

Stump	Tiberi	Weldon (PA)
Sweeney	Toomey	Weller
Tancred	Upton	Whitfield
Tauzin	Vitter	Wicker
Taylor (NC)	Walden	Wilson (NM)
Terry	Walsh	Wilson (SC)
Thomas	Wamp	Wolf
Thornberry	Watkins (OK)	Young (FL)
Thune	Watts (OK)	
Tiahrt	Weldon (FL)	

NAYS—181

Abercrombie	Gutierrez	Oberstar
Ackerman	Harman	Obey
Allen	Hastings (FL)	Olver
Andrews	Hill	Ortiz
Baca	Hilliard	Owens
Baird	Hinchey	Pallone
Baldacci	Hinojosa	Pascrell
Baldwin	Hoeffel	Pastor
Barrett	Holden	Payne
Becerra	Holt	Pelosi
Bentsen	Honda	Phelps
Berkley	Hoyer	Pomeroy
Berman	Inslee	Price (NC)
Berry	Jackson (IL)	Rahall
Blumenauer	Jackson-Lee	Rangel
Bonior	(TX)	Reyes
Borski	Jefferson	Rivers
Boswell	John	Rodriguez
Boucher	Johnson, E. B.	Rothman
Boyd	Jones (OH)	Roybal-Allard
Brady (PA)	Kanjorski	Rush
Brown (FL)	Kennedy (RI)	Sabo
Brown (OH)	Kildee	Sanchez
Capuano	Kilpatrick	Sanders
Cardin	Kind (WI)	Sawyer
Carson (IN)	Kleczka	Schakowsky
Clay	Kucinich	Schiff
Clayton	LaFalce	Scott
Clement	Lampson	Serrano
Clyburn	Langevin	Sherman
Conyers	Lantos	Skelton
Costello	Larson (CT)	Smith (WA)
Coyne	Lee	Snyder
Crowley	Levin	Solis
Cummings	Lewis (GA)	Spratt
Davis (CA)	Lipinski	Stark
Davis (FL)	Lofgren	Stenholm
Davis (IL)	Lowey	Strickland
DeFazio	Lynch	Stupak
DeGette	Maloney (NY)	Tanner
Delahunt	Markey	Tauscher
DeLauro	Mascara	Taylor (MS)
Deutsch	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Dicks	McCarthy (MO)	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	McCollum	Thurman
Doggett	McGovern	Tierney
Doyle	McNulty	Towns
Edwards	Meehan	Turner
Engel	Meek (FL)	Udall (CO)
Eshoo	Meeks (NY)	Udall (NM)
Etheridge	Menendez	Velazquez
Evans	Millender	Visclosky
Farr	McDonald	Waters
Fattah	Miller, George	Watson (CA)
Filner	Mink	Watt (NC)
Ford	Mollohan	Waxman
Frank	Moran (VA)	Weiner
Frost	Morella	Wexler
Gephardt	Murtha	Woolsey
Gonzalez	Nadler	Wu
Green (TX)	Neal	Wynn

NOT VOTING—19

Blagojevich	Luther	Shaw
Bono	McDermott	Slaughter
Cooksey	Napolitano	Sununu
Cubin	Oxley	Trafficant
Fossella	Riley	Young (AK)
Frelinghuysen	Roukema	
Hastert	Ryan (WI)	

□ 1327

So (two-thirds not having voted in favor thereof) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of H. Con. Res.

312, the concurrent resolution just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

□ 1330

RECOGNIZING THE 91ST BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 82) recognizing the 91st birthday of Ronald Reagan.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 82

Whereas February 6, 2002, is the 91st birthday of Ronald Wilson Reagan;

Whereas Ronald Reagan is the first former President ever to attain the age of 91;

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 91st birthday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 82.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 82, and I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for introducing it. This resolution extends birthday greetings and the best wishes of a grateful Nation to Ronald Reagan on his 91st birthday.

Ronald Reagan is among the greatest of statesmen ever to serve in the Oval Office, or indeed to have served the American people in any capacity. He is loved and admired by millions of Americans and by countless others around the world. Twice elected by overwhelming margins as President of the United States, Ronald Reagan built a record of public service to our Nation and to the American people. He was an eloquent and forceful champion of all freedom-loving people, especially those enslaved by the former Soviet Union and its satellites.

