

first name basis, we will have a chance to have communications in a more friendlier, relaxed atmosphere, as opposed to a conversation during the height of a crime or a criminal investigation.

Because when I pull up in my squad car they would not know who I was, and I did not know who they were, so two strangers or three or four strangers were supposed to solve a crime. But if we have three or four friends trying to solve a crime, the results are much greater.

Mr. Speaker, that is why community policing is such a valuable tool. It has been around for a few years. What has always kept policing down is the cost. It is expensive to assign a police officer to a couple of townships, and he takes his car home with him every night. It is not parked at the station.

He has certain needs which require a little bit more than probably a police officer who switches cars at every shift, and trades off with equipment, because each individual is a police officer and almost a police station in and of himself. His office is his home or his office is his car or her car. It requires a degree of help. What this program offers them is, we will make a 3-year commitment if they will commit to a community policing program that will work in their communities.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, the other thing that is interesting, and I thank the gentleman, when we had the crime debate in August just before the recess, it became frustrating for me listening to the rhetoric of many Members of Congress who had never been in a district attorney's office, had never been police officers, and really had very little experience, real life experience, in crime, in fighting crime.

I challenge Members of Congress to take some time during their recess to go into a district attorney's office and volunteer, whether it be volunteer to work with attorneys on cases, whether it be to volunteer with victim witness advocates, who have to take the victims of crime and let them know what their rights are and help them through the criminal justice process, which is so intimidating to many victims, particularly victims of domestic violence, who really are victims twice, once to the original abuse, and twice when they have to go through a court system that frankly is not equipped to deal with the devastating problem that is permeating American society.

But I challenge Members, and I have talked to Members to see whether any had the time to go into a district attorney's office, or to go into a police department and learn what the front lines of the fight against crime is really all about. I cannot help but believe if more Members had been willing to do that, to really find out what is happening in district attorney's offices across this country, in attorney generals' offices across this country, in police departments, whether they be urban police departments, whether they be county police departments or suburban

or rural police departments, it would certainly help the tenor of the debate here if we can begin to debate real, professional crime tactics, real, professional crime opportunities that we have around this country, rather than to listen to the bantering back and forth based on, as I say, a focus group, a political poll, what sounds good, what might make the President look bad, what they might be able to embarrass the Attorney General with, partisan politics, back and forth.

It is amazing. This is not a partisan issue; this is serious business. I feel very strongly that efforts to kill this community policing program are not in the interests of the communities that we represent, the communities clear across America.

It is really important that we stay the course and let this program work. Four months, 4 months, and we are talking about dismantling a program that I have shown very persuasive evidence tonight that is working, not only in Lowell, MA. It is working all over the country.

To take partisan politics to defeat this is something that disturbs me greatly. I hope that the debate on this will be a debate based on the merits of the argument. I oftentimes would break with my own party's leadership in the last 2 years, and boy, oh, boy, talk about party discipline this year, march step-by-step, go to the left, go to the right.

I hope that we can have a legitimate debate about the community policing program in this country, because it would be great for America, it would be great for law enforcement in this country, and I think in the long run it would dramatically increase standards of living by lowering the crime rate all over this country.

I thank the gentleman for his efforts on the Crime Task Force. I look forward to working with him over the next several days, and well into next week. I don't know how long we will get to debate the community policing program. It seems we are going to spend more time up front debating the first few days of the various victims' issues, which I think there is a broad agreement on.

There is nothing wrong with, as I say, making minor adjustments to the bill. We spent half a day, three-quarters of a day, debating something that we all agree on, that we all agree on, but it seems when we get down to the end of this debate on community policing and prevention programs that are working, it looks like we are going to be a little squeezed for time, because we are going to be running out of time. I am not sure whose birthday it is, but we have to get it done on Tuesday, so there is not going to be a whole lot of time.

I would hope that we could get a discussion based on the merits of the arguments over the next few days, and your experience as a police officer for 12 years has been invaluable to our task force, invaluable to the Members

of Congress who are looking at this issue objectively, trying to find professional solutions to what many Americans feel is the No. 1 problem facing this country, crime.

So thank you for your efforts, and thank you for putting together this special order. I look forward to working with you.

Mr. STUPAK. I thank the gentleman for not only joining me tonight, but also last night, along with the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER], the gentleman from Texas [Mr. CHAPMAN], and others who came out.

The purpose for doing these special orders or 5 minutes, as you can see, the Chamber is practically empty, is for the benefit of our viewing audience. It is our hope that they will call their Members and urge them to support the community policing program.

This debate will probably start, I think, Thursday, and then go into Friday and possibly Monday.

□ 2020

So time is of the essence. We are on this fast track legislation.

Many people throughout my district, and as I speak out more and more on community policing and 1,000 police officers, the cops on the street program, most people are not aware that the proposal that will be presented later this week is to kill this program, so we need help from the public to call their Representative and tell them to keep this program, keep the police officers on the street. We need police. We need prevention and not just the prisons and pork that are going to be offered by the other side.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on my special order of today, a tribute to Ronald Reagan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. HANSEN). Is there objection the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

A TRIBUTE TO RONALD REAGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from New York, [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I take this special order tonight to pay tribute to a great American, the greatest American that I have ever known, and that is President Ronald Reagan. As you know, I had intended to hold this event last night as a birthday present for the former President, but the House was occupied on an even better birthday present, passage of the line item veto. And what better birthday present

could be offered to the President and to Mrs. Reagan than to complete the unfinished business of the Reagan revolution?

I know I speak for every Member of this House, Mr. Speaker, and virtually all Americans in offering President Reagan and his beloved First Lady, Nancy, our prayers and our very best wishes on this very wonderful occasion.

Mr. Speaker, what do you get for the man who has everything, so that saying goes? Well, Mr. Speaker, as we observe President Reagan's birthday, a better question is how do we appropriately honor a man who has done so much for us, for our country and for the cause of freedom around the world? Our tribute this evening should extend beyond the President's accomplishments in office, although they are numerous, too numerous to mention here tonight.

Let us examine Ronald Reagan's record with the benefit of historical reflections. The story has been told that during his darkest hours, President Nixon was reassured by those around him that history would treat him well. Ever sharp and skeptical, President Nixon shot back, "That depends on who is writing the history." In the case of Ronald Reagan, Mr. Speaker, most of those writing the history of his Presidency have done everything in their power to turn light into darkness, achievement into failure and hope into despair.

Those of us who stood shoulder to shoulder with Ronald Reagan from the very beginning are here today on the occasion of his 84th birthday to say that we are not going to let them get away with it anymore.

Ronald Reagan's views now occupy the center, the main street, of American politics. Look at some recent House votes, the balanced budget amendment passed this House by 300 to 132; unfunded mandates reform to implement the new federalism Ronald Reagan espoused passed this House by a vote of 360 to 74, and the line item veto just the other day, 294 yeses to only 134 noes. All of these measures passed with substantial Democratic support from the other side of the aisle as well, good conservative Democrats voting for the Ronald Reagan programs that we were unable to deliver a number of years ago.

And, yes, Mr. Speaker, throughout the proceedings of the 104th Congress and, indeed, through the election of 1996, coming up, a history debate has been resolved in favor of the ideals articulated by President Reagan and his remarkable vision.

Over the last 15 years, President Reagan's goals were subject to the most robust scrutiny that our system of democracy has to offer. During the 1994 election, some liberal Democrats even campaigned against the Contract With America on the basis that the contract was a continuation of what, of the Reagan legacy. Can you imagine?

Well, Mr. Speaker, the actions of this Congress are evidence that President Reagan's legacy has not just endured that test of scrutiny and criticism but that it flourishes today to the benefit of all Americans.

It is useful to look back, however, in order to more fully savor and appreciate President Reagan's vision. American morale in the 1970's, think back, could not have been lower. President Jimmy Carter declared us in a state of malaise. Ronald Reagan's Presidency was what turned things around. Ronald Reagan's economic policies triggered the largest and longest peacetime extension of our economy in the history of the this Nation.

Nineteen million new jobs were created. Incomes grew at all levels and new industries and technologies flourished and exports exploded. Why? Because President Reagan, he cut taxes, he slowed the growth of domestic spending and regulation, and he restored faith in what he liked to call the magic of the marketplace.

