

IT IS TIME FOR TAX RELIEF

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, every American who pays taxes deserves a tax cut. With consumer confidence starting to slump and the economy starting to slow down, the Congress and President needs to work in a bipartisan manner to pass meaningful tax relief for the American people. Cutting taxes is essential to strengthening our economy.

With President Bush, we have a greater opportunity to get tax relief to the American people. President Bush has a tax relief proposal that will cut taxes for every American who pays taxes. This proposal will spur economic growth in two ways: first, it will put more money in the wallets of the American people; second, it will take money off the table in Washington, making it more difficult for the government to grow out of control.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reduce marginal tax rates; we need to eliminate the death tax; we need to eliminate the marriage penalty; and we need to have a charitable tax deduction. A series of changes needs to be made in the Tax Code to make it more fair and simpler for all Americans.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

THIRD REPORT ON OPERATION OF ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 203(f) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) of 1991, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.), I transmit herewith the third report to the Congress on the Operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 5, 2001.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

□ 1415

RECOGNIZING 90TH BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 7) recognizing the 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 7

Whereas February 6, 2001, is the 90th birthday of Ronald Wilson Reagan;

Whereas both Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan have distinguished records of public service to the United States, the American people, and the international community;

Whereas Ronald Reagan was twice elected by overwhelming margins as President of the United States;

Whereas Ronald Reagan fulfilled his pledge to help restore "the great, confident roar of American progress, growth, and optimism" and ensure renewed economic prosperity;

Whereas Ronald Reagan's leadership was instrumental in extending freedom and democracy around the globe and uniting a world divided by the Cold War;

Whereas Ronald Reagan is loved and admired by millions of Americans, and by countless others around the world;

Whereas Ronald Reagan's eloquence united Americans in times of triumph and tragedy;

Whereas Nancy Reagan not only served as a gracious First Lady but also led a national crusade against illegal drug use;

Whereas together Ronald and Nancy Reagan dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and to bettering the quality of life in the United States and throughout the world; and

Whereas the thoughts and prayers of the Congress and the country are with Ronald Reagan in his courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the Congress, on behalf of the American people, extends its birthday greetings and best wishes to Ronald Reagan on his 90th birthday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

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

I am pleased to have the House consider House Joint Resolution 7, important legislation introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives in recognition of President Ronald Reagan's 90th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor Ronald Reagan, our Nation's 40th President, who joins only John Adams and Herbert Hoover as former presidents to reach the age of 90.

President Reagan moved into the White House in 1981, 7 years after

America lost confidence in the presidency due to Watergate, 6 years after the end of the Vietnam War, which ripped America apart and, during dire economic times, including high inflation, high unemployment, and high interest rates. Across the country, morale was low. America was embarrassed in Iran with the hostage crisis, and our standing abroad had been greatly diminished.

And then came Ronald Reagan, riding into Washington to save the American spirit.

From the moment he placed his hand on the Bible to take the oath as President on January 20, 1981, it was clear that America would once again stand tall. In his inaugural address, Ronald Reagan said that we had every right to dream heroic dreams. After all, he said, "Why not? We are Americans."

Ronald Reagan came to office disdained by many so-called wise men and women. They called him an "amiable dunce" and an actor reading a script. They twisted his belief in a strong defense and staunch anticommunism into a caricature of a war-monger unable to deal constructively with the Soviet Union. They were aghast at his common-sense characterization of the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," and his prediction that it was headed for the "ash heap of history."

But President Reagan was a man of character and a man of conviction. He was a leader, a man not mesmerized by polls and focus groups, but one with the courage to stand up for what was right.

With the strength of his beliefs and his faith in the ideals in the Founders and the inherent talent, energy and character of the American people, Ronald Reagan transformed our country and our world.

He brought the world closer to peace and ended the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union. Thanks to President Reagan's determination and leadership, the Berlin Wall fell, and then the Soviet Union fell, and with it, all the statues and monuments to Lenin, Stalin, and other former Soviet Union leaders. President Reagan had brought the Cold War to an end. The world was finally at peace.

Ronald Reagan lead our economy out of an economic abyss and into years of prosperity with low interest rates, low unemployment, and low inflation. He rebuilt the hollow military force that he inherited into a fighting force second to none. America stands tall today, thanks to the leadership of Ronald Reagan. He is a giant among presidents and remains a larger-than-life figure who changed the world for the better.

Ronald Reagan was a President with class, dignity and respect for the high office to which he was elected. Future historians will recognize him as one of America's truly great Presidents. For all that he did, for all that he said, and for all that he stood for, President Reagan deserves our admiration, our respect, and our gratitude. On behalf of

all Americans, we in the Congress proclaim: Happy 90th birthday, President Reagan.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand up here to honor the man, Ronald Reagan, today. My father was born only 6 days after Ronald Reagan. He passed away early last year and shared, as a World War II veteran as Ronald Reagan was, my father shared the same values and the same patriotism that my friends talk about with Ronald Reagan.

I hope that we learned something from the Reagan years. We all watched this country in 1981. This country went down the course of tax cuts for the wealthiest citizens, big increases in military spending, the beginning of Star Wars, and the beginning of the most persistent, obscene budget deficits that this country had ever seen, to the point that by 1992, when President Clinton was elected, we were running up the budget deficit; we were spending \$1 billion a day more than we were bringing in. We ran a deficit which was \$1 billion in 1981 when President Reagan took office, a debt of \$1 trillion that went to \$5 trillion in those 12 years.

So while we do honor President Reagan today, and we have taken the last 8 years to clean up, if you will, that debt, those fiscal problems we were in, I hope that we can honor Ronald Reagan best by, while honoring the good things he did, but not repeating the mistakes he made, not repeating the way that some want to today with tax cuts for the rich, more increases in military spending, and Star Wars running up again these huge budget deficits.

So I hope that we honor the man, and we certainly, on this side as, Democrats have no objection to this bill and support the measure. We honor the man and we learn from history's mistakes.

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

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. Cox).