Ronald Reagan pledged to restore "the great, confident roar of American progress, growth and optimism." And Ronald Reagan pledged to ensure economic prosperity. He kept that pledge. Ronald Reagan inherited a moribund economy mired in recession and wracked by rampant inflation. But his wisdom, his confidence in the American people, his sound economic policies and his courage in the face of fierce opposition led us out of that recession and defeated inflation. President Reagan's policies laid the groundwork for an unprecedented period of prosperity. He put us back to work and unleashed the genius of American entrepreneurs. He inherited a hollow military and a Nation unsure of itself. He rebuilt our Armed Forces into the finest fighting force in the world, and he lifted our spirits and strengthened our resolve. Ronald Reagan's leadership and courage paved the way for the ultimate demise of the Soviet Union and the extension of freedom and democracy around the globe.

Ronald Reagan's commitment to our men and women in uniform earned him a high accolade last spring when the *USS Ronald Reagan* was christened in Newport News, Virginia. His devoted wife Nancy stood in his behalf to christen and accept this evidence of America's esteem and gratitude for Ronald Reagan's unstinting service to our Nation. During the ceremony, President Bush noted that "when we send her off to sea, it is certain that the *Ronald Reagan* will meet with rough waters and smooth waters, with headwinds as well as fair, but she will sail tall and strong like the man we have known."

Mr. Speaker, we continue to benefit today from Ronald Reagan's foresight and courage. There can be no better or more dramatic example than our improving relations with the Russian Republic. Once the heart of our fiercest adversary, our relations with Russia are now marked far more by cooperation than confrontation. I do not discount for 1 minute the importance of the diplomatic skills and courage of President Bush in building that relationship, but it simply could not have

happened had President Reagan not persevered in the face of the constant and often vehement criticism of the so-called experts as he confronted what he correctly labeled the "Evil Empire."

Indeed, I had the privilege of visiting with Anatoly Sharansky when I was in Israel several years ago who was in jail in the Soviet Union at the time that Ronald Reagan gave that speech. He said those words labeling the Soviet Union the Evil Empire not only reverberated throughout the jail he was in, but throughout the entire Soviet Union, because the people themselves knew that Ronald Reagan's words were true.

Ronald Reagan is an American hero on many fronts. He and Mrs. Reagan dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and to bettering the quality of life in the United States and throughout the world. Mrs. Reagan's years as a gracious First Lady were spent leading a national crusade against illegal drug use and the mission that became known as "Just Say No."

Mr. Speaker, the thoughts and prayers of the Congress and the country are with Ronald Reagan in his courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease. On behalf of all Americans, it is fitting that we honor this great American President on his 91st birthday. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in consideration of this resolution. A bigger-than-life screen actor and television personality, Ronald Reagan moved from being Governor of California in the 1960s to President of the United States and dominated American politics in the 1980s. He was the first President to be reelected to a second term since General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Media-made and media-presented, President Reagan got millions of Americans to feel proud of their Nation. America's 40-year Cold War with the Soviet Union cooled considerably, and perhaps actually ended, during the Reagan Presidency. Many Americans credit him with having achieved that significant outcome.

Born the son of a shoe salesman in small-town Illinois, a great State, Reagan's impoverished but loving parents instilled in him a sense of optimism that carried him through college as an average student. After graduation, he worked for a few years as a sports broadcaster in Midwestern radio before landing a film contract with Warner Brothers which took him to Hollywood in 1936. Over the next 30 years, he made scores of films, including Army films produced during World War II. He hosted two popular television series, and he actively engaged in politics as president of the Screen Actors Guild.

In the 1950s, President Reagan changed from being a Roosevelt New

Deal Democrat to a conservative Republican. In 1966, he became Governor of California. He was reelected in 1970. Using his popularity in California, he unsuccessfully challenged President Gerald Ford for the Republican nomination in 1976. He tried again and won the nomination in 1980 and thereafter defeated the incumbent Democrat, President Jimmy Carter. With his 1984 reelection victory, Mr. Reagan became the most politically successful Republican President since President Eisenhower.