That magic then caught on all around the globe. Remember, my colleagues, the world in 1980 was a very different place than it is today. The Soviet Union was continuing a massive arms buildup, bolstering the formidable number of missiles already pointed at the West, and at cities right here in the United States of America. Soviet troops were marching literally through Afghanistan. Do you remember that? Eastern Europe suffered under the boot of totalitarian regimes, and the Berlin Wall scarred the face of Europe.

The United States military was described back in those days as a hollow force, and our citizens were held hostage by thugs in a place called Iran. Do you remember that?

Our world today contains pockets of instability, but the simple fact is that democratic tide that has swept this globe in the last 5 years is a direct result of Ronald Reagan's Presidency. The man and his policies were essential to freedom's march across this globe. It was Ronald Reagan who faced down the nuclear freezeniks in this Congress and in Western Europe by deploying the Pershing II in West Germany.

Eventually this deployment and a policy called Peace Through Strength, Mr. Speaker, that you and I helped to formulate, forced the Soviets to the bargaining table. The result in 1987 was the IMF Treaty, the first agreement to eliminate an entire class of weapons. Ronald Reagan turned out to be right on that issue.

It was Ronald Reagan who armed freedom fighters in Afghanistan and in Nicaragua, allowing those nations to determine the course of their own destiny. Ronald Reagan was right.

It was Ronald Reagan who said this country had a moral obligation to defend its citizens from nuclear attack, and that we had to strive for something better than that and the same policy of mutually assured destruction with weapons aimed at every city in

America. He said we must work for the day when nuclear missiles were no longer pointed at American cities.

But the experts laughed, and they ridiculed. "This is nothing more than a naive daydream of a silly old man." Do you remember reading those headlines by the liberal press in this country? But you know what, again, Ronald Reagan was right. President Reagan pointed out from the start that the Soviet system was morally and financially bankrupt. Such a system, he argued, could not bear the cost of occupying Eastern Europe.

What was the ultimate result of Ronald Reagan's Peace Through Strength policies? Well, as Ronald Reagan used to say, the Soviet Union collapsed and captured nations all around this world were freed from the atheistic tyranny of the tentacles of communism.

Once again, Ronald Reagan was right.

It was Ronald Reagan who stood under the shadow of the Berlin Wall, which you all remember, and said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." I will never forget his saying that. The experts laughed again, and decried his plea as a public relations stunt. Do you remember that? But Ronald Reagan was right again as he always was. Ronald Reagan encouraged us to maintain a strong defense in case the United States was forced to defend its interests in any remote corner of the globe, and after all, that is the reason this Republic of States was formed, to provide for a common defense, to protect America's interests around the world.

Given this, should anyone really be surprised that our Armed Forces performed so well during the Persian Gulf war? President Bush and General Schwartzkopf were able to lead our troops magnificently and to bring them home with astonishingly low casualties. Do you remember that? Once again, Ronald Reagan was right. Those of us who served in the House at the time and fought President Reagan's fights right here on this floor were so proud to do so.

I was honored that President Reagan signed my legislation to create the Department of Veterans Affairs so that we could guarantee that, with an all-volunteer military, it would work.

□ 2030

As a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. I was so, so proud to carry his water for a foreign policy respected around the world by friends and foe alike, and it was a privilege to join these battles, looking back at the enormous good that came of those policies. But, Mr. Speaker, more than any specific policy, we must salute Ronald Reagan's ability to bring out the best in us as a nation. He consoled us on the evening of the *Challenger* disaster. Do you remember that? It was a sad day in our history.

And on the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landing, Mr. Speaker, President Reagan painted a vivid picture of the

scene on that day and genuinely proposed that we, we dedicate ourselves to the cause for which those soldiers gave a last full measure of devotion.

He never offended us with staged prayers or phony flag placements. His words and his gestures were all genuine, and, as proud as we should be of his many accomplishments, Mr. Speaker, it is a sad commentary that it took over 5 years longer, over 5 years longer, to tear down the wall of resistance to the line-item veto and the balanced budget amendment. It took 5 years longer than it did to tear down the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain.

Ronald Reagan inspired a generation of young people to ignore the cynical bombardment of the media and hold dear the American heritage: "hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent and fair," as he described it during his second inaugural address.

Mr. Speaker, last night 1,000 supporters turned out for a birthday party, including the former British Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher, that I attended along with many of you to pay tribute to this great President, Ronald Reagan. We were so fortunate to have him as our President during that period of time in the history of our country, and at this time I would yield to a Democrat, one of the finest Members of this House, the gentleman from California [Mr. CONDIT]. He is an outstanding Member.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, whether you are liberal or conservative, Democratic or Republican, from California or elsewhere in the country—you always knew where Ronald Reagan stood on any important issue.

One of his greatest achievements was restoring to our people a sense of the greatness of America.

He was honest, he was forthright, he did not quibble and he was bold. I have always been convinced our hostages were freed from Iran as Reagan took the oath of office because the President had described in great detail his contempt for the Ayatollah's regime. The Government of Iran knew, when Reagan described them as Barbarians, our new President would act if the hostages were not freed. They came home within hours of his oath of office.

Reagan never suffered from a lack of "the vision thing." In large measure, the end of the cold war is the result of his steadfastness and courage in difficult times. In a statement in 1976 on nuclear war, he articulated his goal for all of us: "Those . . . a hundred years from now will know whether those missiles were fired. They will know whether we met our challenge. Whether they have the freedoms that we have known up until now will depend on what we do here." And, 100 years from now, the answer will be that we met those challenges and Ronald Reagan led us to that victory.

Those of us in California perhaps know Reagan better than most other Americans. We embraced him in a special way. We got to vote for or against the former President on nine separate occasions. In California, a State known for its diverse communities, its fickle political loyalties, and its great passion over various ideological issues, Reagan was elected overwhelmingly, every one of those nine times.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from New York, Mr. SOLOMON, I'm delighted that you allowed me to stand here with you today to pay tribute to, salute and pay tribute to, a great citizen of the Golden State of California and a great American, Ronald Reagan.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. CONDIT], and he is a Member of the other political party. I used to belong to that political party many years ago myself, and I remember when, about the same time that Ronald Reagan saw the light, so did I, but I just want to thank the gentleman for his comments because certainly no President deserves more bipartisan remembrance and support than Ronald Reagan. I can just stand here all night and think of all the times that he has inspired me, but I can recall one time:

As a matter of fact, I was over in Korea, and we had been over trying to arrange in Vietnam to bring home the remains of fallen soldiers, and we were socked in by bad weather. We could not get back, and it was for the State of the Union Message, and that was the night that Ronald Reagan picked up this heavy budget that was about so thick, and he brought it up, and he dropped it like that on the table, and his finger got caught underneath it, and he actually cracked the bone in his finger.

But he was talking about the Federal Government and how it has grown into such huge bureaucratic proportions, and Ronald Reagan never really had the opportunity to make the corrections because he never really had a Congress that would back him up. In 1981 and 1982, Mr. Speaker, he accomplished more in the first 2 of his 8 years than in all the other time, and unfortunately, because we did what we are going to do this year, we made the cuts in the spending in this Congress that really need to be made to bring us back to fiscal sanity around here.

We made those cuts, and unfortunately a lot of us got beat, and a lot of good Democrats as well, those conservative Democrats that sit in that corner right on that side of the aisle, and a lot of Republicans, and consequently Ronald Reagan in the next 6 years, was dealing from a point of compromise where he never could really finish the Reagan revolution, and I am going to be speaking about that as I close out my remarks in a few minutes, but right now I would like to yield to one of the outstanding Members of this body. He is from Miami, FL. He is now a member of the Committee on Rules with me,

and we are so proud to have him there because he is my kind of a guy.

He is like Ronald Reagan. He is a fighter, and he is a man of vision, and I yield to the gentleman from Miami, FL [Mr. DIAZ-BALART].