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

When I first was elected to Congress in 1988, it was the last year of the Reagan administration. I had worked for President Reagan in the White House as his legal counsel, and because the Congress is sworn in shortly before the Presidential Inauguration, as we recall from the events of just a few weeks ago, I served in this House of Representatives under President Reagan for a period of a few weeks. My colleague from southern California, also elected to the House of Representatives that year, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), who is here in the Chamber with us today,

likewise had been here when President Reagan came and addressed us from the floor of the House, the minority Members then, because we were a Republican minority, and I sat in that back row, and President Reagan, who not being a former Member of Congress, stood at this particular rostrum, which is reserved under our traditions, because it is on the left-hand side of the aisle, for the Democrats. He described his career and how he became involved in public life as the leader of a labor union, how he had campaigned for Harry Truman, and how the principles of freedom that he stood for had remained with him all of that time. But, he said, about midway through his adult life, while he helped fashion those principles, his party did not, and he strode, purposefully across the floor from this rostrum to this rostrum and said, that is how he became a Republican. But the truth is that after two terms as President, Democrats and Republicans overwhelmingly claimed Ronald Reagan as their great President and a great leader and a great spokesman for the ideas that Americans, not Republicans, not Democrats, all share.

It was 20 years ago that this brave and idealistic man came to Washington, and I will say that with the benefit of a fifth of the century since that time, it is pretty clear that Washington has rarely seen his like. He is a hero to the Nation, and I can honestly say he is a hero of mine. We have seen that heroism once again as he and his wife, Nancy, whom we all fondly recall as our First Lady, wage their brave fight against Alzheimer's disease.

Ronald Reagan has lived a remarkable life of leadership, first as the head of a great labor union, then as governor of California, now our most populous State, two terms, then two terms as President of the United States. The same qualities brought him through each of those remarkable careers. The courage to be candid, to be honest, to be forthright, the courage fortified by faith and by humor. Even now on his 90th birthday, I am sure, were he with us today, I am sure he would tell us a joke about his age. I remember when I worked for him at the White House he used to say, I have already lived 20 years longer than my life expectancy at birth, and that has been a source of annoyance to a great many people.

His courage created the unique optimism that is now always associated with President Reagan, and that spread throughout the whole country. Our Nation became more optimistic, believed more in itself as a result of his leadership. When President Reagan stood at the Brandenburg gate and said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," he did so at a time when most people in official circles in Washington believed that the Berlin Wall and, indeed, Soviet communism itself, were permanent facts of life, to be accommodated and, perhaps, at best, contained. But Ronald Reagan knew better. Shortly after he said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear

down this wall," the Berlin Wall did, in fact, come tumbling down, and half a continent in chains for 45 years was liberated.

President Reagan, of course, would deny much credit for this. He attributed it to America and its own ideals. Here is what he said on December 16, 1983, when he created the National Endowment for Democracy. "Speaking out for human rights and individual liberty and for the rule of law is good and right," he said, "but it is just not good enough. We must work hard for democracy and freedom, and that means putting our resources, organizations, sweat and dollars behind a long-term program," and he had a long-term program to win the Cold War, and today we are all the beneficiaries of it.

President Reagan saw this not as a great military victory alone, although surely it ended that doctrine of mutual assured destruction that loomed like a shadow over all of our lives for so many decades but, rather, even more as a victory of freedom for millions of people enslaved by communism.

I will mention in response to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), that because I worked in the White House during the Reagan administration, I saw that here in Congress, President Reagan was unsuccessful in controlling spending. Yes, he did bring America's top tax rates from 70 percent down to 28 percent, and yes, that did ignite an economic expansion that we are still living through today; but no, President Reagan did not bring us deficits, for during the 1980s tax revenues to the government more than doubled as a result of that economic expansion that he started. Instead, it was runaway spending in Congress that President Reagan unsuccessfully railed against. In his last State of the Union address from this very rostrum, he asked Americans to give him a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, so that even if Congress were unwilling to be fiscally responsible, we could live within our means.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, I say to President Reagan, I am happy to tell him that his message has sunk in. We are all Reaganites now, for all of us working together, Republicans and Democrats, are balancing the budget. We are now arguing about how to spend the tax surplus or give it back to the taxpayers.

These are happy times. Indeed, all of it, I think, can be dated back to the hard work and leadership provided by President Reagan.

So, Mr. Speaker, for President Reagan's 90th birthday, how about if we promise to complete the Reagan revolution here in Congress. Happy birthday, Mr. President.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure for me to be able to rise and speak in support of this resolution, and join my two distinguished colleagues from California, Mr. COX and Mr. ROHRABACHER, who are both alumni of the Reagan administration.

Later this afternoon I will have a bill on the floor that further honors the legacy of Ronald Reagan by naming a post office in my congressional district after our 40th President.

I feel very strongly that what we are doing today and what we are doing as part of the Reagan Legacy Project in items like naming a post office after Ronald Reagan are extremely important.

Ronald Reagan was a man who was harshly criticized by the liberal Democrat-leaning press in the United States throughout his Presidency. Much of his legacy will be defined by those press reports, and, as well, by those historians who, in addition to journalists, tend to be overwhelmingly liberal, Democratic-leaning, anti-Republican and anti-conservative in most of their philosophy.

So therefore, I think it is extremely important that people such as ourselves raise our voices and try our best to get the truth out.

In this regard, I was extremely pleased just Sunday to pick up a copy of the Washington Post, a newspaper that had been, I think, harshly critical of much of the Reagan administration initiatives, and lo and behold, there was a favorable story in there indicating that when we actually sit down and read some of Ronald Reagan's papers that are being made available to the public, lo and behold, we find that he was actually smart; that he actually had very, very good insights into what he was doing. To see this indeed printed by the Washington Post to me was extremely gratifying.

Ronald Reagan indeed was one of the greatest Presidents in our Nation's history, and I believe was one of the greatest of the 20th century. As was very, very well outlined by my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, in his comments earlier, he came to office at a time when we had very high inflation rates, high unemployment, low morale.

We had been through some very difficult years. His policies were successful not only in ending the Cold War and turning that economic crisis around, but probably, more importantly, lifting the American spirit.

We are living under the legacy of the policies that he introduced back then still to this day. Economists attribute the strong economy of the nineties to Alan Greenspan and the policies of Ronald Reagan. It is therefore fitting that we honor him on his birthday in this way.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER).