Today, we celebrate former President of the United States Ronald Reagan's 91st birthday. We wish him a happy birthday and a debt of gratitude to him and his family for their many years of public service.

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 4 minutes to the author of this resolution, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) for yielding me this time. I also want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) who just spoke very eloquently about an Illinois native son. I think you can see a lot of the same traits of Ronald Reagan in the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), in our Speaker, and in our Speaker pro tem, all sons of Illinois.

The sons and daughters of Illinois have a great deal to be proud of as we recognize once again President Reagan on his birthday. He has had a lot of them. At 91, he is America's oldest President ever. No President has lived to the age of 91. The record was set by John Adams. As you know, John Adams died on the Fourth of July, the same day as Thomas Jefferson. They died on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. I hope that Ronald Reagan will be able someday to see the end of his days in as noteworthy a fashion. Already, however, he has left such a legacy that it is appropriate that we are here to honor him.

His career, any of his careers, would be remarkable in and of themselves. He was a successful sports announcer. Of course, he had a career in pictures. He was a very successful two-term Governor of California and a very successful two-term President of the United States, winning election twice in landslides. If he were here with us today, President Reagan would presumably humbly acknowledge that he appreciated the birthday wishes on the 52nd anniversary of his 39th birthday. That is what it is today.

When President Clinton was running for office, he once said that America needed a President for the 1990s. Hope springs eternal. Perhaps now we could, if we would only repeal the 27th amendment, get a President in his 1990s. We would welcome, I think, Ronald Reagan back to Washington were it possible.

When he became President, we had endured, unhappily for all of us, an era of national malaise, bereft of any sense of moral direction. Throughout his term of office, throughout 8 of the fastest moving years in history, President Reagan brought us back. That Irish twinkle, that homespun style of his, seemed never to change, and it brought a new assurance to America.

He was not only America's President, but the leader of the free world. With a toughness that we had not seen for a long time, he stood toe to toe with what he unabashedly termed "the Evil Empire." And when he said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," he was widely criticized. It was thought that this was not constructive, it was not going to work, because realists among us knew the Soviet Union was going to be there forever, and we should accommodate it. He saw a different future, and he worked hard to bring it about. As a result, hundreds of millions of people not just in the Soviet Union, but throughout Eastern and Central Europe, were liberated.

He was called the great communicator in part because he spent so much time on television explaining his policies, and he was quite good at it. But it was more than communication skill, it was that he had a message to communicate. Lady Thatcher, then Prime Minister Thatcher, compared him to Winston Churchill. She said, "Like Winston Churchill, he made words fight like soldiers and lived the spirit of a Nation."

If the events of September 11 have taught us anything, it is that America still requires a strong national defense that acts as a vanguard against enemies who would destroy freedom and democracy. Ronald Reagan cared about these things very deeply and carried forward the ideals of freedom and the defense of freedom throughout the 8 years of his Presidency. President Reagan's foreign policy and his strength of character will not be forgotten.

A recent book, "Reagan: In His Own Hand," details the writings of the President that we are just now discovering, even late in his life, that we never knew when he was President. Another book, "When Character Was King," by Peggy Noonan, includes writings from Ronald Reagan when he was a teenager. He was a remarkable individual, the first labor union president to become President of the United States.

I say with all of us here, as he said at the end of his D-Day speech in Normandy, we will always remember, Mr. President, and we will always be proud. Happy birthday.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California for his kind remarks as well as for the introduction of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my friends and colleagues

on both sides of the aisle in recognizing the 91st birthday of former President Ronald Reagan and paying tribute to him. I particularly want to associate myself with the remarks which were made a few moments ago by the gentleman from Illinois.

This is also an opportunity for us as we recognize former President Reagan to reflect for a few moments on his policies and to see if we can find within them some instructions for us in the present context.

□ 1345

Having done so, I do find some instruction, and I think it could be helpful to the Members of the House as we approach some of the important issues which are before us today and for the rest of this 107th Congress.