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman and say, as chairman of the Rules Committee, you were instrumental and really decisive in the fact that passage of the line-item veto was accomplished on President Reagan's birthday, and I think that that was so appropriate because, as you have mentioned, he fought so long for passage of that, that weapon in the arsenal that will be needed to balance the Federal budget, and what an appropriate birthday present it was for President Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, at each moment in the history of the United States, when the Nation has been in danger, great leaders have risen to guide the Nation to safety.

□ 2040

I think, as Chairman SOLOMON pointed out so wisely, it is appropriate and really necessary to think back upon the condition of the Nation and the world at the time that Ronald Reagan became President, at the time that he was elected to the Presidency in 1980.

I think it is important to think back a minute to that moment. The Soviets, as Chairman SOLOMON has mentioned, felt so emboldened, felt so unthreatened and so unchecked, that for the first time in history, even after so many instances and examples of aggression that they had committed, for the first time in history they rolled their own tanks directly into a nation not even in the Warsaw Pact, a nation that was not even a slave nation, a satellite nation of the Soviet Union, into Afghanistan. They just directly rolled their tanks in there and surrounded, as you will recall, the Presidential palace, and they blasted away, killed the President and first family there in Afghanistan, and they just felt that they were completely unchecked.

That is along with the capture of our Embassy in Iran by those thugs, as you so well mentioned, I think that illustrates where we were at that point, the lack of respect with which the United States was held in the world, and internally what was reflected, creating that lack of respect, the era of malaise, as Chairman SOLOMON pointed out.

We saw in that era also how, for example, just a few years before the Soviets felt so unchecked that they moved into Africa through the Cuban Castro surrogates, in violation of an agreement after so many years of struggle, for example, in Angola, between the—against the colonial forces, the three different groups there had an arrangement. Yet the communist group, the MPLA, felt so unchecked, unthreatened, that they broke the arrangement and called in the Soviets and Cubans, and they were taking over Angola.

Of course, we saw what happened in Ethiopia, Somalia, and you mentioned El Salvador and Nicaragua.

In fact, I recall, at the time that President Reagan took office, an analysis about El Salvador that pointed out the collapse of El Salvador was imminent. There was nothing we could do. And in Nicaragua, of course, the communists had already taken over. In Grenada, here in the Caribbean as well, the communists had taken over. And then Ronald Reagan became President. And he called the Soviet Union what it was.

I remember like you described him, Mr. Chairman, the experts, when they laughed at President Reagan for calling the Soviet Union what it was, the evil empire.

Now, if you ask the people of Russia or the other captive nations at that time whether the Soviet Union was the evil empire, they certainly knew the answer. But a lot of the so-called experts laughed at President Reagan when he called the Soviet Union what it was. And he worked in such a close alliance with that other figure, as we were speaking before at the beginning of this special order, the other instrumental figure in world history in this century, Pope John Paul II. And he worked in close concert, in such a close relationship with the Pope. And I remember reading a report after the Reagan Presidency about how he put the intelligence community and every instrument of American power that he could at the service of the Pope. And he said:

You listen to the Pope, because the Pope knows what is going on in Eastern Europe and he knows how to deal with those Communists. Listen to him.

That relationship between Ronald Reagan and John Paul II was a decisive relationship in the history of the world, and we saw what happened. And he announced the strategic defense initiative. And the experts laughed at him again and said that is not possible. And we know now, just a few years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, that it was the Strategic Defense Initiative, along with the rest of the Reagan policies that directly led to the explosion that occurred, the collapse of the evil empire.

And he liberated Grenada. I was not in Congress, but I know, Mr. Chairman, that you were, as was the Speaker and others, and how you had to put up, and I see Congressman HUNTER here as well that was in Congress at that time, and how you had to put up defending at that time the liberation of Grenada that the President had accomplished, had carried out, against such ruthless attacks, ruthless attacks, from Members in this body as well as in the media who did not want to recognize the truth and the fact that Ronald Reagan was right, as Chairman SOLOMON stated so eloquently this evening.

And he armed El Salvador, and he saved El Salvador; and he armed the Afghanistan people, and he saved Af-

ghanistan, and he armed the Africans fighting against the Communists, and he saved them as well; and he armed the Nicaraguans against all the pressures, and forced even the Communists in Nicaragua to have elections there, the last thing that they would have ever wanted to do. A great man had risen to lead the greatest Nation on earth to safety, and to save the world. And the rest is history now.

The year that Ronald Reagan left the Presidency, the Berlin Wall collapsed. And then the Soviet empire itself, the evil empire itself came tumbling down.

Now, some will say that it was among the greatest miracles of all time, and it certainly was. Of course, the hand of providence was involved. But it would not have happened without the direct participation and the leadership of Ronald Reagan.

Chairman SOLOMON and Mr. Speaker, he inspired me. President Reagan inspired me to become a Member of our party, as he inspired millions of Americans throughout our country in so many important ways. And I thank him from the bottom of my heart for all that he did for the United States of America, and for freedom and for our posterity. Thank you so much, Chairman SOLOMON.

Mr. SOLOMON. Congressman DIAZ-BALART, I just want to tell you those eloquent words mean so much to me, because I know you spoke them from your heart.

You know, you mentioned Pope John Paul. There is another part of that triangle, and her name was Maggie Thatcher. Between the Pope and Maggie Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, they, more than any three people in this world, are the very reason that democracy is breaking out all over the world instead of the opposite, communism breaking out all over the world.

It was the peace through strength movement that you spoke of that was supported by our free market economy, by this democracy that works, as opposed to a communist government. And because the Soviet Union could not keep pace with us, that is what bankrupted them. That is what brought them to their knees, and that is why democracy is breaking out all over this world.

Let me recognize another part of the country, the State of Georgia, and an outstanding sophomore Member of this body, JACK KINGSTON.

Mr. KINGSTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciate being part of this great special order on a great American, and have enjoyed listening to you and Mr. DIAZ-BALART and DUNCAN HUNTER.

My wife and I actually met through College Republicans. We were so enthusiastic in 1979 with the Reagan campaign, when he won, and Libby would say to me on many occasions, "Don't you just love this President? He's the first one in our life we can be absolutely enthusiastically thrilled over,"

and so forth, and she would go on and on and on about Ronald Reagan.

I finally said, "Libby, I think you love Ronald Reagan more than you love me." And she said, "Yes, but I love you more than I love George Bush." So she put it in perspective for me.

But as you have pointed out, it is absolutely true that Ronald Reagan defeated the Soviet Union without firing a shot. And I think today that the freedom that we have and the democracy that they are getting is simply because of that war. It was the coldest of wars, and yet it was so important. And as people look back and criticize the military buildup during that period of time, that maybe they would prefer to have a deficit than they would to have the deaths of young Americans that would have happened had we continued on the road that we were on.

As you have pointed out, he did the same all over South America and all over the world, and restored America to being a true world leader. I have heard the saying many, many times that there shouldn't be a policeman of the world, but if there is one, let it be America. And that is what Ronald Reagan did. It was always peace through strength.

In addition to that, there is so much domestically. Creating 18 million jobs, the largest peacetime prosperity in the history of this Nation. Bringing down interest rates. Interest rates in the late seventies were 20 percent. When Libby and I went to buy our first house in 1979, the interest rates were 16 percent.

□ 2050

How many young couples can get on their feet with paying 16 percent interest? It is very difficult to do. Inflation, 12 percent when he took office. And he brought it down to the extent that now it is hardly even a campaign discussion.

The Iranian hostage situation, remember now depressing that got to Americans and how we were told, well, we just cannot go in there and play cowboy anymore. Ronald Reagan did not have to. All he had to do was put on his uniform and then the Ayatollah got the message.

The great thing about Ronald Reagan, I would say, beyond those accomplishments was that intangible American spirit that we have within all of us that he reached in our heart of hearts and made us pull out. The other night at this alumni dinner, there were so many people there from all over the country who had returned to Washington to celebrate Reagan's 84th birthday. There were many, many people there from all over the country. One man who was not there is a constituent of mine, Joe Tribble who was a Reagan appointee in the Department of Energy.

But like Joe Tribble, the people who were there the other night were there not because they served in the Reagan administration. That was a job and it

was good times. It is because they were part of something they believed in. And they were all there to say, here was a guy who was a clear-cut thinker, a great American.