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to join my colleagues and

thousands of Idaho citizens in sending the very best of birthday wishes to President Ronald Reagan on his 90th birthday, or, in his words, the 51st anniversary of his 39th birthday.

When President Reagan came to office 20 years ago, he was faced with double-digit interest rates, rampant inflation, high unemployment, long gas lines, a weakened military, low national morale, and with a Democrat-controlled House, he, too, sought a bipartisan agreement and support, and in that process, cut the tax rates 25 percent, reduced wasteful spending, strengthened our national defense, and restored America's pride and her respect.

I was honored to serve on President Reagan's Task Force on International Private Enterprise. His vision of free markets, reducing tax burdensome regulations, and smaller, more responsible government, is as relevant in the year 2001 as it was in 1981.

America thanks President Reagan for his vision and leadership. Our prayers are with him and our prayers are with Nancy.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor former President Ronald Reagan on the occasion of his 90th birthday. For those of us who worked with him, it is a tremendous source of satisfaction that our former boss is now being given the credit that he is due as one of America's greatest Presidents.

Every day it is becoming ever more clear that the long period of prosperity our people have enjoyed started in January of 1983. January of 1983 is when Ronald Reagan's economic policies, especially his tax program, went into full effect. At that point the economy took off like a rocket, and it has not ceased to expand since then to this very day, except for a very short 6-month dip in 1999 and 1992, unfortunately during a presidential election.

By the time President Clinton took office, however, the man who now claims credit for this long period of expansion, the growth rate in the economy was already 5.4 percent based on, of course, the strong economy that ignited in January of 1983.

My apologies to my friends on the other side of the aisle, but it was President Reagan whose policies led to this dramatic uplifting of the well-being of the American people that we have enjoyed for over a decade now.

Most of all, one of the factors that has insured that prosperity was that Ronald Reagan had a tough pro-freedom, pro-strength foreign policy that ended the Cold War and ushered the world into a new historic era of peace. The potential for world peace was never greater than at the end of his term in office, so that hundreds of billions of dollars that would have been

spent on weapons now can build better lives for people and help pay off our debt. Our brightest minds, instead of focusing on developing technologies that will kill people more effectively, now can focus on technologies that will uplift the condition of humankind. That is what Ronald Reagan brought us, the kind of world that Ronald Reagan brought us.

The peace and prosperity to which I refer did not just happen. It came as a result of the courage and the wisdom of Ronald Reagan, a former lifeguard in a very small town in Illinois. A lifeguard, that is how he started out, and that is what he did for his entire life. He saved the lives of 17 people in a small lake, and continued trying to save people for the rest of his life.

He invested in the military, in our military, to win the Cold War. Just like we did in World War II, we invested a lot of money. There was a great deal of debt in World War II, but under his leadership, America went on the offensive. We began supporting freedom fighters, battling Soviet troops and surrogates from Afghanistan to Nicaragua, and supported democratic movements in Poland and in the Soviet Union itself.

In the end, the greatest and most sinister threat to freedom on our planet collapsed in its own evil. It would not have happened without the vision of Ronald Reagan, a former lifeguard, and yes, a former sports announcer and a former actor.

Today it is often said that the accomplishments I have mentioned would have happened anyway, without Ronald Reagan. Well, it just is not so. Ronald Reagan fought his battle against people who opposed everything he was trying to do every step of the way. He made things happen with the strength of his convictions and the power of his speeches.

He was maligned as heartless and as stupid by people who disagreed with his approach. Let me add, a majority of Democrats in this Congress and in the Congress at that time consistently voted to undermine every attempt Ronald Reagan made to confront Soviet expansionism, whether it was the supporting of anti-Communist forces in Latin America or the rebuilding of our military strength. Had their policies been heard and carried the day, we would still be in the Cold War and still be spending those billions of wasted dollars on weapons systems that now can be spent in economy-building ways.

Ronald Reagan was a good-hearted man. He was a strong man, but a good-hearted man, as good-hearted as I have ever met. He was hurt by suggestions that he was a mean-spirited person or did not care about others.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). All time has expired.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 additional minutes.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Each side will control 3 additional minutes.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, by insisting on responsible policies, President Reagan proved that he cared much more about the needy and downtrodden than his touchy-feely liberal critics whose decades-long failed policies had kept millions of Americans in despair and dependency.

Yes, during the Reagan years there was a budget deficit, as has been mentioned, just as there was in World War II. That deficit can almost all be attributed to our military buildup, and I admit that, certainly, that was the factor. But it was that buildup that permitted us to end the Cold War and to lower the level of defense spending and now to balance our budget, which is exactly what we have done. Now, in the spirit of Ronald Reagan, we are cutting taxes and paying down and paying off the debt.

Finally, the viciousness against Reagan was at times so much. However, he himself kept a positive attitude. Reagan was often described as a puppet, a man, just a front man, and other decision-makers were using him. This characterization is so contrary to the reality of those of us who knew him that it just boggles the mind.

The now famous Berlin Wall speech in which Ronald Reagan called for Gorbachev to tear down the wall, every one of his senior advisors told him, begged him, pleaded with him not to say it, but Ronald Reagan knew that if he was to remain true to the things that he had believed in all his life and was going to give hope to those people around the world, that they had to know that we believed in what we had been saying. He had to tell Mr. Gorbachev to tear down that wall, even though George Schultz and all his advisors and people in this city today who claim to have written that speech for Ronald Reagan were people who were actually advising him not to give the speech.

Reagan stayed true to his ideals, and he saved the world in doing so. Today, the Ronald Reagan we knew and loved still lives, and he grows in stature as history reflects upon his enormous accomplishments and leadership. We wish him a happy 90th birthday.

We enter now a new millennium, celebrating our liberty, secure in our peace, and blessed by prosperity and unimagined opportunity. A man of vision and ideals saw this as he looked ahead. He took the steps and stands that were necessary to make it happen.

We thank Ronald Reagan. Now it is up to us, and I am certain if he were with us today, he would be just as confident of the American people as he ever was, and he would urge us on to greater heights and achievements because, after all, as he reminded us, we are Americans. So, what is holding us up? Let us get going.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan has also enjoyed a special relationship with the American people. In 1994, after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, he wrote a heartfelt letter to all of us. "My fellow Americans," he wrote, "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."