One of the first things that President Reagan did when he came into office was to offer a major tax cut, the effects of which were to cut taxes for the most affluent people in the country, the most financially successful people. He also proposed at the same time a very substantial increase in the military budget.

We find ourselves at this moment facing a very similar situation: a President having proposed and succeeded in passing a massive tax cut last year, the primary benefits of which went to the richest people in the Nation, and also proposing a massive increase in military spending.

Now, what were the effects of the Reagan economic policies, the tax cut and increase in military spending? In regard to taxes, the impact was to pass the tax-bearing responsibility in our country from the most affluent people to middle-income and lower-middle-income Americans. In other words, middle-income and lower-middle-income working people assumed a larger portion of the tax burden as a result of the initial Reagan tax cuts, some of which were changed and rescinded later on in the Reagan administration.

Also the effect was to deny States of substantial amounts of revenue. States then passed taxing responsibilities on to the localities and increases in local property taxes occurred across America, in my State, New York, included along with many, many, if not all other States.

We are about to see something very, very similar here as a result of the economic policies of the present administration. The effect of the tax cut which was passed by this Congress and signed into law by President Bush is having the same and will have increasingly that same impact. It will cause the tax responsibility and increasingly larger burdens to be borne by middle-income and lower-middle-income people as the wealthiest people are relieved of having to pay taxes.

Furthermore, the effect of the tax cuts which were passed by this Congress last year are going to deny States of their ability to pay for the things that they need to do in order to provide

for the health, safety, and welfare of the people in those States, so we will see similarly responsibilities passed on to local governments and increases in local real property taxes.

There is a very outstanding American philosopher named George Santayana, who once made the observation that those who fail to recognize the mistakes of the past will be doomed to repeat them. That admonition is particularly applicable to all of us in this Congress as we face these present economic conditions, a condition where we have gone from anticipated record budget surpluses at the Federal level to now anticipating substantial and increasing budget deficits.

So as we pay tribute to President Reagan, let us also recognize the effect of the policies that he adopted in taxation and apply those lessons to our present condition today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds just to say that the period during which Ronald Reagan was President during the 1980s, the Congress engaged in a dramatic increase in social spending. It is not totally correct to attribute the deficits of the 1980s purely to the defense buildup, but indeed can equally be attributed to the actions of the Democratic Congress at the time which engaged in a dramatic increase in social spending. The Reagan defense buildup was essential for our winning the Gulf War, it was the right thing to do, and the tax cut was instrumental in lifting us out of a recession.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the very distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I really cannot believe this. Today is Ronald Reagan's 91st birthday. He is one of the most revered individuals to have ever lived. He is the person who brought down the Soviet Union, brought back this amazing sense of patriotism which we once again are enjoying here in the United States, and he focused on what was very important, and that was getting the economy going. And we have people who now want to re-debate and completely rewrite the history of what took place during the 1980s.

Let us look at what happened. When President Reagan came into office, taking over for Jimmy Carter, this country was, according to Jimmy Carter, in a state of malaise; and Ronald Reagan almost single-handedly turned it around.

Until 1994, when we won the Republican majority in the United States Congress, we had not had control of this place since 1981. You can say in 1981 the Democrats still controlled this institution, but the fact of the matter is Ronald Reagan was able to maintain working control of the United States

Congress and put into place the Economic Recovery Tax Act. I am very proud to have voted for that measure, which nearly tripled the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury.

Our friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is absolutely right. We saw a dramatic increase in social spending take place. And, yes, we did see the military buildup; and we all know how essential that was following the demise of our military during the Carter years.

And what did it bring us? It brought us, again, the demise of the Evil Empire, and I am pleased to see George Bush using that Reaganistic term once again; and we were able to sustain the economic recovery for now literally decades. And it all started with Ronald Reagan's vision of reducing that tax burden on working Americans, realizing that marginal tax rate reduction in fact increases the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury.