If you look at the PATCO situation, there would be so many Presidents who would waffle on the air traffic controller strike. So many Presidents and politicians in general who would say, I am not sure, maybe they should have a right. Reagan said, they took an oath of office that they would not strike. They struck. They are fired. It was clear cut. You might not have always agreed with Ronald Reagan, but he told you how he thought. He told you what he was going to do. And he did it. And that was a strength that made him such a great American leader and world leader, because at the time we had forgotten those sort of things.

I had the great opportunity to meet him one time, Libby and I. I was not serving in Congress with some of you guys, but Libby and I had an opportunity to meet him in Savannah, GA, and had a chance to talk to him, one on one.

What struck both of us is that he was a very sincere and very gentle and very graceful man. He would be the kind of guy you would describe as the last one to leave the foxhole, but the first one to open the door for a lady or senior citizen. Absolutely had the touch.

You will remember the debate with Jimmy Carter, the famous "there you go again," just the graceful way of saying, you know, we have had it, we have heard it.

In 1984, I was going door to door, running for the Georgia Legislature. And I represented a very solid middle-class district and still have the honor of representing most of those people in my congressional or the congressional district that I represent. And I would go to the door and people would say, are you Republican or Democrat? And I would say, I am Republican. And they would say, I am going to vote for you because I have had enough. And I was the first Republican elected to the Georgia General Assembly from the 125th House seat, but I can say clearly, it was because of Ronald Reagan.

Fortunately, I had the picture that Libby and I had with Ronald Reagan, and we put it in a big ad in the paper that said, "Reagan-Kingston, let's face it, we need conservatives on all levels of government."

A good friend of mine who was working for my opponent at the time told me, he said that ad sealed our fate. We knew that if you kept running a picture of you and Ronald Reagan in there, even though you were running for the State legislature, that would do us in.

So I would say, I will yield the floor because I know that the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] wants to say a word or two. But just a great American, somebody that you are happy to be on the ballot with and happy to say, that is my President.

Mr. SOLOMON. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is just such a great addition to this body, ever since he got here. We just appreciate those words on behalf of Ronald Reagan.

Let me say that the next speaker, the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] never is a man of one or two words.

He is a man of many words. All of what he says always makes sense. He is one of the most valuable Members of this body. He has served on the Committee on Armed Services since he arrived here. And when I was on the Foreign Affairs Committee, we were pretty good tandem in carrying the water for Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER].

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] for yielding.

I have to say that you were my leader in the Reagan revolution on the House floor and did a wonderful job. The gentleman from Georgia, who has mentioned all the great accomplishments of Ronald Reagan, he himself standing here obviously is part of that Reagan record of accomplishment, because it was the great conservative message that he exuded that helped to bring the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] to this place and myself.

Mr. KINGSTON. I know my time is up, but the thing that Ronald Reagan did, as much as anything, was let you believe in the American dream again. And one of my dreams, my mother was a Republican Party leader for many years, when I was a small boy, one of my dreams was to be a Member of Congress. And I think Ronald Reagan assured me that the American dream was alive and well. And so you are correct on a very personal level.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman. I know we may be out of time shortly. I just would advise my friends, I am going to take an hour and we can continue for a few minutes, if my friends have some other things to say.

But you mentioned about the freeing of the world, a great part of the world under Ronald Reagan. The interesting thing is even though his adversaries classified him as a friend of the rich and the Republican fat cats and all of those derogatory things that they said, he really was a man of the people and not just a man of the average people in America, the middle class in America, but around the world.

Because of his policies of peace through strength and pushing the Russian bear back and refusing to allow our allies to be intimidated by the Soviet Union and finally breaking down the Soviet Union, he created a situation in which literally millions of families around the world no longer had to sit huddled at their dinner table waiting for that knock on the door from a representative of their police state involving themselves in that family's affairs, taking off members of that fam-

ily to the gulags, to the jails, to the prisons, because of their beliefs, because of their religious beliefs, their desire for freedom or their desire simply not to be ruled by a particular dictatorship or proletarian state.

So Ronald Reagan freed literally tens of millions, hundreds of millions of people around this world who had very little relationship to the United States.

And he did that, I might say, by rebuilding America's defense budget.

I think it is appropriate that on his birthday, we reflect on the great things that he did in rebuilding national defense from that level in the 1970's, when we had 1,000 petty officers every month leaving the Navy because they could not support their families on what the Carter administration was paying them.

I remember he brought us from that period when we had about 50 percent of our combat aircraft that were not fully mission capable because we had been cannibalizing those aircraft to get spare parts. And it is fitting and proper that we should talk about him today when President Clinton has dropped his defense budget on this Congress, because President Clinton's defense budget, I think, takes us back to those Carter days or starts us back to those Carter days. It is literally \$100 billion in real terms, approximately \$100 billion less than the budgets that we had in the middle of the Reagan administration.

In fact, most of President Clinton's cuts that he gives great ballyhoo to have been taken from national security, taken from national defense.

What did Ronald Reagan do? I can remember when the Soviet Union very aggressively in the mid-1980's was ringing our neighbors in western Europe with their SS-20 missiles. And they were greatly intimidating our neighbors. And Ronald Reagan moved forward against the advice of all the liberal Members of Congress and liberal pundits and liberal defense experts. He moved forward to put our own ground-launched cruise missiles and Pershing missiles in Europe. That is, he stood up to the Soviet Union, and an apocalyptic situation was predicted by those on the left.

They said, now you can have it. You are going to bring the country down. We are going to have a conflict with the Soviet Union. Yet a few days later, Mr. Gorbachev was on the phone and wanted to talk.

Those talks blossomed into arms control treaties, real arms control treaties in which we trusted but verified. And they brought peace to a great deal of the world and ultimately resulted in our defense budgets coming down, although I think this President has taken them far below where they should prudently be.

Ronald Reagan saved a ton of defense money by being strong at the right time.

□ 2100

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. SOLOMON. The gentleman from California is so right. Even when we attempted to rescue the hostages being held in Iran, as the gentleman mentioned, we had to actually cannibalize about seven helicopter gunships to get five that would work. Three of those failed and so did the mission. That was typical of what was happening when we were losing back in those days all of our noncommissioned officers and officers because they could not afford to stay in the military. They were on food stamps.

That is where the peace through strength movement came in. We rebuilt our military, we funded it properly, and that is what brought freedom throughout this world.

Mr. Speaker, there is another Member here who is a new Member of this body. He has only been here for 5 weeks, but I can tell you, there are 73 new Republicans in this House. This one I really appreciate. He replaced a Democrat named Tim Penny. Tim Penny worked with me in sponsoring a lot of legislation to try to get this sea of red ink under control that is in this budget here today, presented by President Clinton.

I would like to recognize him now for a few minutes, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT].

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York, [Mr. SOLOMON] so much.

I am so excited and proud to be part of this discussion tonight, because I think I speak on behalf of an awful lot of the freshman class this year, that Ronald Reagan was such a leader and such a symbol and such an inspiration to all of us.

In fact, I must tell you in our own family one of our most cherished possessions is an autographed picture that we have of Ronald Reagan, and it is prominently displayed. My wife, Mary, really is one of Ronald Reagan's biggest fans.

I am just so happy to be here to talk a little bit about some of the things that I remember most about President Reagan, both before he became President, and listening to the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] earlier tell the story about the national defense.

I will never forget, I was just thinking about getting into politics in a serious way in 1979. Former Congressman Vin Weber hosted an event up in Minnesota. One of the people who was invited to speak was a gentleman by the name of John Lehman. This was before President Reagan became President.

I will never forget what he talked about. He literally laid out the Reagan defense doctrine that day. It became really the cornerstone, I think, of the Reagan foreign policy. What he said was that it was time that we look the Soviets in the eye, eyeball to eyeball, and say simply this: If it is an arms race that you want, it is an arms race

you will get. It is an arms race you cannot win, and it is an arms race which ultimately will bankrupt your economy.

That was, in a sense, I believe, the cornerstone of the Reagan foreign policy and the cornerstone of the Reagan defense buildup. I think now that we have seen, and many would have never guessed that we would see the day when, as we did a few years ago on Christmas Day, when the red flag came down for the last time over the Kremlin, that we would see the death of communism in our lifetime.