Thanks to President Reagan, there is still a bright dawn in our future. For that, President Reagan deserves our gratitude, our best wishes, and our love. Happy birthday, President Reagan. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this joint resolution.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan. As we honor his life it is important to reflect on what he has contributed to our nation. As I consider this remarkable life, from his boyhood to the present, I see the heroic figure of a man coming to the rescue.

His first period of public service was when he served as lifeguard at Lowell Park in Dixon, Illinois. In seven years as a lifeguard, he is credited with saving 77 lives. To this very day, the sum of Ronald Reagan's contributions is measured by what he has done for others.

After a successful career in Hollywood as an actor and union president, Reagan again turned to public service. He witnessed the turmoil of the 1960s and the difficulties facing his beloved state of California. He saw the need for leadership and a new course directed from the governor's mansion. Never before holding public office, Ronald Reagan boldly stepped forward and offered his vision to the voters of America's most populous state. He won in a landslide.

After two terms in Sacramento, Governor Reagan saw a series of threats menacing the United States. He challenged the incumbent Republican President in 1976 for the nomination, and, although he did not succeed, he revitalized the conservative movement. In 1980, Reagan again entered the presidential race and this time he won his party's nomination.

I remember well the era of uncertainty that clouded America's future. Communism had reached the zenith of its power with strongholds in Asia, Africa, Europe, Cuba, and even Central America. American hostages were held in Iran and the enemies of the United States celebrated our weakness. Our economy was deflated and the American people dispirited.

Here in Washington in 1980, the President buckled to the pessimism of the time and called on the people to accept that our best days were gone. Ronald Reagan would have none of that—not the nonsense that America was a crippled giant, or that our best days were history. He placed before the American people his vision that we could overcome any hardship and route any challenge.

He renewed our belief in ourselves and we elected him to the White House. Again, Ronald Reagan came to the rescue. He turned our economy around, rebuilt our military, and aggressively outlined our national interests. The results were astounding.

Double-digit inflation and a 70-percent tax rate drained out economic vitality. He pushed the top tax rate down to 28 percent and broke the back of inflation. In the last 18 years, we

have enjoyed economic growth in all but six months. Our recent prosperity is rooted in the seeds Reagan planted 20 years ago.

Reagan applied his faith in freedom and opportunity to world events as well. He knew that if we stood up to communism, it would be the forces of oppression that would collapse. Now, the Cold War is over—his unwavering defense of freedom and economic opportunity has transformed the world.

Our prosperity and our security are the legacies of Ronald Reagan. However, I think his most lasting gift to the nation is the rekindled American spirit. Thank you President Reagan for all you have done for the nation and for the world. I join everyone in wishing you a happy birthday.

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to add the voices of New York's First Congressional District as we honor a true American hero, President Ronald Reagan, on the celebration of his 90th Birthday.

At a dark time in our country's history, President Reagan reminded our nation of its greatness of all we had accomplished over the course of 200 years of history, and all the potential we held in store. If only we could shed the great sense of pessimism that plagued our country.

And why not? America has always been the home of the industrious, the self reliant, and those who knew that a better way to a better future could, and would be found. Americans have excelled because they won't settle for second best, or merely for the best that is available. We constantly strive to make things better.

President Reagan knew this, and he knew it was his mission to remind us of that. It was his mission to restore our faith and confidence in our nation and ourselves.

Spreading his message in a way that cut across all social and economic classes, President Reagan cut to the heart of the arguments of popular pessimism, and revealed their folly. He inspired us as a nation. As a people.

President Reagan knew America could be better. He reminded us that America is, and always has been, the land of hope, freedom and prosperity, the destination of millions who dream of coming here and sharing in, and contributing, to our destiny with greatness.

Under his guidance, America's prominence in the World community was restored. Our economy blossomed, and hope and promise spread from neighborhood to neighborhood. Community to community. From one coastline to another.

Ronald Reagan was the voice in the darkness that reminded us of this. It wasn't just nostalgic longing after a decade of economic, military and social decline. It was a fact. Just look around.

And just as we have countless times in our history, from the Sons of Liberty to the spirit of inventors such as Thomas Edison and the great economic expansion of the Eisenhower Administration, America rallied.

President Reagan led our charge. We as a nation seized our destiny, under his leadership, and proved once again that we were the best on the planet. Simply because of a man who, like our father, told us that he believed in us, and knew all along that we could.

He inspired all Americans to make a contribution into our communities. On a personal

note, I distinctly recall how President Reagan energized me to get involved in public service. His words and actions instilled within me the importance of public service. His guiding principles of tax relief, patriotism, contributions to our communities, and pride in our country led me to public service. To use the skills I learned in private industry to enhance the quality of life of my neighbors, friends and family.

I can't imagine America today if it hadn't been for Ronald Reagan. For that, and so much more, on behalf of citizens of New York's First Congressional District, grateful for your service to our nation and the inspiration you are, I wish you the very best of birthdays.

Mr. Speaker, thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 90th birthday of former President Ronald Reagan, a decent and honorable man, who had the unique ability to see what was best about America and appeal to "the better angels of our nature."

He came into office when America was suffering from a crisis of confidence, and he gave us back our voice.

By invoking images of a "shining city upon a hill" he reminded Americans not only of our national heritage, but of how the oppressed and downtrodden of the world looked to this nation for leadership.

In my recent trip to Africa I was again reminded of how incredibly blessed America is. It is my firm belief that to whom much is given much is required.

Those who are oppressed and downtrodden today still view this nation as Ronald Reagan described it a decade ago—a "shining city upon a hill"—a beacon of hope and democracy.

And so, in the spirit of President Reagan's birthday I ask that you take a moment to reflect on how we can continue to embrace this calling. While the Cold War is over, the Berlin Wall is down, and Soviet communism is in the ash heap of history as Reagan predicted it would be, there are still those fighting for the freedom that we so often take for granted. Whether it be the persecuted House Church pastor in China or the frightened civilian in the Sudanese marketplace praying not to be the unlucky target of daily bombing raids, these people demand a voice.