Happy birthday, Mr. President. We are very, very privileged to be standing on your shoulders as we try to pursue the policies which you successfully implemented.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, even before Ronald Reagan was elected Governor of California, I think one of the other contributions that he made was to cause Americans to take a different look at individuals in the entertainment industry. I think as a result of Ronald Reagan, many entertainers have developed far more interest in public policy decision-making and are more actively engaged and more actively involved in those processes than before his time. So in addition to the service he provided as an elected official, I think we have to give him some credit for the movement away from certain kinds of perceptions relative to entertainers.

Mr. Speaker I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from coastal Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I thank the gentleman from the other side, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), for supporting this resolution, in that this is not a bipartisan Republican birthday. It is an American birthday, which we all have reverence for the office of the Presidency.

As we celebrate Ronald Reagan's 91st birthday, we ask ourselves, what is the essence of Reagan? Why is this man, so many years out of office, still so special and still so exciting to so many of us?

Was it the fact that he lived the American dream, starting out from a very humble beginning, even a broken home? He started out as a radio announcer, an athlete, an actor, and then went on to be a businessman, ultimately a Governor, and President of

the United States. Is that the essence of Ronald Reagan?

Or was it the fact that when he became President, it was the policies that we conservatives have wanted for so many years: lower taxes, beating inflation, less government regulations, creating more jobs? Was that it?

Or was it the fact that he made our men and women in uniform proud once more to have that American label as part of their vocation and existence, the pride?

Or was it the fact that he defeated the Soviet Union, the Evil Empire? I have had the opportunity to travel to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and to even go to Red Square. It is amazing to go to these places today and think about all their years of oppression under a communist regime and how they are growing young republics and democracies today. Is that the essence of Ronald Reagan?

Or was it the fact he was a happy conservative, never scowling, but always talking and making illustrations with stories, like the one about the Russian who was going to get a part for his car, and it was in January, and the part was going to come June 12th. And they said, "That is as soon as we can get the part for your car," June 12, 6 months away. He said, "I cannot see you June 12." They said, "Why not?" He said, "Because that is the day my plumber is going to be there." That kind of illustration of a story.

Or was it that twinkle in his eye? Was it the fact that he appealed to people on a bipartisan basis? Was it the fact that in my area blue collar Democrats switched over to vote Republican, not to vote Republican necessarily to become Republicans, but because they believed in Ronald Reagan, that he put America above party?

Or was it the grandeur that he returned to the White House, that he and Nancy brought back a kind of stately style and fashion when they came back that showed they were ready to lead the new world, or was it that natural style of relaxed attitude and optimism?

I think, Mr. Speaker, on this 91st birthday of Ronald Reagan, it was all of the above.

I know he was very inspirational to me as a college student. When I first ran for the State legislature in 1984, my wife, Libby, and I had the opportunity to meet him in person; and he was truly somebody who urged all of Americans to get off your duff and start running for office and participate in public policy.

Libby and I still love him and have great affection for him. In fact, I told my wife, Libby, I have said this before on the floor, "Libby, you like Ronald Reagan so much, you talk about him, you praise him, you say he is the kind of politician that I should be; in fact I am a little jealous, my dear wife. I think you like Ronald Reagan better than you like me." And she said, "Yes, but I like you better than I like George Bush."

I guess that is the best I can do on this 91st birthday of Ronald Reagan.

So, happy birthday, Mr. President; and God bless America.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will simply close by suggesting that Ronald Reagan was indeed and has been a tremendous inspiration to millions of people, notwithstanding whether you agreed with all of his policies or not. As a matter of fact, there were many that I disagreed with. But the reality is that he demonstrated that one not need always look at where you come from, but what is really important is where you are going. So he went from this small town in Illinois, the land of Lincoln, to become President of the most powerful and greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. That is indeed a tribute, and I wish for him a happy 91st birthday.

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I first met Ronald Reagan when I was still in my teens. I had been active in his first campaign for Governor. During the primary season we had been very active, and we found out that the heads of the campaign were going to eliminate Youth for Reagan during the general election and have us all work with the adult organization. I felt very disturbed about that. We had worked so hard; I had hundreds of kids out passing out leaflets for him. So I decided to go see him myself.

I hiked up to his home at Pacific Palisades at 3 o'clock in the morning and camped out on his lawn in a sleeping bag. About 7 o'clock in the morning, Nancy stuck her head out the door and says, "Who are you?" I had a little sign that said "Ronald Reagan, please speak to me."

