WWII soldiers, that what they were doing was not to harm, but to help. That even though sacrifices would be made—the greater good was at stake and no price was too high.

In announcing that he had Alzheimer's disease, Ronald Reagan said that he was beginning the journey that would lead him "into the sunset" of his life. He said, "I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead." Since 1994, Reagan had suffered the cruelty of Alzheimer's. So our sorrow today is tempered by the knowledge that the President has indeed gone to a better place—a place where he has a front row seat to watch all the bright dawns that lie ahead for America.

President Reagan is responsible for so many of those bright dawns that we have to look forward to. He changed the world by living his convictions. Not "clinging to" them or "sticking to" them, but living them. Reagan's core beliefs were exactly that. They were at his core and were therefore part of his every action.

Reagan's convictions gave him confidence. He was a man of the people. He listened. And when he heard what the people needed, he took action, in accordance with his convictions. On the domestic front, the people said they were tired of their economy spiraling downward, so Reagan worked to reverse that trend.

To accomplish these feats, President Reagan was not afraid to take hard stances. But he also knew that these changes would take bipartisan efforts. We should all remember, respect, and try to live up to Reagan's model of bipartisanship. His efforts to change America were based upon his philosophy and beliefs—not upon any partisan gamesmanship.

On foreign policy, Americans said they were tired of living in fear, so Reagan worked to bring security. President Reagan engineered the end of the decades-long Cold War. Because of his policies, and his faith that freedom would prevail, our children and grandchildren are not growing up with the constant fear of mutual destruction. We all are able now to live in a world that, though still imperfect, strives toward peace, works for justice and rejects tyranny.

I call upon my colleagues to remember Reagan's strength. Remember him as he was while in office. In his final radio address as president, on January 14, 1989, Reagan said, "The hope of human freedom, the quest for it, the achievement of it, is the American saga." Reagan's hope, his quest, and all his achievements—those are what we all honor and remember.

Now, too, the Great Communicator, has gone the way of so many of our greatest generation. I rise not only in sadness for his passing, but more importantly in celebration of his life, his accomplishments and his deeds. I rise to pay tribute to President Reagan in the words he used to honor the crew of the *Challenger* Space Shuttle in 1986—"We will never forget him, nor the last time we saw him, as he prepared for the journey, waved goodbye and slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God."

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my condolences to First Lady Nancy

Reagan, as well as the children, family and close friends of former President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Reagan was a visionary leader who guided our great country through difficult and dangerous times. He faced adversity with a smile and quick wit. He solved problems with sober determination. He gave us hope for the future of freedom and prosperity. He reminded us what it meant to be proud Americans.

We mourn his loss but remember that he left us with a rich heritage of memories, ideals, and a trail of lives changed at home and abroad because of his efforts. For that, we will be eternally grateful.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of our 40th President and Illinois native, Ronald Reagan, and in strong support of H. Res. 664. Many words come to mind when President Reagan's name is invoked; principled, loyal, patriotic, compassionate, caring, and humble, to name a few.

His philosophy in life was the same philosophy that he employed in his approach to politics and government; believe in the good of people, believe that what is right will eventually triumph, believe in the value of each and every human life, and believe in the strength and the power of freedom and individual liberty. He once said that "America is too great for small dreams". He truly saw our great Nation as the shining city on the hill and as the beacon of freedom for oppressed people throughout the world. Nowhere else in the world and at no other time or place in history has one nation been so prepared and had the means to promote freedom, peace, and stability than the United States does right now. Ours is a heavy burden but one that must be borne. Reagan understood that.

He also once said that "you can tell a lot about a fellow's character by his way of eating jellybeans". In this simple way, he told us that, in the end, character is what matters and that life is really a series of simple choices between what is right and what is wrong. No one person is responsible for another person's destiny. It is the choices that we make everyday that we must account for. Reagan believed, as I do, that an individual's personal initiative and the willingness to accept the consequences and rewards for their actions and, most importantly, the freedom to do so, is what make our Nation great.

He believed in people. He believed in America. He traveled to towns in what is now my Congressional district, like Charleston, Illinois in 1976 and Mattoon, Illinois in 1980 because every person was important to him. The people in rural Illinois and similar places across the country believed in him, because he believed in them. He often asked, "did we forget that government is the people's business, and every man, woman and child becomes a shareholder with the first penny of taxes paid?" Reagan constantly promoted this philosophy of government. The government of the United States belongs to all of us and public servants have an obligation to the people to be good stewards of their dollars, uphold the Constitution, and protect them from all enemies both foreign and domestic.

He believed in peace. When naysayers told him that building our military and our nuclear arsenal would finally push us into a war with the former Soviet Union, he knew that principled diplomacy, firm, yet reasonable rhetoric, the economic power of our nation, and the

promotion of freedom would bring communism to its knees. And when it did, he called on the scientific community who gave us nuclear weapons to "direct their talents to the cause of mankind and world peace to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete." He believed in peace through strength and he proved that it works.

I will miss President Reagan and I send my deepest sympathies and condolences to his family with the thanks for sharing him with me and the rest of the nation. He inspired many. He lived by example. Rest in peace, Mr. President.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, the leadership that Ronald Reagan provided changed the country and the world.

I had the privilege to be elected to Congress during the heady days of the 'Reagan Revolution.' I had barely won a special election in June 1981 to keep the Fourth Ohio District in Republican hands, and as a young freshman congressman was quickly invited to the White House to meet the President and his aides.

It was more than a welcome to Washington because the President's tax cut package was pending on the floor the next week, and I think they were there to take my temperature as well as to make sure that I was going to vote for the tax cut.

I was proud to support the tax cut, the military buildup that helped win the Cold War, and the President's policies up and down the line.

President Reagan's economic program lifted us out of the malaise of the late 1970s, when America was doubting its greatness, and set the stage for a historic period of prosperity that benefitted all segments of our society.

Still, I believe that Ronald Reagan is most likely to be celebrated as the President who led the way in winning the Cold War. People in the past had always talked about the containment of Soviet communism and yet Reagan's theory behind the Cold War was essentially, we win and they lose. He was able to lead the country and Congress into modernizing our military and ultimately brought about the end of what he called the Evil Empire.

For those of us who grew up in the shadow of nuclear annihilation, what could be more important than the victory that was won without firing a shot? It was won with ideas, and was something that I honestly thought I would never see in my lifetime.

I had the thrill of traveling with President Reagan on the Heartland Express during a whistlestop campaign tour through Ohio in 1984. Everytime there would be a crowd gathered in a crossroads in a small town, the President would stand in the back of the train and wave. He was obviously in a buoyant mood. Large crowds cheered him during stops in Sidney and Lima, and people still remember that today.