President Reagan was a champion for human rights in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He spoke up in defense of freedom and democracy. He raised the cases of dissidents during his high-level meetings with Soviet officials. He made passionate and eloquent speeches outlining America's values. He engaged, but he engaged forthrightly and he backed up engagement with action.

President Reagan once 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."

Sadly President Reagan does not remember the hope that his words provided to millions living behind the Iron Curtain. But we can not forget. For while the times and circumstances may have changed, the yearning for freedom has not.

We send our best wishes today to Ronald Reagan and with those wishes go our appreciation as a grateful nation that we were fortunate enough to have him serve as our President.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan.

It is natural on birthdays to reflect on the mark one has made in life. We have much to reflect upon today, on Ronald Reagan's Ninetieth birthday. Because of his leadership, Americans are more prosperous, secure, and free.

Reagan's leadership has left America more prosperous. The record economic expansion of the past two decades can be directly attributed to the policy changes enacted by Ronald Reagan. Cutting taxes, deregulating industries, and greatly reducing the possibility of catastrophic war have proven a winning formula for economic success. Leaders across the world have learned and are copying his example.

When his contemporaries pursued an industrial policy or a middle ground between capitalism and socialism, Reagan opted for limited government. As a result, America has reaped virtually uninterrupted economic growth and surged ahead of rivals in technological innovation.

Reagan's leadership has left America more secure. His grand strategic plan brought down the greatest threat to our way of life. His contemporaries counseled détente and feared confrontation with the Soviet Union. But Reagan unabashedly called it the Evil Empire and wanted nothing less than its destruction.

After years of military decline, Reagan rebuilt and restored the morale of our military. Never has a nation become so mighty as the United States, and it is due in no small part to leadership of Ronald Reagan.

And Reagan's advocacy of the Strategic Defense Initiative will shortly bear fruit as we build a national missile defense. He recognized the insanity of MAD, and though we should instead construct a physical, rather than merely psychological, defense to protect Americans and our allies from the horror of nuclear war.

Most important, Reagan's leadership has left Americans and the world more free. Domestically, Americans are freer than before Reagan entered the Oval Office. And, his philosophical legacy has shifted the momentum of history toward, rather than away from, greater individual freedom.

Around the world, hundreds of millions of people formerly enslaved by communism have been liberated by the collapse of the Soviet Union, precipitated by Ronald Reagan. Only five countries remain so enslaved. Even citizens in countries that were not communist also enjoy greater freedom, as their governments recognize the success of the Reagan model and decrease government interference in their lives.

In increasing our prosperity, security, and freedom, president Ronald Reagan succeeded greatly in the most crucial functions of government. For this, he is one of our greatest presidents.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 7, a bill to recognize the accomplishments and legacy of President Reagan.

What is the standard we use to judge our Presidents? How do we appropriately honor those men who have served our great nation and the office of the Presidency with great distinction, courage, honor, and vision? In this city, which is already graced with so many

memorials of marble, granite, and bronze, to men and women who have loved freedom more than life and their country more than self—how can we best remember and celebrate the service rendered to these United States and to those dedicated to the cause of freedom throughout the world by President Ronald W. Reagan?

President Reagan represents the spirit that has made America strong. He began his eight years in office at a time when America appeared to be on the ebb—economically and militarily demoralized. But for President Reagan—it was morning in America. America during the Reagan years was an America of hopes fulfilled and a place where dreams came true. Reagan's America was to be a Shining City on a Hill—shining the light of freedom for all peoples throughout the world. This was his vision, a vision from which he never wavered.

In a speech given in 1964, President Reagan responded to his detractors, to those who said that only bigger and more powerful governments could provide security despite the price of freedom.

He said:

They say the world has become too complex for simple answers. They are wrong. There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right. . . You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children the last best hope of man on earth or we will sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness.

Throughout his life, President Reagan has fought against tyranny and oppression—against that thousand years of darkness. He did not shy back from calling the communist Soviet Union an Evil Empire; He did not hesitate to support those freedom-fighters who were engaged in battle against tyranny; He fought back relentlessly against every attack against America's people and her interest.

His moral courage and his conviction that America should be the example for all who would desire freedom to pursue life, liberty and happiness never failed and he is an example to all Americans. Around the world today, we are harvesting the benefits of that vision and hard labor as more and more nations around the world are turning from tyranny and oppression to democracy and justice.

I still share President Reagan's vision of America as a Shining City on a Hill shining its light freedom around the world. It is only fitting that we honor the lifetime and legacy of this great American hero. As long as freedom is our watchword and liberty our call to arms, America will continue to so shine its light into the world for all to see.

Mr. KERNS. Mr. Speaker, today history is made, as President Ronald Wilson Reagan is one of only three President's to reach the age of 90. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish President Reagan a Happy Birthday!

President Reagan is the reason I am able to stand here before my colleagues today. His strength as a leader, inspired me to someday serve this great nation, as he so eloquently has served. And I feel honored that I have been given the opportunity.

Because of his hard work and devotion to conservative ideals, his presidency resulted in one of the most dynamic periods in recent

U.S. history, refocusing our nation's business, international and social agendas. We are a better country today because of his leadership.

It is my hope, that I may be able to work with my colleagues to continue what President Reagan started, "to make government work with us, not over us; stand by our side, not ride on our back." We are still working to continue what he started 20 years ago, "the era of national renewal".

We are faced with many important domestic policy decisions before us this Congress. Many of the same issues President Reagan's presidency was faced with including tax cuts, social security reform and issues concerning medicare. May we always be able to look back on his years and have them guide us into the next century.

Let us be able to remember President Reagan's daily optimism and wake up each day with the aspirations of making today better than yesterday, and tomorrow better than today.

As we work to make tomorrow better, may we remember his bi-partisan message that "there is no such thing as a left or right. There is only an up or down.

Let us keep President Reagan's vision for America alive and never back down on what we believe will make this world a better place, doing what sometimes may seem the impossible. Let us remember his words that make the unthinkable a reality. "Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!".

The President once remarked: "What I'd really like to do is go down in history as the President who made Americans believe in themselves again."

The Gipper said it best, "we will always remember, we will always be proud, we will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

Happy Birthday to President Reagan!