However, it is largely because President Reagan had the vision and the foresight to enunciate that policy and to stick by it, even when some of his own advisors had encouraged him to abandon, for example, SDI, or what some would call Star Wars.

Another memory that I have of President Reagan, I remember, again before I entered the political arena and ran for the legislature, in 1980, in January, I was in Nuone, MN. Some of you were probably here for the inaugural. I will never forget that inaugural address. I pulled the car off by the side of the road and listened on the radio to the inaugural address.

I will never forget how he closed that inaugural address. I think we ought to remind ourselves of it often, because I think it typified President Reagan, his beliefs, his values, and I think he spoke so clearly to the American people when he told the story of the young man from Wisconsin who had written on his diary during World War I, that he was going to work and he was going to fight and he was going to serve as if the entire outcome of the long and bloody battle depended upon him and him alone.

Then President Reagan closed, and I think this is a direct quote, I had this committed to memory, I may not have it exactly right, but I believe the words were these. He said:

Our problems do not require that kind of sacrifice. They do, however, require our best effort, and our willingness to believe in ourselves, to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds; that together, with God's help, we can resolve the problems which confront us now. And after all, why shouldn't we believe that? We are Americans.

I've got to tell you, those words burned in my ears and they burned in my consciousness. I think it is one of the reasons that I ultimately ran for the State legislature, and by the grace of God, ultimately ran for the United States Congress, and I am so proud to be here today.

One of my favorite expressions from Ronald Reagan, and I use it often, if you talk to my staff, and we used it in the campaign, we use it around the office a lot, I believe originally came from Benjamin Franklin. President Reagan used it often. He said "Facts are stubborn things. You know, we can ignore the facts, we can deny the facts, but ultimately facts are facts."

As he pursued his agenda, as he pursued the things that he wanted to do

for this country, he stuck by the facts. I think, Mr. Speaker, many people called him the great communicator. He was a great communicator, but he was a great communicator principally because he stuck to the facts and he talked in simple terms that the American people can understand.

As a matter of fact, another story that I always like to remind people of with President Reagan was when he went to Reykjavik and he negotiated with Mikhail Gorbachev. I remember the stumbling block was SDI. Again, the press was fond of using the term Star Wars. Essentially, we could have a large reduction in nuclear arms if only President Reagan were willing to give up on this misguided notion that he called Star Wars.

Ultimately, the meeting broke down and they were not able to solve many of the big issues. I will never forget, the national press was saying, essentially, This old man was unwilling to give up on this crazy idea, Star Wars, and as a result, we didn't get that peace treaty, the press was having a field day, and they were trying to make light of all of what had happened, trying to make President Reagan look bad.

The next night he came back and he spoke to the American people. He spoke in very simple terms. He said that the SDI, the Strategic Defense Initiative, was America's insurance policy against Soviet cheating. The interesting thing was, the next day all the polls were taken, the overnight polls, and about 85 percent of the American people understood exactly what the President meant and they agreed with him. Than all of the ballyhoo stopped.

Facts are stubborn things. One of the real tragedies, I would say to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] about what is happening today, many people are trying to rewrite the facts. They are trying to rewrite the myths about what really happened in the eighties.

The eighties was a very special time. I don't want to be redundant. I suspect some of the issues have been covered earlier. However, when we look at what really happened with the economy during the eighties, we continue to hear that it was the decade of greed, and during the eighties the rich got richer and the poor got poorer.

The facts do not simply bear that out. The truth of the matter is that real per capita income during the eighties went up by 15.7 percent, and average family income increased by more than \$15,000. In fact, if you look at the poverty rate, it dropped from 13.7 to 12.1 percent.

The budget deficit, believe it or not, was only \$152.5 billion during his last year. Now we are looking at \$200 billion plus budget deficits, on to the end of this decade, and we are saying that it was because of the Reagan buildup.

When you talk about taxes, we keep hearing that the rich didn't pay their fair share during the decade of greed, but the average tax payment for the lowest 50 percent of earners fell by 26 percent between 1981 and 1988, and we removed 6 million low-income families from the tax rolls during the eighties.

The other myth is that social spending was slashed. We talk about all the Reagan cuts of social spending. Unfortunately, I would say, over 45 percent of the \$1.9 trillion in new expenditures during that period went to social spending.

We hear the myth of charitable giving, that Americans were greedier in the eighties, but the truth of the matter is that charitable giving rose \$48.7 billion during the eighties, a 55-percent increase.

Mr. Speaker, it was a very special time. President Reagan was a very special President. In fact, one of my last memories I would like to share with you tonight, my wife and I talk about this often, was when he finally left office.

I talked about when he was sworn in, but when he left the office for the last time, out here on the steps of the Capitol, he turned around and saluted. I remember saying to my wife at that time, I said "Mary, you know, he was a long time coming. He will be a long time gone."

Mr. Speaker, if I could, I would like to close my remarks here with a quote, and I would like to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a column which was written by Jeff Bell, because he said more in a few words about Ronald Reagan and he said it better than I can say it. I would like to submit for the record this column.

However, I would like to close, if I could, with the last paragraph, because I think it says so much about President Reagan: "Unfashionable, misunderstood, or held in contempt by political elites of all stripes, never respected by the press, patronized privately, even by his own aides, Mr. Reagan soldiered on with his populist vision and unexpected moves, essentially alone at the top, for eight years of the most pivotal years in world history. This was more than enough."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker; thank you, I would say to the gentleman from New York; and thank you, President Reagan.

The article referred to is as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 27, 1989]

MAN OF THE DECADE? MAN OF THE CENTURY!

(By Jeffrey Bell)

As European communism collapses, it would seem logical that credit would be given to the man who led the winning side during the decisive period. This shows no sign of happening.

Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt died just before the end of the great struggles they won. Ronald Reagan has lived to see not just ideological victory over communism, but what increasingly appears to be a vindication of his seemingly most outlandish hopes for a democratic world. Yet few people give Mr. Reagan himself much credit.

Perhaps this shouldn't be so surprising. In one way, the treatment of his presidency in the year since it ended is a continuation of the pattern of Mr. Reagan's entire political career, which led his opponents (and a solid majority of his allies) to underestimate him and his ability every step of the way. The dynamic of underestimation is helped along by the foibles of his wife, in particular the taste for luxury embodied by the Reagans' recent multi-million dollar trip to Japan, engineered by Mrs. Reagan and her long-time friend, Charles Z. Wick. Harmful as this sort of thing to Mr. Reagan's post-presidential image, in the long run it will be relatively unimportant to the story of Mr. Reagan's presidency.

WINNER OF THE COLD WAR

Clare Boothe Luce once remarked that any great presidency can be summed up in a sentence or so. Lincoln: He destroyed slavery and saved the Union, thus preserving and enhancing democracy's example to the world. Reagan: By making democracy vigorous again—ideologically, economically, militarily—he won the Cold War and ended the century-long era in which socialism appealed to popular opinion.

How did Mr. Reagan manage to do these things in his eight years? Did he in fact do them at all, or did a combination of circumstances cause these things to take shape during his watch?

Both of the above are true. Historic opportunities presented themselves to Mr. Reagan—and he took advantage of every single one of them. The result was a global revolution.

Mr. Reagan cut the top personal tax rate in this country from 70% to 28%. He ended inflation and achieved a seven-year-long expansion that created 20 million new jobs. He asserted traditional values, unapologetically. He revived patriotic sentiment and remade the Supreme Court. In the Webster abortion decision, his appointees delivered a crucial defeat to judicial elitism.

In foreign policy, Mr. Reagan was frustrated in Lebanon and Nicaragua, but ultimately nowhere else. He rolled back communism in Grenada. His Strategic Defense Initiative set technological limits on Soviet hopes for strategic dominance. In Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia, the Reagan Doctrine served notice that Soviet advances were no longer irreversible.