We remember President Reagan for his vision, leadership, and infectious optimism.

I don't think I ever met anybody in politics or anywhere else who didn't like Ronald Reagan as a person. They may have disagreed with him on a number of issues but they never disliked him personally. I think President Reagan's legacy in politics is this ability to disagree without being disagreeable, to see politics as a noble calling and that you have your debates and arguments and have a beer afterwards. That is missed very much today in Washington and I don't think we're the better for it.

Our country will accord its highest honors to Ronald Reagan as we pay our heartfelt respects to him this week. But he will be remembered each day that men and women live in freedom, because what Ronald Reagan ultimately believed in was dignity and liberty for each individual.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to share my heartfelt condolences with Nancy Reagan and the Reagan children. Our nation owes them a special debt of gratitude for their strength in caring for their husband and father over the past decade as he battled Alzheimer's disease and for everything they've done to uphold his dignity and legacy for our country.

As we prepare to lay former U.S. President Ronald Reagan to rest, it's important that we reflect on his brave and principled leadership—and the hope he gave to countless individuals in our country and around the world.

Looking back at the footage of Reagan's speeches and other public appearances, one of his most striking qualities was his enduring optimism. At the time that he entered the White House, self-doubt and pessimism had practically paralyzed our nation and most Americans saw no end in sight to soaring inflation, economic stagnation and the Cold War.

Though he had a realistic view of the challenges that faced the United States, Reagan believed in us. He knew that free individuals have immense potential for good, and he knew the strength of our American system of free enterprise and self-government. His "can-do" spirit infused our country and brought a renewed sense of hope and opportunity to those who had nearly forgotten what America stands for.

Fundamentally, Ronald Reagan trusted us. He trusted that Americans know how to spend the money they earn better than the federal government does. He trusted that, once barriers to private enterprise and economic growth were lifted, American creativity and drive would bring our economy and jobs back. He trusted American resolve in defense of liberty. And he trusted people enough to speak plainly with them about his beliefs and intentions.

President Reagan's words carried weight because we knew he meant what he said—and the Soviets and the rest of the world knew it too. He was not a poll-watcher. He was a man of conviction—a man with a clear philosophy that guided his actions. This philosophy was rooted in a love of freedom and a deep faith in God.

Speaking to students at Moscow State University on May 31, 1988, Ronald Reagan said "Democracy is less a system of government than it is a system to keep government limited, unintrusive: A system of constraints on power to keep politics and government secondary to the important things in life, the true sources of value found only in family and faith."

Imagine what it must have been like for him to bring this message to the heart of an empire where government had for decades superceded individual rights. Reagan's commitment to actually winning the Cold War, his determination to secure peace through strength, and his recognition that communism is a bankrupt, immoral ideology were essential to ending the Soviet threat and liberating the Eastern bloc nations and their people.

When you consider the countless individuals who owe their freedom in part to Ronald Reagan's leadership and the many Americans who today have close friends or family with whom they have reunited in areas formerly off-limits—who had been shut away behind the Iron Curtain—you get a sense of why so many across the world feel a personal connection with Reagan.

On top of all his achievements, beyond all that Reagan did to rejuvenate our economy, win the Cold War, and renew our country's sense of purpose and optimism, there was the man himself. He had great confidence in America's founding values as well as an excellent sense of humor. And he succeeded in raising the level of discourse in our political arena. People might have disagreed with him on policy decisions, and his opponents in Congress argued fiercely with him, but at the end of the day they respected one another. It was a time of greater civility in politics, and we should strive to recapture that.

We look to Ronald Reagan's example as an inspiration today and express once more the thanks of a very grateful nation.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, this week, America is united in mourning for President Ronald Reagan.

President Reagan will be remembered as a great optimist who helped convince America to believe in itself again.

He believed that the Cold War would end and the Berlin Wall would fall during his lifetime. And he was right. His words inspired people living behind the Iron Curtain to believe that freedom was attainable.

Ronald Reagan was a loyal Republican but an American first. With his profound personal decency and disarming sense of humor, he rose above the kind of bitter partisanship that infects American politics today.

Personal attacks were below him. He was a patriot and a man of integrity—and he never questioned the patriotism or integrity of others.

Our politics were polarized then as they are now. But President Reagan knew how to compromise and get things done for the American people.

The Speaker of the House during the first six years of his presidency was Tip O'Neill of Massachusetts. Speaker O'Neill was a staunch Democrat with a very different vision for government, and a great leader in his own right.

Working across party lines, President Reagan and Speaker O'Neill passed reforms to preserve and strengthen Social Security. They enacted sweeping tax reform to close tax loopholes and lower marginal rates.

As we mourn and honor President Reagan, this Congress should pledge to follow in his example.

Hold firm in your beliefs, but respect those who differ. Compete vigorously at election time, but then go to work for the American people. Stand united in times of sorrow and adversity.

Ronald Reagan's final accomplishment will endure as one of his most important—bringing attention to the tragedy of Alzheimer's with his eloquent letter to the American people.

One of the best ways to honor him is to rededicate our efforts to find a cure for this terrible disease.

I join my colleagues in honoring the memory of President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of President Ronald Reagan.

First, let me extend my condolences to Nancy Reagan and the entire Reagan family for this tremendous loss. But let me also thank Nancy and her family for taking care of the President for all these years. Rest assured the nation mourns with you today.

When I think of President Reagan the feeling that stirs within me is hard to put in words. In reflecting on what to say I realized the best way for me to explain my feelings is to explain who I am. Simply, I am a Reaganite!

Being a Reaganite provided me the wonderful opportunity to come to Washington and work in the Reagan Administration. I did not come to Washington for a job but I came to Washington to be a foot soldier in the Reagan Revolution. I had the opportunity to trade in the walking of precincts to walking the halls of his Administration. And for this I am forever grateful.

This opportunity allowed me to play a small part in President Reagan's goal of giving America back to America. As a result of his leadership, we did not hang our heads any longer but rather we raised them up and remembered our moral standing in the world. Through his leadership, a nation was motivated.

At the time President Reagan was elected to office, the country was losing faith and confidence in its being. In 1980, the Soviets had invaded Afghanistan, inflation was in double-digits, homeownership was near impossible and optimism was nonexistent. By the time his Administration ended, the Soviet empire crumbled, inflation's back was broken, homeownership soared and morning dawned in America. With a set of principles, one man who wanted to make a difference set out and changed the world.

But to see President Reagan's legacy, as George Will stated, one has to see what no longer exists. We no longer see Soviet expansion and aggression, we no longer see the Berlin Wall and we no longer see devastating economic plight. These are testaments to his courage and his ability to communicate his resolve to the nation.