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on this day, Ronald Reagan will join John Adams and Herbert Hoover as the only Presidents to reach age 90. We know him as our 40th President. However, many do not know the precedents set by him. For example:

He was the oldest man elected president;

He was the first Hollywood actor to be elected President, earning the monikers, "Dutch," "The Gipper," and "The Great Communicator," and

He appointed the first woman to the supreme court, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Ronald Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois on February 6, 1911. While at Eureka College, he studied economics and sociology, played on the football team, acted in school plays, and served as class president. While in college, young Reagan proven himself to be a strong, well-liked, vocal leader, characteristics that would suit him well in future endeavors.

After graduation, Reagan worked as a sports announcer for WOC, a radio station in Davenport, Iowa. Subsequently, he pursued a career in broadcasting and acting.

In 1947, after serving for three years in the U.S. Army, he was elected president of the Screen Actors Guild. As president of the Screen Actors Guild, Reagan became embroiled in disputes over the issue of Communism in the film industry; his political views shifted from liberal to conservative. Moreover,

he toured the country as a television host, becoming a spokesman for conservatism-taking it to the mainstream.

Leadership extended beyond Reagan's film career into public service. He focused on understanding the nation's institutions and developed a philosophy and outlook that he implemented throughout his political career. Furthermore, Reagan was able to rally others to believe in his political ideals as he ascended into higher legislative positions.

In 1966, Ronald Reagan successfully secured a bid for governorship. While Reagan was governor, he cut the state budget and raised taxes. He signed a new billion dollar tax increase, which helped balance the state budget. In addition, he raised person and sales taxes, and lowered property taxes. As a result of his popular appeal, he was reelected for a second term in 1970. After a successful eight years as governor of California, Ronald Reagan focused exercising his leadership skills in the highest public office in the United States.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan won the Republican Presidential nomination. While working with Congress, Reagan obtained legislation to stimulate economic growth, curb inflation, increase employment, and strengthen the national defense. He embarked upon a course of cutting taxes and Government expenditures, refusing to deviate from it when the strengthening of defense forces led to a large deficit. His staunch approach to public policy combined with his savvy appeal has earned Ronald Reagan the title as "The Great Communicator." We all can learn from the legacy of Ronald Reagan.

Today, this nation and this body celebrates his 90th birthday. This resolution acknowledges not only his birthday, but his role as our 40th President.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. MARKEY. Today our nation's 40th President turns ninety—one of only three other Presidents in our history to reach his ninetieth year. With recent advances made in health and science, we can anticipate many more of our future Presidents to live into their nineties, along with the entire U.S. population.

But what impact does an increase in our country's aging population have? And what sort of quality of life will our elderly enjoy? I have my concerns.

Currently there is a threat facing our elderly population—a wave, gaining momentum and sweeping its way through the minds of our aged. This disease afflicts President Reagan. It is Alzheimer's and it threatens the future for our nation's elderly, their families and our health care system.

Alzheimer's is indiscriminate and cruel, it creeps into the brain, captures the mind and steals the memory—irrevocably altering the personality of its victims leaving not only loved ones unrecognizable to the Alzheimer's patient but the patient unrecognizable to her loved ones. This is what makes this disease particularly cruel . . . the loss of the thread of continuity that weaves itself through every experience of our lives and defines us as who we are.

It was only forty years ago that researchers considered Alzheimer's Disease a rare disorder. But since then, scientists have come to realize that it is far more common than we originally thought . . . so common in fact that

today Alzheimer's Disease is the leading cause of age-related dementia in the country.

So common—that one in ten Americans over the age of 65, and one out of every two Americans over the age of 80 are afflicted.

So common—that 37 million Americans say they know someone with Alzheimer's.

So common—that 19 million Americans say they have a family member with the disease.

So common that 2.7 million spouses, relatives and friends care for people with Alzheimer's.

And so common that today over 4 million Americans suffer with the disease.

The word epidemic is derived from the Greek word "epideemia" which translates literally to "a visit." Alzheimer's has become the epidemic of our aging population . . . but given the projection that by 2050 14 million Americans will be afflicted—unless we find a way to stop this disease—Alzheimer's won't be just visiting our aging population, Alzheimer's will be moving in.

Two years ago, I joined with my Republican colleague Chris Smith of New Jersey to create the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease. To date over 130 Members of Congress have signed on. And last Congress, I along with my dedicated colleagues fought to increase NIH research funding for Alzheimer's research—I am pleased to say NIH received somewhere in the range of an \$85 million increase bringing the total budget for federally funded Alzheimer's research to \$515 million.

In addition, I was able to include a \$300 million (or \$1.3 billion over 10 years) provision in the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 2000 that would make it possible for homebound Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's Disease to go to adult day care and religious services mass or synagogue, without losing their home health benefits. Believe it or not, before this provision was passed into law—Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's Disease would lose their home health benefit if they went to church or adult day care.

My efforts to improve the lives of those afflicted and affected by Alzheimer's are animated by my own personal experience with my mother's battle. However, there is one program—a bill I introduced last Congress which made its way into law—that was specifically inspired by ongoing discussions I had with the doctors who treated my mother's illness.

In talking to these caring physicians, I was made aware of the lack of funding for clinical research or as physician-scientists call it "translational" research. Specifically, there is not enough applicable research being done on "real" people with the disease or likely to get the disease. Not enough focus on cutting edge treatments, and preventative measures.

The Alzheimer's Clinical Research and Training Awards program which passed into law last Congress will provide \$11.25 million over five years to fund physician-scientists in translational research. It's a small start but I'm hoping this program will grow.

In the battle against Alzheimer's we've accomplished some—but there is still so much more we must do. By working together to increase funding for research, prevention and care, it is my hope that President Reagan and the millions of other Americans who currently suffer with Alzheimer's will be the last generation to experience this devastating epidemic.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the Resolution, H.R. 7, expressing the sense of Congress on behalf of

the American people, to extend our birthday greetings to our former President, Ronald Reagan, who turns 90 today.

I am pleased to associate myself with the legislation we will be considering immediately after this Bill, which renames the facility of the U.S. Postal Service in West Melbourne, Florida, in honor of President Reagan.

Of our 43 Presidents, only two prior to today—John Adams and Herbert Hoover—reached their 90th birthday. It is a remarkable achievement and it is totally appropriate that the Congress make note of it.