In Mr. Reagan's first term, the Brezhnev-Andropov Soviet regime showed a tendency to push matters in the direction of global confrontation, particularly in its boastful reaction to the Korean Airliner shootdown of 1983. In the face of this frightening Soviet attitude, Mr. Reagan showed no inclination to compromise on anything—SDI, the defense buildup, the deployment of Pershing-IIs in Western Europe or the Reagan Doctrine.

But when Mikhail Gorbachev succeeded to the Soviet leadership in March 1985, Mr. Reagan quickly discerned—before it was evident to almost anyone else—the possibility of a profound change. His repeated assertion of this possibility won him much ridicule through most of his second term, from his natural allies most of all. Particularly after Reykjavik, Mr. Reagan ran into much criticism in this country and in Europe for his indulgent attitude toward the Soviet leader.

But Mr. Gorbachev, perhaps surprisingly, turned out to be the sort of leader highly susceptible to praise and approval from his antagonists. His growing willingness to unleash the human forces in his empire will undoubtedly win him a major place in history, whatever happens to him personally from now on. But that same history will evaluate Mr. Reagan's handling of Mr.

Gorbachev as one of the masterpieces of 20th-century diplomacy.

Mr. Reagan's greatest foreign-policy failure was the Iran-Contra scandal, in particular his attempt to trade arms for hostages. When Mr. Reagan tried to retrieve the situation, with the Kuwaiti tanker reflagging of 1967, initially just about everyone saw his efforts as absurd. The press did. The allies did. The Democrats did. His fellow conservatives did. Even the Navy Department did.

But Mr. Reagan, who genially ignored his critics when he was determined on a course of action, once again was right. The operation was chaotic and seemed to have little rationale, but its target succumbed. In agreeing in 1988 to a cease-fire in the eight-year-old war against Iraq, the Ayatollah Khomeini likened the action to drinking a cup of poison—a cup necessitated by Mr. Reagan's move into the Gulf. This must be the closest thing in recent politics to an international concession speech. This tribute from Mr. Reagan's most implacable and resourceful enemy was a cut above anything said on behalf of the policy at home.

But that was always the way in the Reagan years. A radical or unexpected Reagan initiative would be greeted with reactions ranging from disbelief to ridicule. It was open season during the execution of the policy, which, as is so often the case with radical or counter-intuitive policies, invariably ran into many hitches. Then, upon the success of the policy, there fell a dead silence as to Mr. Reagan's earlier role in it. Mr. Reagan liked to joke about how the word "Reaganomics" suddenly disappeared as the magnitude of the 1982-89 expansion became clear.

Mr. Reagan was full of jokes and stories, and never seemed to take anything said about him personally, but he was deadly serious about his goals. He loved to talk politics and issues almost all his adult life, but never sought office until he was 55. He steadily developed and forwarded his agenda, with many setbacks, until he was 69. Then he became the oldest man ever to take office as president, and (despite a fearful wound) served until he was nearly 78, as the most consistently effective president since Lincoln.

Still, Mr. Reagan the political leader has been underestimated even by many who recognize his achievements. They note his lack of interest in the details of policy, and the role of talented aides in forcing through a number of his programs. Yet how odd that Mr. Reagan's success continued through a succession of four White House chiefs of staff and six national security advisers who differed widely from each other in knowledge, style and policy.

Perhaps even more revealing is that in some of his most distinctive policies—tax rate reduction, abortion, SDI, the Reagan Doctrine, the Kuwaiti reflagging, the decision to address human-rights activists during the Moscow summit, to name a few—Mr. Reagan acted against the expressed opinions of nearly all his close advisers. Historians may conclude that Mr. Reagan's lack of interest in administrative details masked a laser-like ability to separate the important from the transitory, and to focus on the important.

THE WORLD HIS OYSTER

Perhaps the greatest irony of all is that the one area where virtually everybody thought him deficient—foreign policy—may prove to be his most lasting success. In a moment of bemusement a couple of years ago, the Washington Post remarked in an editorial that when Mr. Reagan ventured aboard, he found not just the nation but the world was his oyster.

His successes at home and abroad were intimately related. It was partly, of course, that domestic revitalization fed into renewed American assertiveness on the world scene. But it was also that, unlike nearly everyone else in U.S. politics in the 1980s, Mr. Reagan thought foreigners aspired to a fully democratic life just as much as Americans did. His Wilsonian-FDR global populism, the element of his ideology least shared by U.S. elites of both the right and left, is what ties together the "hawkish" Reagan of the first term and the "naïve" Reagan of the second, and made the two work toward the same end: the globalization of democratic values.

Unfashionable, misunderstood or held in contempt by political elites of all stripes, never respected by the press, patronized privately by most of his own aides, Mr. Reagan soldiered on with his populist vision and unexpected moves, essentially alone at the top. For eight of the most pivotal years of world history, this was more than enough.

□ 2110

Mr. SOLOMON. I say to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] I really want to thank you for those eloquent remarks.

You know, I only regret that Ronald Reagan could not be in office here today with this new Republican majority backed up by 40 or 50 conservative Democrats. Look what we have done in just 5 weeks, and think what we could do over the next several years if Ronald Reagan were still President.

You know, the first week we were here, I will say this to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] because it came with his help, we began to shrink the size and power of the Federal Government and started it with the Congress.

The second week we were here we passed an accountability act which foists the same laws on the Congress that we foist on the American people. What a message that sent.

The third week we did the impossible, we passed the balanced budget amendment, something Ronald Reagan wanted so much.

And the fourth week we passed unfunded mandates, something that was impossible to pass before the new Republican majority took over.

And look what happened on Ronald Reagan's birthday yesterday, that line item veto. You know, if we had Ronald Reagan here, think what we could do for the next 2 years, welfare reform, product liability reform, capital gains tax reductions, tort reform. We could go on and on and on.

Since we are running out of time, Mr. Speaker, let me say in the epilog of Ronald Reagan's autobiography on American life, the President recalled his thoughts as he boarded the plane to California after George Bush's inauguration, and I have a picture of him saluting hanging on my wall with he and his wife Nancy boarding that helicopter. You know, he described a feeling of incompleteness, that there was still work to be done, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, and a line item veto for the President to cut out unnecessary spending.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this House passed a balanced budget amendment on January 26, and as I said before, the line item veto passed yesterday.

We have done President Reagan's unfinished business. We are just getting warmed up. Over the next several months and years we will finish the Reagan revolution of shrinking the size and the power of this Government and returning the power back to the States and local governments and letting the private sector run and work the way it should, you know.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I would like to close with a quote from Ronald Reagan's first inaugural address and suggest it apply to this 104th Congress as we continue the second Reagan revolution. I say to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT], here is the exact language, and you were not far off, he said, "We have every right to dream heroic dreams, to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds, to believe that together, with God's help, we can and we will resolve the problems which now confront us."

And after all, why should we not believe that? Because we are Americans.

Mr. President, we wish you a very, very happy 84th anniversary, birthday. Thank you so much for what you have done for America. America will never forget you.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for organizing this special order to pay tribute to one of the 20th century's greatest world leader's former President Ronald Reagan.

Yesterday was President Reagan's 88th birthday and as we honor him, I want to express sincere thanks on behalf of myself and everyone in my congressional district for the visionary leadership that he gave to this Nation during the 8 years he was its Chief Executive.

I had been in Congress for 2 years when Ronald Reagan formally entered the American political scene by giving his thrilling televised speech in support of Barry Goldwater in 1964. His heartfelt statement of his conservative political beliefs made likeminded conservatives like myself look up and see a standard bearer whom we would be able to rally behind in the future.

I was already very familiar with his career as an actor and television spokesman, and I continued to follow his effortless switch to the public arena when he ran for governor of California in 1966. The astounding margin by which he upset an incumbent governor put everyone who watched on notice that a political force be reckoned with had arrived.

After his 8 successful years as governor of our most populous state, Ronald Reagan devoted all of his considerable energies to seeking the Nation's highest office. In 1980, during a dark time for our Nation, he waged a successful campaign to set the ship of state on the proper course again.

The Republican landslide that seized Washington in the wake of the Reagan victory created heady times for conservatives, and we waged many battles here on the floor of the House to bring about the changes that President Reagan spoke of in his revolutionary

campaign. And although the President's party did not then control this chamber, for a brief period of time, his ideas did.

