

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 possess. 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

to capture all facets of his life during our allotted time.

Mr. Reagan, our 40th President, won a landslide victory in 1980 and was easily reelected 4 years later. Ronald Wilson Reagan came from humble beginnings. He was born in Tampico, Illinois, son of a salesman with a mother who was a devout member of the Disciples of Christ Church.

After moving to various locations, the family settled in Dixon, Illinois, where his father became part owner of a shoe store and his mother did occasional work to supplement the family's meager income.

Young Ronald Reagan excelled in sports and received a scholarship to attend Eureka College. Even with a scholarship, he had to work hard to stay in college. He graduated with a B.A. in economics and sociology, the first person in his family to attend and graduate from college.

He showed an early interest in politics, but did not participate. He did, however, show interest in some form of show business. "Dutch" Reagan, as he was known, became a very popular sportscaster in Iowa. Soon thereafter, he went to Hollywood where he was offered a 7-year contract with Warner Brothers for \$200 a week, an offer he could not turn down. He then brought his parents to live with him in California; and although not an instant star, he was a steady worker.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan became President of the Screen Actors Guild in 1947; and several years thereafter, his activities with the Screen Actors Guild aroused his latent interest in politics. Thereafter, when his longstanding friend, Barry Goldwater, won the Republican nomination for President, Mr. Reagan helped with the campaign. Soon after, he was persuaded to run for governor of California, a race he won by a landslide over a popular incumbent. He won reelection in 1970.

Ronald Reagan was nominated for President in 1980, supporting the issues of family, work, neighborhood, peace, and freedom. He became the oldest President to be elected in our Nation's history. Two months after his election, he was the victim of an assassination attempt, but made a remarkable recovery.

He served the Nation as President for 8 years and now resides in California. In 1994, after several years of writing, traveling, and silence, former President Reagan, who was known as the Great Communicator, wrote a handwritten letter informing the Nation he had the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Perhaps the essence of President Reagan's life is captured in his own words. He wrote: "In this land of dreams fulfilled where greater dreams may be imagined, nothing is impossible. No victory is beyond our reach. No glory will ever be too great.

"The world's hopes rest with America's future.

"Our work will pale before the greatness of America's champions in the 21st Century."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 395.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 395, which names a Post Office after Ronald W. Reagan, was introduced today by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON). This measure is identical to H.R. 5309 introduced last year by the gentleman and which was passed by the House on October 27 of the year 2000.

Ronald Wilson Reagan, known as "Dutch," "The Gipper" and "The Great Communicator," was the 40th President of the United States. He served as President from January 1981 to January 1989. At 73, he was the oldest man ever elected to the Presidency. And, as remarked earlier, today marks his 90th birthday.

He was an actor by profession, but he also served as the Governor of my State of California from 1966 to 1979. During his Presidency, his economic policies came to be known as "Reaganomics." In November of 1994, former President Reagan announced that he was afflicted with Alzheimer's.

Although a number of facilities have been named after the former President, schools, streets, highways, and even the Washington airport, a crowning achievement was when President Clinton dedicated the Ronald Reagan Building here in Washington D.C. in 1998. That building houses an international trade center, international cultural activities, the Agency for International Development, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the swift passage of this bill.

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 Florida (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand on the floor of the House today to honor our former President, Ronald Reagan. Today is an appropriate day to consider this bill, because it is President Reagan's 90th birthday.

Today, we wish him the very best. We have the opportunity to honor a man who made us proud again to be Americans. As was stated, I have introduced this legislation to designate this Post Office at 2305 Minton Road in West Melbourne, Florida, as the "Ronald W. Reagan Post Office of West Melbourne." This Post Office is in Florida's 15th Congressional District, and I am pleased that every member of the Florida Congressional Delegation has signed on as a cosponsor of this bill.

Last year, I introduced similar legislation and it passed the House on Octo-

ber 27. Due to time constraints, the Senate was unable to give final approval to the bill prior to its adjournment. However, now it is more appropriate than ever for this House to pass this bill again.

Former President Reagan is a true American hero, and naming this U.S. Post Office after him is a fitting way to honor his legacy.

Ronald Reagan was born on February 6, 1911, in Tampico, Illinois. He was a man with many ambitions, growing up a Midwestern boy in hard economic times. He worked his way through Eureka College. He started his career as a radio announcer; and in 1937 went to Hollywood where he appeared in more than 50 movies. He became president of the Screen Actors Guild and was involved in fighting Communist influences in Hollywood.

In 1966, he was elected the Governor of the State of California by a margin of more than 1 million votes; and then was elected governor again in 1970 to another 4-year term.

In 1980, Reagan was elected to serve as our 40th President. Ronald Reagan set our Nation on a path to prosperity. He was a strong moral leader and made Americans proud to be Americans. The economic policies he pursued in the 1980s set a firm foundation for the economic prosperity that we have experienced over the last decade as well.

Ronald Reagan reinvigorated the American people through smaller government, putting a lid on inflation, and strengthening our national defenses.

President Reagan's persistence in achieving peace through strength carried our Nation to its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity.

President Reagan negotiated a treaty with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles. Mr. Reagan went to Berlin and challenged Mr. Gorbachev to "Tear down this wall." His 8 years of persistence paid off; and as a result of his tireless fight for freedom, the Iron Curtain fell shortly after he left office.

President Reagan certainly followed through with his 1980 campaign pledge to restore "the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism."

I am happy that we are considering this legislation today, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this effort to name this post office in my congressional district in Ronald Reagan's honor.

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

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 bill, H.R. 395.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.