In recent years, the publication of new material—including the love letters written by the President to his wife, and the radio addresses which he delivered from 1977 until 1980—have led to a long overdue reassessment of our 40th President by historians and by the general public. While some unfairly had characterized President Reagan as a mouthpiece for others, the historic evidence now shows beyond dispute how erroneous that perception has been. Ronald Reagan was the author of his own thoughts and the articulator of them. His vision and leadership helped bring about a better nation and a better world, and it is long overdue that he received appropriate credit for his contributions.

Americans across the nation have long held President Reagan in high regard. President Reagan became known for his skill at inspiring his audience. He was eloquent and effectively expressed his philosophies to all people. He united our nation after what many considered the most turbulent time in history, and in times of tragedy, such as the Challenger explosion, his words of sympathy and consolation eased the grief of our nation.

President Reagan's skills as "the great communicator" may have obscured the fact that he was a genuine visionary. When President Reagan took office, America and the Soviet Union held the world under a sword of Damocles, with the threat of nuclear war never far from our minds. President Reagan fully grasps the most valuable of all lessons of history—the lesson that negotiations are futile if we do not go to the bargaining table from a position of strength.

Though President Reagan faced challenges at home from many who disagreed with this belief, he never wavered. The fruit of his efforts, the 1988 Arms Control Treaty, heralded our final victory in the Cold War, and ushered in the era of *pax Americana*.

Today, President Reagan faces the most serious fight of his life as he battles against Alzheimer's disease. May his family receive some solace and strength from the knowledge that his friends and admirers, including those of us in this chamber, always keep in our thoughts and prayers, the "Gipper".

His birthday today is a reminder to all of us of just how precious life is, and an appropriate time to commemorate the genuine contributions of this great American hero.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to associate my name with these legislative initiatives which honor one of the great Americans of the 20th century, our 40th President, Ronald Reagan.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th birthday of former President Ronald Reagan and to pay tribute to his distinguished service during his eight years as our Nation's leader. President Reagan's idealism and vision set the stage for remarkable achievements both at home and abroad.

His policies placed America on a course for economic growth and prosperity and military superiority in the world—helping to secure America's position as the world's super power and the pivotal leader of the free world.

President Reagan's optimism for life, and his ability to inspire, renewed our citizens' commitment to the values and principles of freedom and justice upon which our Nation was founded. His policy of "peace through strength" brought an historic ending to the Cold War, dismantling much of the Soviet Union's military might and positioning our armed forces for victory a few years later in the Persian Gulf. His domestic policies introduced an era of economic expansion that would help carry us through the end of the 20th century. His efforts to combat crime and drugs and to reevaluate our Nation's healthcare system marked the beginnings of much-needed and long-overdue reforms.

In short Mr. Speaker, President Reagan embodied those qualities that we seek in our Nation's leaders—vision, optimism, decency, integrity, responsibility. He believed in democracy, freedom, and the basic goodness of America. And he led by example. I am honored to join my colleagues today in honoring this great American and great former President—Ronald Reagan—and extending to him and to his wonderful wife, Nancy, our best wishes and our eternal gratitude for their contributions to our great Nation.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan exemplified honor and dignity while serving his country and restored stability to an unstable nation. The United States will be forever indebted to this exceptional man. I am proud and humbled to honor our 40th President, Mr. Ronald Reagan, on his 90th birthday.

President Reagan focused on rebuilding our country's military forces and developing a defense system to protect our shores. On May 15, 1993, Mr. Reagan delivered the Commencement Speech at The Citadel. This remarkable address highlighted his continued support of our military and the need for military readiness, an issue clearly facing us today.

It is with honor and humility that I read to you a part of his address:

"It is said that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. And I'd like to offer several reasons why we must stay strong militarily:

"First, despite the spread of democracy and capitalism, human nature has not changed. It is still an unpredictable mixture of good and evil. Our enemies may be irrational, even outright insane—driven by nationalism, religion, ethnicity or ideology. They do not fear the United States for its diplomatic skills or the number of automobiles and software programs it produces. They respect only the firepower of our tanks, planes and helicopter gun ships.

"Second, the Soviet Union may be gone, but even small powers can destroy global peace and security. The modern world is filled with vulnerable "choke-points"—military, geographic, political and economic . . .

"Third, technology—for all its blessings—can enable new enemies to rise up overnight. Scientific information flows to ambitious dictators faster than ever . . . who can predict what will be the 'blitzkriegs' of tomorrow?"

President Ronald Reagan advised against weakening the military in peacetime, and, in turn, honored the young men willfully seeking

the opportunity to serve our nation. He further commented, "In my eighty-two years, I've seen America drop her guard time and time again—and each time with tragic consequences . . . Today, the United States dominates the world arena. Once again, our noble first instinct is to seek peace. And that's why America needs the brave and skilled soldiers of The Citadel more than ever."

I share many of President Reagan's views on military readiness. I am happy and proud to add that we share one more thing—we both received Honorary Doctorates from The Citadel.

Happy Birthday, Mr. President.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to in support for the purpose of recognizing Ronald Reagan's 90th Birthday (H.J. Res. 7)—the 40th President of the United States. This resolution simply extends the best wishes and warm birthday greetings of the 107th Congress to former President Reagan on this 90th birthday.

Twelve years after leaving the White House with plans to spend his sunset years chopping wood and riding horses, Ronald Reagan celebrates his 90th birthday while battling old age, Alzheimer's disease and a broken hip. These are not easy obstacles for a wonderful man like Ronald Reagan or his loved ones. Fortunately, I have learned that Mr. Reagan will celebrate his 90th birthday very quietly at his home with a birthday cake (likely his favorite chocolate) and his lovely wife, Mrs. Reagan.

Reagan basked in the glory of retirement for six years, then learned he had Alzheimer's. Mrs. Reagan, his wife of nearly 49 years, has vigilantly guarded his privacy since he withdrew from public view on Nov. 5, 1994, with a poignant letter about his Alzheimer diagnosis. "I know this touched many of my fellow Americans. I only wish there was some way I could spare Nancy from this painful experience," he wrote.