Nancy says, "You know, my husband, if he comes out to talk to you, I know that he is going to spend 5 or 10 minutes with you. He will be late for the rest of the day; he won't be able to have his breakfast. If you will go to the campaign headquarters, I will get you a meeting with the top person in the campaign. I have to protect my husband, you see."

I said, well, how can you argue with that? So I started walking down that long driveway in Pacific Palisades dragging that sleeping bag. Behind me I heard these footsteps, and there was Ronald Reagan. His shirt was half off, he had the shaving cream on his face. He was going, "Wait a minute, wait a minute. If you can spend the night on my back lawn, I can certainly spend a few minutes with you. Now, what is the problem?"

Ronald Reagan listened to me, and I do not know if that is what saved the day, but the Youth for Reagan never was eliminated. We worked in the campaign as our Youth for Reagan unit.

That is the kind of person Ronald Reagan was. He won my heart then. He was a person who was very kind to other people, but he was very tough when it came to policy.

□ 1400

He was a principled man. He was a principled man who cared about others. What were his principles that he based his decisions on that made him a successful person? He believed in personal responsibility, and he believed that people should keep more of what they earn and be able to decide on things that were important for their lives, and that they should control their own destinies. He felt that government, if we had to turn to government for help, it should be the government that was closest to the people so that it would not become isolated from the people and bureaucratic and autocratic.

So that is why he believed things like education should be run at the local level, controlled by parents and teachers, rather than increasing Federal involvement, which would lead to bureaucratic control from Washington.

He believed America should be a powerful force for freedom in the world, and he knew that for America to be a force in the world and for there to be peace and freedom anywhere in the world, America had to be strong. He did feel that defense, the military strength of the United States, and the defense of freedom and our country and the peace of our people was the number one responsibility of the Federal Government.

He, during his time period, was castigated. Just because we are celebrating his 91st birthday and most people are saying good things about him, the fact is that he is 91 years old today and he does deserve that praise, but when he was President of the United States, he was vilified regularly by people who just did not believe in the things that he believed in, but they tried to make him into a warmonger and a person with a bad heart.

Now, we should be able to disagree, and I never heard Ronald Reagan call anybody a name. The fact is we should be able to disagree on policy and believe in the goodness of each other. Ronald Reagan did have a good heart, but his policies were right. The fact is his low tax policy is what started the economic recovery of this country, which was in a shambles before Ronald Reagan became President. It ignited this rocket and in about January of 1993, which is exactly when the final phase of his tax cuts came in, and the recovery has not stopped since then. It faltered a little bit in 1992. So Ronald Reagan's policy started, ignited this, the greatest and the longest period, and we are enjoying it.

This is, right now, the final phase of that Ronald Reagan prosperity. The only other time the economy went down even a little was in 1992, and then it shot right back. It was just a momentary faltering.

What about peace in the world? Ronald Reagan was vilified as a war-monger. People on the other side of the aisle in this body would try to undermine his efforts to prevent Communist expansion in Latin America, undermine his efforts to try to be firm with Gorbachev and the Soviet leaders in bringing down the level of missiles rather than just freezing the high level of nuclear weapons we had, and, in the end, Ronald Reagan was able to end the Cold War, which permitted us to decrease military spending in these last 15 years. It was that investment he made, the good policies he had, but it was his principle and his strength of character that carried the day for this country.

So God bless you, Ronald Reagan. We know that you have Alzheimer's disease and you probably cannot understand what we are saying, and you may not remember me, but we will never forget you.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, today is President Ronald Reagan's 91st birthday. Please join me in wishing Mrs. Reagan the very best today and expressing to her, and the President, the gratitude of freedom-loving peoples everywhere for his service to our Nation and the cause of liberty.

On September 1, 1976, Ronald Reagan delivered a radio address entitled "Shaping the World for 100 Years to Come." In this brief address the future President defined the challenges that lay before the American people as a choice between individual freedom or state control of our very lives.