During the President's first year of office, his leadership enabled us to set America on the course that would win the Cold War and turn loose the engine of economic freedom. The work that he did then made it possible for the new Republican majority here in the House to have the cohesive agenda for its first 100 days that is energizing this country.

Mr. Speaker, as President Reagan battles illness at his California home, it is altogether proper that we gather to honor him and his legacy in this way. I know that all of my constituents join me in sending our heartiest congratulations on his birthday, and to this great American, we wish Godspeed.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to participate in this tribute to a great American—Ronald Reagan—and to his continuing legacy. Through my father's lifelong association with Senator Barry Goldwater, I first met then Governor Reagan in 1968 on my way to the Republican National Convention in Miami. He impressed me then and he impresses me today. There can be little doubt that it was his commitment to downsizing government, renewing federalism, restoring America's defenses and re-establishing our belief in ourselves that led to the tide that swept Republicans to victory on November 8 and put this House under the control of the Republican party for the first time in 40 years.

As we debate the Contract with America, whose central features are intended to bring fiscal discipline to Congress and the country, I am absolutely confident that the Reagan record will stand the test of time. Under the policies of Ronald Reagan, America experienced the longest period of peacetime expansion in our history. This expansion created 19 million new jobs and more than doubled the U.S. economy. Regardless of all attempts to rewrite the Reagan legacy, the central fact is that Ronald Reagan's policies benefited more people at every economic level than ever before.

Had Congress had the discipline to rein in domestic spending during the Reagan years, not only would we have defeated the Evil Empire, but we also would have avoided the serious deficits and mounting debt which now threaten our security.

Thanks to Ronald Reagan more of the world is free today than ever before and as a result, people who were once prisoners of tyranny and our enemies are now our trading partners. It was his vision for the Strategic Defense Initiative that is being pursued today to protect our troops on the battlefield; and it was his commitment to peace through strength that brought the cold war to an end.

Ronald Reagan reminded us daily and by example what it means to be an American. He is still reminding us today.

It is for all of these reasons and for all of the others that will be discussed in this tribute that the Goldwater Institute, a Phoenix-based public policy institute, will present to him their prestigious Goldwater Award. The award is presented to an individual whose efforts have significantly promoted the principles that Senator Goldwater championed through out his career: Limited government, economic freedom and individual responsibility.

This year the award will be presented on April 21 and will be accepted by Former First

Lady Nancy Reagan. The award ceremony will be a true celebration of the movement for limited government. Barry Goldwater, the man largely responsible for launching the movement, will honor President Reagan, who brought the movement to victory. And, the keynote address will be given by our Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, the man whose task it is now to carry this movement into the future.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former President Ronald Reagan. I am proud to have this opportunity to speak about our 40th president who was born 84 years ago, in my home State of Illinois. At the age of 9 his family moved from Topica and settled in Dixon, IL where he played football and basketball, ran track, served as president of the student body, and first performed as an actor. Continuing his education in Illinois, Ronald Reagan graduated from Eureka College in 1932 with a degree in economics and sociology.

From humble beginnings, Ronald Wilson Reagan went on to become a sportscaster, actor, governor of California, and President of the United States.

Sworn in at the age of 69, Ronald Reagan was the oldest President ever elected. As one of America's most popular Presidents, Reagan presided over a period of great fiscal growth as he revitalized the American economy. Through his efforts, the American people enjoyed great prosperity, while he steered the country through the delicate times of the cold war.

Mr. Speaker, the state of Illinois is proud to have Ronald Wilson Reagan as a native Illinoisan. It is for this reason and all of his great services to the United States of America, that efforts are being made by the Illinois Senate to have Interstate Route 57 designated as the Ronald Reagan Highway. Stretching from the great city of Chicago, through the fields of middle America, to the beautiful scenic land of southern Illinois the Interstate offers a view of both the Land of Lincoln and the birthplace and early home of Ronald Reagan.

I urge my former colleagues of the Illinois State House to pass the legislation honoring Ronald Reagan and name Interstate Highway 57 after him.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in this celebration of President Reagan's 84th birthday. Ronald Reagan's place in history is secure. With each passing year, his stature as a leader grows.

President Reagan's most important contribution was the leadership he provided during the West's long struggle with totalitarian communism. When he called the Soviet Union an evil empire media pundits scorned him. Today, we all know that he was right. But President Reagan provided far more than rhetoric in the struggle against communism. In 1980, America was dangerously weak and demoralized. President Reagan understood this and he directed the strengthening of all aspects of our military, coordinating our efforts with other members of the Western alliance.

Following the end of World War II, country after country fell to communism. All of Eastern Europe fell, much of Asia fell, and inroads were even made in Africa and Latin America. The Iron Curtain went up, and freedom was on the defensive. This all ended in 1981. From the point when Ronald Reagan entered the White House, no additional territory fell to the Communists. From that point forward the tide

began to turn. On all fronts, the Reagan administration backed the forces of freedom. Solidarity in Poland was helped, the Afghan freedom fighters were helped, Grenada was liberated, and democratic struggles throughout Latin America were supported. The Soviet Union was confronted by a Western alliance that had finally awoken to the dangers of appeasement. The alliance was greatly strengthened by the friendship and support of President Reagan's close friend and ally, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The west won the cold war, and Ronald Reagan deserves much of the credit.

President Reagan's second great triumph was his economic plan. We was the first modern President to directly challenge the notion that more government was good. In his view, Government does not solve problems, it subsidizes them. While this view is widely held today, it was ridiculed throughout the 1960's and 1970's. During those years, Reagan was nearly alone in his struggle against the endless growth of government. But he never altered his message. Unlike other politicians, he stood firm, and gradually the country moved his way. That is what made him a leader.

The Reagan program of lower taxes and less regulation was a tremendous success. In the early Reagan years all income taxes were cut across-the-board by 25 percent. The decade to follow witnessed the longest peacetime economic expansion in the history of our Nation. All income groups experienced significant income gains from 1980 to 1989. Twenty million new jobs were created, and the vast majority were high-paying professional, production, and technical jobs.

In the late 1970's inflation was as high as 18 percent, and interest rates rose to 21 percent. The Reagan economic program brought both of these down dramatically. The 1970's malaise brought on by high inflation, skyrocketing interest rates, high unemployment, and high taxes was replaced by an economy that fostered opportunity, growth, and optimism.

President Reagan rallied our Nation. He reminded each of us of our proud history and heritage. He was never afraid to proclaim his love for America. Most important, he stood up for what he believed. He knew the importance of strength and resolve. The result was the most successful Presidency in decades. As Reagan himself reminded us:

History comes and goes, but principles endure and inspire future generations to defend liberty, not as a gift from government, but a blessing from our creator.

Happy birthday Mr. President.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan. Many have called our new freshman class the children of the Reagan revolution or the real Reagan revolution.

Ideologically, this is true. We are committed to the principles upon which Ronald Reagan was the chief spokesman: reduce the size of Government, cut taxes, rebuild not undermine our Nation's strong moral and family base, and stand for a strong America. In my case, it goes beyond the generalization. In 1964, just after my 15th birthday, I heard Ronald Reagan's famous speech for Barry Goldwater for President. Like many others, I was moved to action.

First, I took \$5 of my hard-earned "pop-bottle sorting" money I earned at our family's general store and sent it to Goldwater. Second, I was activated and never looked back. After Goldwater's shocking defeat—he did pretty well in my hometown of Grabbill—I organized a Young Americans for Freedom chapter at Leo High School, one of the Nation's first high school YAF chapters.

At our 1968 Leo High School commencement, as senior class president, I was asked to speak. In my draft remarks was a quote from then Governor of California Ronald Reagan, with the comment, "who will someday make a great President of the United States." Our faculty advisor, Mrs. Mumma, said to delete it or I couldn't speak. It was deleted off my cards, but I ad-libbed it anyway, being a somewhat independent person.