President Reagan realized another decade of detente would not protect America and another decade of stagnant economic policies would not free the individual. Through his force of personality and conviction he set about changing our future. And he relegated our worries to the ash heap of history.

President Reagan pursued policies that resulted in derision and loathing from some. But he had no hesitation in pursuing his goals because he knew what was right. His beliefs were steadfast and unwavering. He set his course and plowed through the skeptics. He was not Teflon. He was Iron.

Being a Reaganite is not solely relegated to a certain place and time or a certain individual. Instead, it is set a set of beliefs. A set of beliefs imbued in many Members of Congress, their staffs and individuals throughout this country. It is a longing to assert and maintain America's rightful place in the world, as the shining city on the hill.

President Reagan, thank you for restoring hope in America. It has been Morning In America since your Presidency.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan wrote an indelible chapter in America's and in the World's history. As our Country mourns his loss, our prayers go out to Mrs. Reagan and his family, and our future will long hold to the lessons of his public service.

It is the lesson of public service that defined our 40th President's life that also defines the good work of West Virginia's National Guard. And, as our former President lies-in-state at the Nation's Capitol I will be honoring his legacy with the West Virginia's finest as they help Southern West Virginians recover from another round of devastating floods.

As our Nation is mourning President Reagan's loss, many West Virginians are rebuilding their homes and their lives, as again last week, West Virginia bore the brunt of Mother Nature's wrath. But, as we always have done, we will join together and move forward once again.

Recent storms produced flooding throughout my home State of West Virginia, and joined with Governor Wise in requesting that President Bush issue a federal major disaster declaration. Tuesday, June 8, 2004, President Bush honored that request declaring the State of West Virginia a federal disaster area, and making residents of Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Jackson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Wayne, Webster, Wirt, and Wyoming Counties eligible for federal assistance to help them pick up the pieces.

This week as America honors President Reagan in our Nation's Capital, I will be in Southern West Virginia with our coalfield residents as we pick up the pieces and move forward. I have already seen some of the damage first hand, and I was in Mingo and Logan Counties last week when members of the West Virginia National Guard, fresh off their tour of duty in Iraq and overseas, arrived to help Southern West Virginians start putting their lives back together.

Moving forward, after such losses, is never easy. The old saying goes, Rome wasn't built in a day. Neither were the homes and towns that were washed away by the torrents of recent rains. It will take more than a day to build them back. But the West Virginia National Guard will help the steadfast residents of those counties pick up the pieces so they can rebuild their houses, businesses, and lives as quickly as possible.

The destruction caused by flooding in Southern West Virginia over the past few years has been unprecedented, and the relief should equal the need. Just as these heroes in uniform returned from the dry sands of the Iraqi desert, they were called to help out the waterlogged residents of Southern West Virginia.

In West Virginia, our people always band together to help their fellow man, and our National Guard is displaying the genuineness of this testament. All of those who have joined in the help, we want to thank them. With God's help, we will make it through this. Again.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to President Ronald Reagan, an Illinois native, as the nation celebrates his many contributions to the United States and the world. While I did not always agree with him, he always had my admiration and respect for his strong leadership and his dedication to the American people. His relationship with the citizens of this great country may be his ultimate legacy. President Reagan spoke directly to their hopes and fears and was embraced for his role as the "Great Communicator." Above all else, he made us feel good about America again.

From humble beginnings, President Reagan went on to play a pivotal role in some of the great events of the 20th Century, most notably the Cold War and eventual fall of the Soviet Union. While never afraid to take a hard line, he was a pragmatic leader who acted without malice, which was evident in the support he received from Democrats. It was this aspect of his leadership that we should all try to replicate. President Reagan's impact on American politics was profound, inspiring legions of young people to public service, not unlike what President Kennedy accomplished years before.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan loved the United States of America, and he was a stalwart leader in the pursuit of freedom and democracy. President Reagan had a personal vision for the country that was undeniable and unshakeable, and the lines of people waiting to view his casket are a testimony to the fact that he had a tremendous emotional impact on this nation. I would like to extend my condolences to his wife Nancy and the rest of their family, and I join the rest of America in honoring his dedicated service.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, Americans often measure history in Presidential cycles. When we look at the individuals who have served in the White House it is the conjunction of character and circumstance that defines and demarcates administrations.

It would be misguided to suggest that any individual "won" the Cold War, but it was Ronald Reagan's inspiration—"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall"—that symbolized American resolve. He gave hope to those oppressed and he gave voice to those who stood tall. Communism imploded, largely on his watch.

Domestically, President Reagan articulated the values of the frontier. "Government is not the solution, it is the problem," he said in his first inaugural address. But he was not a "no government" ideologue. While his administration contrasted in many ways with the social activism of Franklin Roosevelt, he did not favor undoing the New Deal. "How can we love our country and not love our countrymen?" he asked, "and loving them not reach out a hand when they fall?"

Reared on the sweeping plains of the Midwest and, later, an adopted westerner, he loved open spaces—of the land and of the mind. He put his faith in freedom.

Ronald Reagan understood the timber of the American character. With the most authentic voice in the history of democratic politics, he spoke to a world hungry for values. He succeeded because his was the voice of American optimism.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I share your grief at the passing of former President Ronald Reagan and join you in remembering his remarkable service to our country.

I was fortunate to have served as a Member of Congress during President Reagan's eight year tenure. At the time, I was a member of the democratic Boll Weevils, a group frequently called upon to help President Reagan with his legislative agenda. I can attest to what some of you know and what others have read or heard about him—he was among the greatest of our nation's presidents. He was permanently grounded in principle, so much that no one who worked for him had any doubt about what was expected of him.

President Reagan is rooted in the essence of our nation's character. He appealed to our

better instincts and was unyielding in his devotion to our country. I was always amazed at the way he appealed to young people. I think it was because they could see the truth in him. Like a grandfather who had seen it all and abandoned the notion of judging us, he preferred to see the goodness in us all. We, in turn, could imagine that goodness leading us to that shining "city on the hill." Those who came later missed the opportunity to encounter true greatness. Those who experienced him will never forget it.

Thank you for your compassionate support in honoring the legacy of our former President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan. President Reagan was the most courageous, daring and fearless president that I have had the pleasure of serving with in my 22 years in the United States House of Representatives. Ronald Wilson Reagan was one of the two greatest presidents of the 20th Century. Ronald Wilson Reagan was one of the most outstanding presidents in the history of the American Republic. I was a great fan of and on many occasions, a very strong supporter with my vote of President Reagan.