Former President Reagan was recognized as the Great Communicator for good reason. His powers of persuasion over foe and friend—which extended to a range of issues—were considerable. He clearly held views with an acute passion. He loved public policy and spent a great deal of his life assuming the highest office of the land. From speeches early in his political career and his final days in Hollywood, through the White House years and into retirement, President Reagan has left a vast legacy of achievement.

The perceptions of Ronald Reagan as a political figure and a foreign policy maker are numerous. I respected the fact that Ronald Reagan was dedicated to winning the Cold War. By the end of his presidency, he had led the groundwork for the fall of the Soviet Empire. While many of us never viewed the Soviet Empire as the danger that he envisioned, we respected his vision and determination to spread freedom around the world.

Finally, let me just make a few remarks about Mr. and Mrs. Reagan. We should salute the couple's extraordinary courage in continuing to share their story with the world, building awareness, and lifting the enormous stigma of Alzheimer's and showing that life goes on. Again, happy birthday, Mr. Reagan.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor one of our nation's greatest patriots and most respected Presidents, Ronald W. Reagan, on this, the 90th anniversary of his birthday.

There are those Americans who today will remember Ronald Reagan as the charismatic 40th President of the United States. A leader who by the sheer force of his immutable optimism gave America a reason to be proud and secure of our place in the world.

Others will remember the "Great Communicator" who in the wake of "stagflation" and an oil crisis, articulated a doctrine of personal responsibility and limited government, which brought to our nation economic stability, security, and self-respect.

But I am here to honor another Reagan. A man of steely convictions, and resolute vision. A man who in one simple speech redefined America's purpose, and gave us all new certitude that we would prevail against the Soviet Union.

In 1983, the international stage was a different place than it is today. The Soviet Union still stared menacingly westward over the satellite states of Eastern Europe. The nuclear arms race was a reality, and fear of nuclear war gripped the nation.

It was in this atmosphere of Cold War fear, and amid growing calls to give up the arms race that Mr. Reagan, at perhaps his most eloquent, strode onto a stage in Orlando, Florida and delivered a speech that put his critics on notice that America would not back down. America would stand, alone if she must, to defend and protect the institutions of liberty and freedom from the Communists.

He reminded us not to ignore the facts of history, and the aggressive impulses of an evil empire because, as he said, "to simply call the arms race a giant misunderstanding is to remove ourselves from the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil." He reminded us not only of why we were fighting, but of what we were fighting for. The cold war was a struggle between good and evil, freedom and oppression.

It was this message which President Reagan carried with him to my hometown of Miami, FL. At the Orange Bowl Stadium, and in the middle of Little Havana, he placed the Cuban Dictator, Fidel Castro, on notice—that the United States would stand firm against the tyrannical Castro regime and would defend the right of the Cuban people to live free of oppression; that the United States would not tolerate communist Cuba's continued threats against U.S. national security and regional stability.

His words still carry with them a strength and clarity of vision which only the greatest of leaders posses. His insistence that this was the path America would take was tempered by the knowledge that in doing so, we would all share in the glory of the right and the honorable. Ronald Reagan reminded us all that America was strong, that America was right, that America was proud.

The legacy of Ronald Reagan is secure, for no other reason than the fact that he stood up for America and said in a strong, clear voice that patriotism is not dead, and that liberty and freedom are always worth fighting for.

Because of this President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your service to your country, and wish both you, and Mrs. Reagan, Godspeed.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be here today to honor President Ronald Reagan on his 90th birthday. President Reagan's policies have shaped this great nation and set us on the path to the longest

peacetime economic expansion since the end of the Second World War. His optimism restored Americans' confidence in our great nation and in themselves.

President Reagan once said "A leader, once convinced a particular course of action is the right one, must have the determination to stick with it and be undaunted when the going gets rough." President Reagan proved he was a true leader. Despite dire predictions from pundits about his policies, Reagan fought for what he believed in and made the country better off as a result.

President Reagan inherited an economy that was out of control with high inflation, interest rates and unemployment. Americans were being held hostage in Iran and the Soviet Union was threatening freedom across the world. Once elected, Reagan embarked on an ambitious agenda to reduce taxes, reduce Americans' dependence on the federal government, and achieve "peace through strength" by rebuilding our military. His tax cuts stimulated the economy and Americans re-elected him by one of the largest margins in U.S. history. During his second term, we began to see the results of Reagan's commitment to the principles of individual rights for all and projecting military strength with the weakening of communist control of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. These principles led soon thereafter to the collapse of the Berlin Wall the Soviet Union.

America is still experiencing the benefits of the Reagan's economic policies of lower taxes, free trade and reliance on free markets. We have had eighteen consecutive years of nearly unbroken economic growth and low inflation. Productivity is growing and incomes are rising. As Reagan stated at the end of his presidency:

In eight short years, we have reversed a 50-year trend of turning to the government for solutions. We have relearned what our founding Fathers knew long ago—it is the people, not the government, who provide the vitality and creativity that make a great nation. Just as the first American Revolution, which began with the shot heard 'round the world, inspired people everywhere who dreamed of freedom, so has this second American revolution inspired changes throughout the world. The message we brought to Washington—reduce the government, reduce regulation, restore incentives—has been heard around the world.

One of Reagan's greatest legacies is that he restored Americans' confidence in themselves and reminded them that the government has no power except that granted it by the people. I look forward to continuing Reagan's revolution by fighting for lower taxes, less intrusive government and individual responsibility.

Happy Birthday President Reagan and God bless.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 7.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1445

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The Chair must remind all Members that remarks in debate should be addressed to the Chair and not to others who may be viewing proceedings.

RONALD W. REAGAN POST OFFICE OF WEST MELBOURNE, FLORIDA

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 395) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2305 Minton Road in West Melbourne, Florida, as the "Ronald W. Reagan Post Office of West Melbourne, Florida."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 395

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2305 Minton Road in West Melbourne, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Ronald W. Reagan Post Office of West Melbourne, Florida".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Ronald W. Reagan Post Office of West Melbourne, Florida.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 395.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is supported by the House delegation from the State of Florida and it is fitting and appropriate that we bring this legislation to the floor today to commemorate the 90th birthday of our great leader.

There has been much written and known about former President Reagan, and everybody has a favorite story or anecdote. We will, however, be unable