At the 1971 YAF national convention, I was part of a group of conservatives pushing Reagan to run in 1972. In 1976, I helped in his surprise victory in the Indiana Presidential primary for President. President Gerald Ford was respected in Indiana, as our neighbor from Michigan, but our hearts were with Reagan. A friend of mine, who had also been a Reagan backer since 1968, won the 4th Congressional District Republican primary in that same election. That Reagan fan went on to upset an incumbent member of Congress in the fall. I now hold my friend, and fellow Reaganite, Dan Quayle's old congressional seat.

In 1980, Dan Quayle went on to defeat an incumbent U.S. Senator and another friend of Reagan won the 4th District Congressional seat. After Quayle was elected Vice-President, our friend DAN COATS moved up to the U.S. Senate.

This is the Indiana version of the Reagan revolution. To those who thought the Reagan revolution was over, prepare yourselves. Dan Quayle is obviously still an important player and DAN COATS is in the Senate, and I am joined in the Indiana House delegation by my distinguished freshman colleague DAVE MCINTOSH, who worked in the Reagan administration.

After a short break, we are back. The legacy of Ronald Reagan will live on, led by the first State for Reagan—Indiana.

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former President Ronald Reagan, who celebrated his 84th birthday yesterday.

President Reagan has always loomed larger-than-life on the political landscape of this Nation, and though he has retired from the spotlight, his many contributions to our Nation are still being felt today. His enlightened world-view and his commitment to our national security ultimately resulted in the end of the cold war and the spread of democracy around the world.

And the conservative ideals upon which he based the Reagan revolution are experiencing a renaissance, as both citizens and lawmakers realize that the big-government, bureaucratic approach to problem-solving is not working.

I know that this must be a bittersweet birthday for President Reagan, as he faces what is perhaps his greatest challenge. However, I am also sure that he derives a great deal of comfort from knowing that he has his devoted wife at his side, that he is remembered in the prayers of a grateful Nation, and that, once again,

on the horizon of this great Nation, there is a glimmer of morning in America.

Happy birthday, Mr. President, and thank you.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan's Presidency brought a fresh breath of renewed freedom to this country shackled by regulation, inflation, high interest rates, and higher taxes at the time of his first inauguration.

It was the policies of Ronald Reagan which brought about the greatest national upset of the century—the collapse of the Soviet Union. Ronald Reagan toppled the reign of an evil empire which its own citizens sought but who were helpless to free themselves from—the dictatorship which Lenin and Stalin had set upon them.

He kept his faith in America.

Ronald Reagan gave this country its biggest tax cut in the first year of his presidency. The Reagan cut stimulated the dynamic growth of the decade that followed, an explosion which created 20 million jobs.

Ronald Reagan adhered faithfully to traditional American family values. He was adamant against abortion.

It was Ronald Reagan who touched off the debate on free trade. His leadership in this area brought about our first free-trade agreement with Canada. The NAFTA pact followed.

I personally have been a Ronald Reagan supporter for over a quarter of a century. I battled in vain to gain him the Republican nomination for President in 1968 in Miami Beach, and in 1976 in Kansas City. When I withdrew from the presidential campaign in 1980, I threw all my support behind him.

Ronald Reagan—a native of my own home State of Illinois—was ever the optimist who recognized that the United States still represents the world's best hope.

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in sending grateful happy birthday wishes to President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few figures in each century who transcend their times. Americans point to Washington and Jefferson, Britons to Winston Churchill. As we celebrate his eighty-fourth birthday, it is past time to add the name of Ronald Reagan to liberty's pantheon.

It is hard to remember what it was like before Ronald Reagan came to Washington. The 1970's were a decade of disillusionment. Communism was on the march. Democratic government and the rule of law were in retreat. We were even questioning our purpose as Americans.

Yet, there came a great wind of change in 1980 which left America and the globe transformed beyond all recognition. Ronald Reagan led the way. Like Churchill before him, he gave free people the voice they thought they had lost. His ideas produced an economic dynamism Americans had not seen for decades. He exuded confidence in the American spirit. He harbored no inhibitions about the use of American power and he stood guard as the iron curtain crumbled before our eyes.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan mirrored the thoughts, desires, and faith of ordinary Americans. He recognized as they did, that America is "the bright shining city on the hill." Happy birthday, Mr. President. May you have many more.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate President Ronald Reagan's birthday. During his administration, President Reagan rekindled our Founding Fathers' guiding prin-

ciples of limited government. In his inaugural speech President Reagan reminded Americans that "we are a nation that has a government—not the other way around."

I began my congressional service under his administration. I came here sharing Reagan's vision of American renewal. Today, his insight continues to drive the work of the 104th Congress as we press for less spending, less taxes, and less regulation. His philosophy echoes in the mandate Americans sent Congress in November. His values provided the underpinnings for the Republican Contract With America.

Under decades of liberal leadership, the Congress forced the American people to carry the weight of a bloated, wasteful government. Under Reagan's leadership the American people found relief from the liberal tax-and-spend machine and a sense of national renewal.

During the 97th Congress, President Reagan initiated the line-item veto by choosing to hold the line on wasteful spending. He sent House Joint Resolution 357—the continuing resolution providing appropriations for fiscal year 1982—back to Congress. He courageously tried to protect the American taxpayer from unnecessary spending. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the budget-busting liberal Congress chose to ignore his warnings and continued to produce wasteful, bloated budgets year after year.

The Republican-controlled 104th Congress has the opportunity to roll back the big spenders in Congress. President Reagan showed us the way. Now we must take the lead and pass the line-item veto.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize President Reagan for his political and personal achievements. His freedom agenda, our Republican Contract With America, is alive within the walls of Congress. Happy birthday, President Reagan.

NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. HANSEN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about something that was important to Ronald Reagan and important to the American people and at the heart, I think, of our success as a Nation during the 1980's and very much at the heart of whether or not we will be successful in the 1990's, and that is national security.

Today the President unveiled his defense budget and, Mr. Speaker, to be charitable, it is a budget that slashes national defense.

To give you some idea of the magnitude of the cuts that have been made by the Clinton administration, it is important to understand that in 1990, President Bush, then President Bush, got together with the Democrat leadership of this House, and he established a defense line below which we would not cut, and Democrats and Republicans agreed that that was an important line to keep, an important mark to keep if we were to maintain America's interest and maintain the security of our people. Now, after the fall of the Berlin

Wall and the commencement of the breakup of the Soviet Union and in light of that, in 1992, President Bush got together with his Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, his then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell, and they put together another defense budget, and because of the breakdown of the Soviet empire, they decided that they could prudently cut \$50 billion over 5 years below the agreement that the President had made with the Democrat leadership in 1990, and they started to engage in those cuts, \$50 billion.

Well, when President Clinton was elected, he put together a 5-year defense plan cut \$127 billion below even the Bush cuts of \$50 billion. That means about \$177 billion below the agreement that had been made in 1990.

I want to talk tonight a little bit about what this installment, this year's installment of the Clinton defense cuts will mean to the armed services of the United States and to the security of the American people.

You know, last year the President's people projected what this year's defense budget should be. And what is very interesting, and I heard Secretary Perry give a very well-ordered speech yesterday in description of the defense budget, but it was interesting to see that Secretary Perry and President Clinton have cut \$9 billion in new weapons systems, new equipment systems, out of the budget that last year they felt were important systems. And it is also interesting to see that President Clinton understood last year that he was about \$6 billion short with respect to this year's defense budget. He knew he would have to get the money somewhere.

And yet he only added \$2 billion to this year's defense spending, meaning he knew that he was going to be going in the hole about \$4 billion.

Well, Secretary Perry says, and I am paraphrasing his theme, he says that our country will be ready to fight even with these reduced forces. Let me tell you how low our force structure is going to be under the Clinton defense plan.

We are going to go from about 18 active army divisions to 10, almost cut 50 percent in our army divisions. We are going to cut from about 24 fighter air wing equivalents to about 13, and we are almost there. That means we will have to cut from America's air power almost 50 percent.

That means we are cashing in young people at a rate in excess of 1,500 young people a week out of the military, and I am reminded of what George Marshall said at the conclusion of World War II when we were demobilizing at such a radical pace, and when he was asked how the demobilization was going, he said, "This isn't a demobilization, it is a rout," and I would assert what we are undertaking right now is not a demobilization, it is not a drawdown, it is not a prudent reduction, it is a rout.