I will always remember the day when my wife, Rose Marie, and I met with President Reagan in the Oval Office. He was as friendly and down to earth as the man-next-door. We had our picture taken with him and asked him to autograph cards with the presidential seal for each of our children, Laura and Dan, which he did. President Reagan first wrote the cards out differently for each my daughter and son, but said he should have known better and so he wrote the same greeting for both of them.

It was a great honor to meet President Reagan and serve with him in the United States of America's government for many, many reasons. But, I believe mainly because he gave back to America its optimism, its pride, its enthusiasm, and its belief in itself. There can be no greater service than that of a president who can render to America these qualities; and for that, President Reagan truly was one of the greatest Presidents of the United States.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, all Americans mourn the death of President Ronald Reagan, but those of us who had the opportunity to know President Reagan are especially saddened. I got to know President Reagan in 1976 when, as a freshman congressman, I was one of only four members of this body to endorse then-Governor Reagan's primary challenge to President Gerald Ford. I had the privilege of serving as the leader of President Reagan's Texas delegation at the Republican convention of 1976, where Ronald Reagan almost defeated an incumbent president for his party's nomination.

I was one of the millions attracted to Ronald Reagan by his strong support for limited government and the free-market. I felt affinity for a politician who based his conservative philosophy on "... a desire for less government interference or less centralized authority or more individual freedom" I wish more of today's conservative leaders based their philosophy on a desire for less government and more freedom.

Ronald Reagan was one of the most eloquent exponents of the freedom philosophy in modern American politics. One of his greatest

achievements is the millions of Americans he helped convert to the freedom philosophy and the many he inspired to become active in the freedom movement. One of the best examples of President Reagan's rhetorical powers is his first major national political address, "A Time for Choosing." Delivered in 1964 in support of the presidential campaign of Barry Goldwater, this speech launched Ronald Reagan's career as both a politician and a leader of the conservative movement. The following excerpt from that speech illustrates the power of Ronald Reagan's words and message. Unfortunately, these words are as relevant to our current situation as they were when he delivered them in 1964:

It's time we asked ourselves if we still know the freedoms intended for us by the Founding Fathers. James Madison said, "We base all our experiments on the capacity of mankind for self-government."

This idea—that government was beholden to the people, that it had no other source of power—is still the newest, most unique idea in all the long history of man's relation to man. This is the issue of this election: Whether we believe in our capacity for self-government or whether we abandon the American Revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far-distant capital can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves.

You and I are told we must choose between a left or right, but I suggest there is no such thing as a left or right. There is only an up or down. Up to man's age-old dream—the maximum of individual freedom consistent with order, or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism.

Regardless of their sincerity, their humanitarian motives, those who would sacrifice freedom for security have embarked on this downward path. Plutarch warned, "The real destroyer of the liberties of the people is he who spreads among them bounties, donations and benefits."

The Founding Fathers knew a government can't control the economy without controlling people. And they knew when a government set out to do that, it must use force and coercion to achieve its purpose. So we have come to a time for choosing.

One of the most direct expressions of Ronald Reagan's disdain for big government came during a private conversation when we were flying from the White House to Andrews Air Force Base. As the helicopter passed over the monuments, we looked down and he said, "Isn't that beautiful? It's amazing how much terrible stuff comes out of this city when it's that beautiful."

While many associate Ronald Reagan with unbridled militarism, he was a lifelong opponent of the draft. It is hardly surprising that many of the most persuasive and powerful arguments against conscription came from President Reagan. One of my favorite Reagan quotes comes from a 1979 article he wrote for the conservative publication *Human Events* regarding the draft and related "national service" proposals:

... it [conscription] rests on the assumption that your kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Ronald Reagan's family and friends, especially his beloved wife Nancy and his children. I also urge

my colleagues and all Americans to honor Ronald Reagan by dedicating themselves to the principles of limited government and individual liberty.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of President Ronald Reagan. I do not stand alone. All across the country, and the world, we mourn. We remember a strong governor, President, husband, and father. Let us stand firmly by Mrs. Nancy Reagan and her family, offer our prayers and show our support and appreciation—let us through our actions bring comfort to the Reagan family to help them cope during this difficult time. Little can be said to make this difficult time easier. Given the outpouring of support that this country and his family have received from the world, words are not necessary.

Words are not necessary to honor a man whose popularity stemmed from his ability to communicate. No words I can say today can erase the sorrow and feelings of loss shared by so many communities that he touched throughout his tenure as governor of my state of California and as the President of our nation. Even the “Great Communicator” often relied on actions—not words—to help those who needed it. At a time when the immigrants of our nation had nowhere to turn, President Reagan signed the historic Immigration Reform and Control Act, granting hard-working and deserving families legal permanent residence, paving the way for new American citizens, and thus uniting our nation.

Today, as a united nation, we stand together as fellow Americans and with the world to mourn the loss of Ronald Wilson Reagan, fortieth President of the United States—the picture of unity communicating our sorrow, remembrance and honor for a leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as we pause to remember the life and service of the late President Ronald Reagan, no greater testament to his achievements as leader of this nation exists than the sentiments of gratitude being offered by millions of Americans. It is my great honor to lift up just a handful of the reflections on the passing of President Reagan made by residents of my congressional district:

He was a great American; his message was one that still resonates today.—The Honorable Jane Nelson, Texas Senate.

I had a chance to tell him how much I wanted him to run for president and that if he did, I promised to work really hard for him. He was just the same up close as you perceived him to be on television. He was very sincere, very nice. When he talked to you, he talked to you. He didn't pay attention to things going on around him; you had his attention. The world is certainly a better place because of Ronald Reagan being here and serving as the president of the United States. I'm sad we lost him, but it's wonderful he's now receiving his just rewards.—The Honorable Mary Horn, Denton County, Texas.

President Reagan made us feel good again about being Americans, and not just being proud of our country, but really invoking that patriotic spirit again. We've lost a great, great man.—Dianne Edmondson, Chair, Denton County GOP.

I remember that while Reagan was the oldest elected president, what sticks in my mind was the way he connected to young people. We had been through a decade of young people being disconnected with taking pride in America, and he lit that spark

again.—The Honorable Myra Crownover, Texas House of Representatives.

He will always be remembered as the architect of the policies that ended the Cold War—peace through strength. He, more than anyone else, was directly responsible for giving us the possibility of the world living in peace: He ended the Cold War, ended the unspoken hostilities between the United States and Russia, and brought an end to the Soviet domination in Eastern Europe. He unleashed the power of the American economy. Yes, it cost money to defeat the Soviet Union; it cost money to defeat Soviet tyranny. Was it worth it in the long run? You bet it was.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life and legacy of Ronald Reagan.