At that time in the life of our country it wasn't at all clear that the American people would continue to choose the path of individual freedom, with all its perils and responsibilities, over the comforts of a paternalistic government.

It seemed that as government grew, individual liberty shrank. As taxes grew, personal initiative was discouraged and the entrepreneurial American spirit was being stifled by a government that no longer seemed to be of the people, by the people and for the people.

Just as he called Americans to take charge of their individual destinies that day Ronald Reagan also spoke of the international challenges facing our country, in particular the horrible threat of nuclear war. He reflected on the beauty of the world he knew and challenged the Americans of 1976 to avoid a nuclear Armageddon, and still pass on to future generations a world of beauty, peace, prosperity, and the ultimate in personal freedom.

In 1976 Ronald Reagan saw that America, and Americans, were faced with several historic choices. We could choose the hard road of individual liberty and personal freedom, or we could choose the easy road of government paternalism. We could choose the clear road of Mutually Assured Nuclear Destruction or we could choose the unclear path of fighting—and defeating—our enemies on the economic and cultural battlefield. In 1980 Americans made their choice, and elected Ronald Reagan the 40th President of the United States.

Today, all Americans, and indeed freedom-loving people throughout the world, reap the benefits of that choice. President Reagan led the American people down the hard road of reducing the growth of the Federal Govern-

ment and renewed our commitment to individual liberty and entrepreneurship. Through Ronald Reagan's resolve and inspiration we fought and defeated one of history's greatest threats to the sanctity of the individual human spirit not on a world-destroying nuclear battlefield, but on the economic and cultural battlefield.

Today, we stand one quarter of the way into the 100-year future that Ronald Reagan looked into in 1976. The challenges before us are new, but no less daunting than they were in 1976. The sanctity of the individual human spirit is again under attack by people who made a human and cultural wasteland of one country and would do the same to the entire world if they acquired the means.

As we go forward in our war on terrorism let us pause for a moment today and thank Ronald Reagan for ensuring that America took the hard path of freedom and responsibility. Let us remember that our greatest and most effective weapons are not always the military might that President Reagan so staunchly advocated, but the entrepreneurship and economic power of the individual that he so vigorously defended. And let us renew our commitment to keep America "the shining city on a hill" that provided Ronald Reagan with inspiration throughout his life and provides all mankind with a beacon of hope and freedom.

May God Bless President and Mrs. Reagan and May God Bless America.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a true American patriot on his 91st birthday, President Ronald Reagan. As we in Congress wrestle with the Defense budget, I recall the words of Ronald Reagan when he submitted his Presidential budget. He said,

We start by considering what must be done to maintain peace and review all the possible threats against our security. Then a strategy for strengthening peace and defending against those threats must be agreed upon. And, finally, our defense establishment must be evaluated to see what is necessary to protect against any or all of the potential threats. The cost of achieving these ends is totaled up, and the result is the budget for national defense.

Mr. Speaker, as we debate on the proper amount for the defense of our Nation, the greatest tribute we can pay to Ronald Reagan is to build on the strong defense foundation that he laid and provide our military the funding and resources to defend the Constitution and protect the values under which this great Nation was founded.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, today, as we commemorate President Ronald Reagan's 91st birthday, we remember the significant impact he had on our lives here in America. When our country was struggling through the cold war and a suffering economy, he had the ability to lead us with courage and hope, not fear or disappointment. When he gave his first inaugural speech in January 1981, he said, "I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing." These words alone explain the perseverance that Reagan possessed throughout his presidency. These words also taught Americans that it is important not to give up during difficult times.

The Great Communicator is a title that we all remember him by. He earned this name because of the way he conveyed his messages to all people, because he spoke from

his heart with passionate words, words that resonate in people's hearts and minds for generations to come.

When I think of President Reagan, I think of how important it is to work hard with determination. He re-ignited American patriotism, and what it means to be an American. He taught us that education is the foundation for a successful future, and that everyone has the opportunity to achieve his or her dreams. He made us understand why everyone, no matter what background, can be a hero. Reagan also helped us remember that the purpose of government is to serve the people, not the other way around, and that we should cherish our freedom because not every nation guarantees it.