This past weekend, it was fitting, and in some ways almost proper, that we paid tribute to the brave young soldiers of D-Day and simultaneously remembered the life and service of President Ronald Reagan. Like those soldiers who sacrificed on Normandy Beach, Reagan inspired a country at a critical time in our nation's history through his optimism and advocacy for the ideals of democracy, freedom and love of liberty.

He helped end the “Cold War,” confronted the curse of communism, rebuilt American self-confidence and our Armed Forces, and above all, made America a standard bearer for freedom and justice.

Many of our children are not old enough to remember the dangers that stood before us at the height of the Cold War or how President Reagan's resolve helped end it.

Still, over the next few days, maybe even weeks, and certainly in the history books to be written, they will learn, as will our children's children, about who Reagan was and what he did for America.

Like so many of us, I continue to read with interest about the life and times of our former President. One recent newspaper column touched me and I would like to share just a few lines of that with my colleagues.

The columnist wrote: “What an era his was. What a life he lived. He changed history for the better and was modest about it. He didn't bray about his accomplishments but saw them as the work of the American people.”

Mr. Speaker, this is the sign of a leader. We are a grateful nation for his good humor and inspiration.

Thank you Mr. President—for your service; for your optimism; and for your belief and commitment to doing what is right for America.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Reagan family during this time of mourning.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, indeed all Americans, in paying tribute to a great man, the 40th President of the United States—Ronald Wilson Reagan.

President Reagan was an extraordinary and visionary leader, who saw our great Nation as having a unique role, purpose, and destiny in the world. He saw it as a beacon of freedom, a land of unlimited opportunity, and in his words, a shining city on the hill.

Mr. Reagan took office during a time of great pessimism. There was Watergate; Vietnam; the hostage crisis in Iran; and gas lines, runaway inflation, and double-digit interest rates here at home. There were those who told us that we had to lower our expectations, that we could no longer shape our destiny, and that our best days were behind us.

Ronald Reagan saw a different future. It was a future in which we were limited only by the size of our dreams; where the spirit of our pioneer ancestors was still alive, it just needed to be rekindled. It was a vision where hard work, imagination, creativity, and a little luck would allow ordinary men and women to accomplish extraordinary things.

Taxes were cut, inflation and interest rates were reduced, and gas lines disappeared. Americans went back to work; the economy roared forward; and in the process, Mr. Reagan restored our confidence, uplifted our spirits, and made us proud to be Americans again.

The rebirth here at home was accompanied by equally dramatic changes abroad. The march of totalitarianism, that seemed inevitable a few years earlier, was halted as Mr. Reagan rebuilt our defenses. The creaky Soviet system disappeared quietly, without a shot being fired. And the Berlin Wall, the greatest symbol of oppression, fell, and millions of people around the world tasted freedom for the first time.

We Americans, and indeed all freedom loving people around the world, owe President Reagan an enormous debt. We will miss him, but history will never forget what he accomplished in eight short years. As a grateful nation comes together to say goodbye, our collective thoughts and prayers go to Mrs. Reagan and her family.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, President Reagan led the nation with resolve and courage. He showed these same qualities in his battle against Alzheimer's disease.

President Reagan will be remembered for many things—a great communicator, devoted husband and an unflinching patriot.

But I will remember him most for reminding America that when we are at our best, very little can deter or defeat us. God bless you Mr. President and thank you for your service to our country.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan was an American icon. He's the President who won the Cold War. And he'll always be remembered for his eternal optimism, his strength, great wit and charm.

Even when he disagreed with Democrats, he was respected for the honesty of his beliefs and the dedication he displayed in pursuing them. He taught us the difference between strong beliefs and bitter partisanship. He lived by the noble idea that at the end of the day Democrats and Republicans were simply Americans and friends. I wish we had more of that today.

We should be inspired by this 40th American President's patriotism and devotion to our country. And we should remember his faith, his optimism and his unwavering commitment to his convictions as we do the work of the American people.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this week our Nation mourns the death of Ronald Wilson Reagan, our 40th President of the United States. It has been stated in many of the newspaper and television commentaries that he was one of the more complex figures of the 20th century. As with all our major political leaders, he had his share of triumphs and failures.

Ronald Reagan's irrepressible spirit and his conception of America as a “shining city on the hill” engendered a sense of renewal in America. Indeed, his optimism in our Nation

and her people was as genuine as the man himself. Simply put, Ronald Reagan was a great American and a President who honored the office and considered it a privilege to serve.

Without question, President Reagan represented the best of civility in American politics and the finest traditions of standing up for what you believe in. Even during the most intense political showdowns, he and former House Speaker Tip O'Neill could always sit down together after the day was done, as friends and fellow Americans. It was an era of bipartisan cooperation that seems, unfortunately, to have waned in recent years.

President Reagan's legacy will forever be his vision which played a role in bringing about an ultimate end to the Cold War, as well as his drive to foster liberty and democracy where previously only tyranny had thrived. Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev says he believes his dialogue with President Reagan "kick-started the process which ultimately put an end to the Cold War."

President Reagan also understood the art of political compromise. He followed his 1981 tax cut with two large tax increases. In fact, no peacetime President raised taxes so much on so many people. This is not a criticism: The lesson of those increases tells you a lot about what was just with President Reagan's leadership. President Reagan, confronted with evidence that his tax cuts were fiscally irresponsible, changed course. His actions in this area contrast dramatically with today's Washington.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, one of Ronald Reagan's greatest legacies is focusing attention on the disease that took his life—Alzheimer's. People are now receiving earlier diagnoses and better treatments for the incurable brain-wasting disease partly because he supported Alzheimer's research as President, and more importantly, because he went public with his diagnosis in 1994, increasing awareness of the need for more research.

As her husband's health declined, former First Lady Nancy Reagan spearheaded public awareness campaigns and described what it was like to be a caretaker for an Alzheimer's patient, which she referred to as "the long goodbye." She continued to publicly advocate for stem cell research as a way to help others with the disease.

Doctors now are better able to diagnose the disease early, and provide patients with drugs and other measures to delay its progression. I pledge to do everything possible to help fight the plight of Alzheimer's disease. I challenge every member of this body to respond to Mrs. Reagan's plea to do more for life-saving research.

Ronald Reagan was of a kind and gracious mind, and at the same time, a man of grit, determination and leadership. He served his country the way he lived his life.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his extraordinary wife Nancy and his children, Patti Davis, Ron Prescott Reagan, and Michael Reagan. I hope it is a consolation to the entire Reagan family that so many people grieve their loss and are thinking of them during this difficult time.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan will be remembered in the annals of history as one of the greatest leaders of the United States. His deeds and words will echo in time as the foundation for a smaller, more efficient govern-

ment, a fairer tax system and the liberation of millions of oppressed people throughout the world.

Ronald Reagan was known as the Great Communicator. His words brought hope to those in need, comfort to those who suffered and optimism to an entire Nation trampled by economic and governmental insecurity. Yet President Reagan's ability to communicate went beyond the words that he spoke. He reached out to the nation and the world using not only his voice, but his strength of spirit and supreme character.

President Reagan's passing is mourned by each of us. But his legacy will continue through the ideals he aspired for America. A grateful Nation thanks Ronald Reagan, a true American Hero.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and the people of the 10th Congressional District of Florida who I have the privilege to represent here in the United States Congress, I rise in support of this resolution to pay tribute to the life of President Ronald Reagan and to express condolences to his family.

President Reagan was a true American patriot who always kept life's priorities—God, country, and family—in order. He assumed the Presidency at a time when Americans were being held hostage in Iran, our fighting forces were fraying around the edges, and raging inflation and interest rates were stifling our economy, sending our Nation into the turmoil of recession, and driving our government deeper and deeper into debt.

Beginning with his swearing-in as the 40th President of the United States, President Reagan restored in the American people a feeling of pride and patriotism that had been lost in the late 1970s. The hostages were brought home, the morale of our fighting forces rose, and the economy began to rebound.

People flew the American flag with pride again. The United States resumed its leadership role in protecting freedom and peace around the world and at the pinnacle of the world economy. He stared down communist leaders throughout the world and set the stage for its fall in the Soviet Union and throughout Eastern Europe. He reduced the world's supply of nuclear weapons and allowed democracy to flourish again in our hemisphere and eventually in the former Soviet states.

He battled Congress to reduce taxes to allow the American people to keep more of their hard earned money and to reduce the size and scope of the government programs and bureaucracy. He also ensured the long term security of the social security trust fund by leading a bipartisan legislative effort to preserve and protect the retirement benefits of workers long into the 21st century.

President Reagan was our Nation's leading cheerleader and consoler. He used his wit and humor to entertain and to drive home an important point. He led a Nation in mourning when we lost the Challenger crew and our Marines in Lebanon. Throughout his eight years in office we laughed together and we cried together. In the end though, we all gained a renewed sense of pride in being Americans.

He taught us the value of the simple phrases of "peace through strength" and "trust but verify" and he shared with all of us his simple vision of a nation where we would be the "shining city on the hill."

The United States and the world are better places today because of Ronald Reagan's service not only as President of our great country, but as a true patriot. He was a good man whose love and commitment to his wife Nancy was an inspiration to us all.

Perhaps the greatest testament to his strength of personality, of character, and of leadership is the fact that even in death he can make us feel good about ourselves as individuals and as a Nation. You can feel the pride of our Nation surge yet again as we reflect on his life and times.

Mr. Speaker, we all will recall that President Reagan would end his conversations with America by saying "God Bless America." This week, Mr. Speaker, our Nation and the world say "God Bless Ronald Reagan." Thank you for your lifetime of reminding us to always take pride in living in the greatest Nation in the world.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today as this House honors the life of the Fortieth President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, we remember both the man and the public servant. As President Reagan lies in state under the dome of this Capitol, the American people reflect on a man of optimism, a leader committed to freedom and a citizen who personified the American spirit of boundless ambition and achievement.

President Reagan lived a life unlike any other American president. A sports broadcaster, a movie star and a television personality, President Reagan entertained Americans with his charm, smile and warmth. He combined the skills of an actor with the determination of a pioneer to transform public life as he entered the political realm in California and finally was elected by the American people to the White House.

As President of the United States, Ronald Reagan won two large election victories in 1980 and 1984 to set this Nation on a course to transform our economy and confront communism. The outcomes and consequences of his policies will be interpreted by historians for years to come, but there is no doubt President Reagan motivated a new generation of conservatives to join his crusade as well as a generation of progressives to unite in pursuit of an alternative path of action.

Our State of Minnesota had a unique relationship with President Reagan. Minnesota was the only State in the Union to never give President Reagan an electoral victory. Minnesotans stood twice with our homegrown son, but we respected the President, his skills as a communicator and his determination to elevate the American spirit.

President Reagan lived a truly American life and, in his final years, stood hand in hand with Mrs. Reagan to encounter Alzheimer's with dignity and grace. The life of President Reagan the leader and Ronald Reagan the man will be remembered, honored and celebrated this week by Congress, the American people and people in nations around the world.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to Mrs. Nancy Reagan, her children and all of the family and friends of President Reagan.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Wilson Reagan first entered into our national consciousness in 1964, asking Americans to make a choice in the face of the growing

threat of socialism both at home and abroad. We know him as the eternal optimist, the "Great Communicator", and the man who maintained that Communism would surely fall aside onto the "ash heap of history."

I had the personal privilege of knowing President Reagan when my father, Judge William S. Sessions, served as Director of the FBI during his administration. Like many of my generation, I was inspired by the optimism of Ronald Reagan, a leader who never lacked the courage and the principle to do what he felt was right even in the face of great obstacles. President Reagan saw the world in black and white, whether it was confronting the programs of the "Great Society" as the beginnings of a new "undemocratic socialism" or chiding the actions of the "Evil Empire" in Eastern Europe.

This moral clarity was the hallmark of his Presidency. Ronald Reagan came in to office with three core principles and an agenda by which to implement them. He believed that the government was too big, that it taxed too much, and that the Soviet Union was an evil empire, getting away with atrocities across the world. From the first day of his Presidency, Reagan began to move systematically towards enacting his campaign promises, and, in so doing, he rejuvenated the American spirit.

America is forever indebted to this President whose resolve and determination to pursue "peace through strength" helped to end the Cold War and ensured that, as the President himself said, "America's best days are yet to come. Our proudest moments are yet to be. Our most glorious achievements are just ahead." Thank you, President Reagan. May God bless you as you enter your rest in that shining city.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 664 honoring the late Honorable Ronald Wilson Reagan. I was proud to add my name as an original cosponsor of this resolution.

The former president was devoted to his country and will long be remembered for his service to America. My heart goes out to his family during this time of loss.

President Reagan was also a long time member of our Santa Barbara community. Santa Barbara County was home to the spectacular mountaintop ranch the former president and first lady affectionately referred to as the "Western White House".

President Reagan carried with him traits characteristic of California's Central Coast—a sunny disposition and optimistic outlook—to Washington and to the world. His "morning in America" slogan changed the tone of politics in our Nation's capital and enabled him to work in a constructive bipartisan manner on a number of important issues.

The Reagans should also be commended for the strength and honesty they demonstrated during their long struggle with Alzheimer's. Their example brought much needed attention to the challenges facing millions of American families that deal with this affliction every day.

And their ongoing commitment to this disease is demonstrated at the various Alzheimer's research, awareness, and prevention efforts around the country. On the Central Coast, for example, The Ronald and Nancy Reagan Family Fund provides grants for respite care services for Alzheimer's patients in Santa Barbara County.

Today I join my colleagues in celebrating the service of the late President Ronald Reagan. The best honor we can bestow upon him is to carry on his optimistic spirit and faith in the American people for generations to come. That is what Ronald Reagan—a great American and great Californian—would have wanted.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of President Ronald Wilson Reagan and to extend my condolences to the entire Reagan family.

Regardless of political affiliation, I think we can all agree that President Reagan was a tireless public servant who cared a great deal about this country. Leading our country during a difficult period President Reagan earned the respect of many throughout the world—a respect that has become all the more evident since his passing on Saturday.

As this body and our Nation remembers the late President throughout the week, we would be remiss not to reflect upon the disease with which he was afflicted—Alzheimer's.

President Reagan's leadership extended to the fight against Alzheimer's beginning in 1983, when he designated November as National Alzheimer's Disease Month, and continuing in 1994 when he announced that he was affected by the disease. In 1995 he and his wife Nancy lent their name to create the Alzheimer's Association's Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute.

As was evident in President Reagan's battle with the disease, Alzheimer's does not discriminate: It afflicts the rich and the poor, the famous and the regular hardworking citizen alike. Four and a half million Americans live with Alzheimer's, and it is the fourth leading killer of older Americans. It is a progressive disease that robs many of precious memories and beautiful relationships.

With an aging baby boom generation, our country will soon see a sharp increase in those affected by Alzheimer's. The time to act is now. As a member of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I urge my colleagues to renew our efforts to battle this disease. I can think of no better tribute to President Reagan than to join together to fight the disease that afflicted him in his later years.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of President Ronald Wilson Reagan. As we mourn this great loss we reflect on the many ways our country is stronger, freer and more prosperous as a result of President Reagan's fearless leadership.

A firm believer in lower taxes, sound fiscal policies and reduced regulation, President Reagan launched the boldest economic plan since Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. As a result of his leadership and tenacity, the federal tax code was greatly simplified and taxes were reduced, ushering in the restoration of prosperity. He encouraged people to have confidence in their nation and trust that things really were getting better—a sentiment that economic and social indicators would eventually confirm. In fact, President Reagan's reforms led to the longest period of peacetime growth in U.S. history.

President Reagan's leadership also sparked a nation, movement against drugs which resulted in dramatic declines in illicit drug use in America and around the world. President Reagan was committed to reversing the permissive attitudes of the 1960s and 1970s that illegal drug use was glamorous, harmless and

victimless. President Reagan inspired and convinced the nation that the drug problem was not hopeless and could be solved. As a result of his leadership, the nation spoke with one voice in denouncing drug use. Largely due to his efforts, illicit drug use was cut in half and crime, drug related hospital admissions and highway deaths declines.

President Reagan restored America's sense of optimism and patriotism. A true believer in the American Dream, he proclaimed America as a place where "everyone can raise as high and as far as his ability will take him," and referred to his own humble beginnings as proof. He taught all Americans and newly liberated people across the globe that hard work and faith in God could result in prosperity and a better outlook for tomorrow.

President Reagan will perhaps be most remembered for his efforts to stomp out communism world wide and end the Cold War. President Reagan simply refused to accept Communism's claim to moral superiority. From the beginning of his presidency, Reagan realized that America could not afford passiveness or weakness in the face of Soviet defiance and escalating nuclear threats. President Reagan recognized that peace could only be achieved through strength and diligently worked to restore faith in our military and a sense of American pride in the efforts of our servicemen and women. Efforts to restore our military superiority were coupled with a willingness to dialogue and a sincere desire to negotiate an end to the nuclear arms race. President Reagan was able to negotiate a treaty with the Soviet Union to launch the process of real arms reduction. His efforts eventually led to the destruction of the Berlin Wall, the fall of communism and the end of the Cold War. President Reagan's leadership ushered in a new era of freedom and democracy, not only in the Soviet Union, but throughout the world.

President Reagan planted democracy in regions of the world that have never tasted the joys of freedom. He swept up a downtrodden America with little response to or respect for leadership and reenergized their faith in freedom, the Presidency, and our military. President Reagan's vision and convictions brought ALL Americans together, raised our morale and once again made us the proudest citizens in the world. He will be remembered not only in the minds of Americans, but in our hearts as well.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 8, 2004, the resolution is considered read for amendment and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 0, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 231]

YEAS—375

Abercrombie Dooley (CA) King (IA)
 Aderholt Doolittle Kingston
 Akin Doyle Kirk
 Alexander Dreier Kleczka
 Allen Duncan Knollenberg
 Andrews Edwards Knollenberg
 Bachus Ehlers Kolbe
 Baird Emanuel Kucinich
 Baker Emerson LaHood
 Baldwin Engel Langevin
 Ballenger English Lantos
 Barrett (SC) Eshoo Ruppertsberger
 Bartlett (MD) Etheridge Larsen (WA)
 Barton (TX) Everett Latham
 Bass Farr LaTourette
 Beauprez Fattah Lewis (CA)
 Becerra Feeney Lewis (GA)
 Bell Ferguson Lewis (KY)
 Bereuter Filner Linder
 Berkley Flake Lipinski
 Berman Foley LoBiondo
 Berry Forbes Lowey
 Biggert Ford Lucas (KY)
 Bishop (GA) Frank (MA) Lucas (OK)
 Bishop (NY) Franks (AZ) Maloney
 Bishop (UT) Frelinghuysen Manzullo
 Blackburn Frost Markkey
 Blumenauer Gallegly Marshall
 Blunt Garrett (NJ) Matheson
 Boehlert Gephardt Matsui
 Boehner Gerlach McCarthy (NY)
 Bonilla Gibbons McCollum
 Bonner Gilchrest McCotter
 Bono Gillmor McCreery
 Boozman Gingrey McDermott
 Boswell Goode McGovern
 Boucher Goodlatte McHugh
 Boyd Gordon McIntyre
 Bradley (NH) Granger McKeon
 Brady (TX) Graves McNulty
 Brown (OH) Green (TX) Meehan
 Brown (SC) Green (WI) Meek (FL)
 Brown, Corrine Greenwood Meeks (NY)
 Brown-Waite, Gutknecht Menendez
 Ginny Hall Mica
 Burgess Harman Michaud
 Burns Harris Millender
 Burr Hart McDonald
 Burton (IN) Hastert Miller (FL)
 Buyer Hastings (WA) Miller (MI)
 Calvert Hayes Miller (NC)
 Camp Hayworth Miller, George
 Cannon Hefley Mollohan
 Cantor Hensarling Moore
 Capito Herger Moran (KS)
 Capuano Herseth Moran (VA)
 Cardin Hill Murphy
 Cardoza Hinchey Murtha
 Carson (IN) Hinojosa Musgrave
 Carter Hobson Myrick
 Castle Hoeffel Nadler
 Chabot Hoekstra Napolitano
 Chandler Holden Neal (MA)
 Chocola Holt Nethercutt
 Clyburn Honda Neugebauer
 Coble Hooley (OR) Northup
 Cole Hostettler Norwood
 Collins Hoyer Nunes
 Cooper Hulshof Nussle
 Costello Hunter Oberstar
 Cox Hyde Obey
 Cramer Inslee Oliver
 Crane Isakson Ortiz
 Crenshaw Israel Osborne
 Crowley Issa Otter
 Cubin Istook Owens
 Culberson Jackson (IL) Pallone
 Cummings Jackson-Lee Pascrell
 Cunningham (TX) Pastor
 Davis (AL) Jefferson Paul
 Davis (CA) Jenkins Pearce
 Davis (FL) John Pelosi
 Davis (IL) Johnson (CT) Pence
 Davis (TN) Johnson (IL) Peterson (MN)
 Davis, Jo Ann Johnson, E. B. Peterson (PA)
 Davis, Tom Johnson, Sam Petri
 Deal (GA) Jones (NC) Pickering
 DeFazio Jones (OH) Pitts
 DeGette Kanjorski Platts
 Delahunt Keller Pombo
 DeLauro Kelly Pomeroy
 DeLay Kennedy (MN) Porter
 Diaz-Balart, L. Kennedy (RI) Portman
 Diaz-Balart, M. Kildee Price (NC)
 Dicks Kilpatrick Pryce (OH)
 Doggett King Putnam

Quinn Sessions
 Radanovich Shaw
 Ramstad Shays
 Rehberg Sherman
 Renzi Sherwood
 Reynolds Shimkus
 Rogers (AL) Shuster
 Rogers (KY) Simmons
 Rogers (MI) Simpson
 Rohrabacher Slaughter
 Ross Smith (NJ)
 Rothman Smith (TX)
 Roybal-Allard Smith (WA)
 Royce Snyder
 Ruppertsberger Stearns
 Ryan (OH) Stenholm
 Ryan (WI) Strickland
 Ryan (KS) Stupak
 Sabo Sullivan
 Sánchez, Linda Sweeney
 T. Tancredo
 Sanchez, Loretta Tanner
 Sandlin Tauscher
 Flake Taylor (MS)
 Saxton Taylor (NC)
 Schakowsky Terry
 Schiff Thomas
 Schrock Thompson (CA)
 Scott (GA) Thompson (MS)
 Scott (VA) Thornberry
 Sensenbrenner Tiberi
 Serrano

Tierney
 Toomey
 Turner (OH)
 Udall (CO)
 Udall (NM)
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Vitter
 Walden (OR)
 Walsh
 Wamp
 Watson
 Watt
 Waxman
 Weiner
 Weldon (FL)
 Weldon (PA)
 Weller
 Whitfield
 Wicker
 Wilson (NM)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wolf
 Wu
 Wynn
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote Nos. 229, 230, and 231, had I been present, I would have voted "yea". I went on the CODEL to Normandy to honor the 60th Anniversary of D-Day and the sacrifices of those who liberated Europe from Nazi control. Unfortunately, our Air Force plane had mechanical difficulties over the past 2 days that prohibited our travel back to the United States to participate in these votes. I regret the fact that I was not here to honor President Reagan and his legacy, but am honored to be present at tonight's state funeral.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS) laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 Washington, DC, June 8, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
 Speaker of the House,
 Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: Please accept this letter as official notification of my intention to resign my position as United States Representative of the First Congressional District of North Carolina due to my current health condition. The effective date of my resignation will be Friday, June 11, 2004.

Although I appreciate the honor, privilege and opportunity to have served the citizens of the First Congressional District of North Carolina during the 108th Congress, at this juncture, I feel that I am no longer able to carry out my requisite duties effectively.

Enclosed herewith please find a copy of the letter that I have tendered to North Carolina's Governor, Mike Easley providing him with notice of my decision to resign.

Respectfully,
 FRANK W. BALLANCE, Jr.,
 Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 Washington, DC, June 8, 2004.

Hon. MIKE EASLEY
 Governor—North Carolina, Mail Service Center,
 Raleigh, NC.

DEAR GOVERNOR EASLEY: Please accept this letter as official notification of my intention to resign my position as United States Representative of the First Congressional District of North Carolina due to my current health condition. The effective date of my resignation will be Friday, June 11, 2004.

Although I appreciate the honor, privilege and opportunity to have served the citizens of the First Congressional District of North Carolina during the 108th Congress, at this juncture, I feel that I am no longer able to carry out my requisite duties effectively.

Respectfully,
 FRANK W. BALLANCE, Jr.,
 Member of Congress.

PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 116) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

NOT VOTING—60

Ackerman Hastings (FL) Regula
 Baca Houghton Reyes
 Ballance Kaptur Rodriguez
 Bilirakis King (NY) Ros-Lehtinen
 Brady (PA) Lampson Rush
 Capps Larson (CT) Sanders
 Carson (OK) Leach Shadegg
 Case Lee Skelton
 Clay Lofgren Smith (MI)
 Conyers Lynch Solis
 DeMint Majette Souder
 Deutsch McCarthy (MO) Spratt
 Dingell McInnis Stark
 Dunn Miller, Gary Tauzin
 Evans Ney Tiahrt
 Fossella Ose Towns
 Gonzalez Oxley Turner (TX)
 Goss Payne Waters
 Grijalva Rahall Wexler
 Gutierrez Rangel Woolsey

□ 1456

Mr. ISTOOK changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 231 on mourning the passing of President Reagan I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 231, because I was in California to attend my daughter's graduation, I was unable to be in the chamber when the time elapsed on the vote. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yea" for the vote.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 231 (H. Res. 664—Honoring the late Honorable Ronald Wilson Reagan), I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on June 9, I was unavoidably detained in France for the D-Day ceremonies and missed rollcall vote No. 231. Rollcall No. 231 was on agreeing to the resolution for H. Res. 664, mourning the passing of President Ronald Reagan and celebrating his service to the people of the United States and his leadership in promoting the cause of freedom for all the people of the world. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 664.