As a former high school teacher, I have long believed that history is what makes us remember our past so that we can fully understand who we are and why. President Reagan often stressed the importance of history because he also believed that by learning from our past, we could better appreciate our forefathers who sacrificed their lives to preserve the freedom that we have here in America today.

I want to commend President Bush for his actions in making President Reagan's boyhood home a National Historic Site by signing the bill into law today. As the author of this legislation and the Congressman who represents the little hamlet of Dixon, IL, where Ronald Reagan grew up, I could not be more proud. There will now be a lasting, living legacy to our 40th President who won the cold war and returned America to greatness in the late 20th century.

With the preservation of Reagan's boyhood home, we are protecting American history and paying tribute to a good man and great President who truly believed in American values, American principles, and most of all, the American spirit.

President Reagan, congratulations on the 52nd anniversary of your 39th birthday. God-speed.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 82, a bill honoring former President Ronald Reagan on the occasion of his 91st birthday.

Ronald Reagan holds a special place in the hearts and minds of the citizens of northern Illinois. Many believe that President Reagan was a Californian. But his core values and bold conservatism were the product of a childhood in Illinois.

Ronald Reagan continues today to serve as a model of optimism and hope. In his very first inaugural address, President Reagan set the tone for his 8 years in office when he proclaimed that, "no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women." During these challenging times for our Nation, President Reagan's words seem even more relevant today.

President Reagan truly was the "Great Communicator." One of my favorite lines of his was when he said that the best view of big government is in the rear view mirror as you're driving away from it. Throughout his presidency, Reagan used his trademark humor and wit to unite a nation, end the cold war, and restore prosperity. He championed the notion of individual responsibility and accountability.

And most importantly, he made people feel good about being proud of our great Nation. President Reagan once said that he would like

to go down in history as the President who made Americans believe in themselves again. I believe that he has.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, Happy 91st Birthday, President Reagan.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today we honor a man who has had a profound impact on the lives of us all, a positive impact that has had a reverberating positive effect, not just here in the United States, but worldwide.

In the past I have taken time on this floor to expound at length upon many of President Reagan's achievements. He more than fulfilled his pledge to help restore "the great, confident roar of American progress, growth, and optimism" and ensure renewed economic prosperity.

Today I simply want to pay tribute to the man who has left his permanent stamp on the course of history. We salute that gentleman who has turned 91 today and pay tribute to him.

God bless you, President Reagan. We are all eternally grateful for that unprecedented role that you played in our national experience and it will never be forgotten.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today, our 40th President, Ronald Reagan, is celebrating his 91st birthday. I want to wish this Great American a peaceful birthday and to thank him for his leadership which has endured well beyond his years in the White House.

Ronald Reagan rekindled our nation's patriotism and pride. Today, as we continue to wage a war against terrorism—a war against those individuals who jeopardize our freedoms and liberties—the confidence Ronald Reagan had in the American spirit provides every one of us with the strength and will to see this war to its rightful end—to victory.

In the 106th Congress, I was proud to introduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy. This legislation was signed into law and the award will stand as a fitting tribute to the commitment and dedication the Reagans have had to this nation.

As President, Ronald Reagan was dedicated to encouraging economic growth, recognizing the value of hard work, and sparking hope and pride among Americans.

He believed that "everyone can rise as high and as far as their ability will take them." This principle became a guiding creed of Reagan's Presidency, as he successfully turned the tide of public cynicism and sparked a national renewal.

President Reagan fulfilled his pledge to restore "the great, confident roar of American progress, growth, and optimism." During his presidency, Americans once again believed in the American Dream.

Today, as we face a great evil, we build upon this "confident roar" and find solace in Ronald Reagan's everlasting faith in America and her people.

Thank you Mr. President for your inspiration and leadership which continues to guide our nation and which will help us to protect our freedoms and liberties in the twenty-first century. May you have a peaceful and relaxing birthday and God bless.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 82.

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. WELDON of Florida. 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.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING JACK SHEA, OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST IN SPEED SKATING, FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION AND TO HIS COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 340) recognizing and honoring Jack Shea, Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, for his many contributions to the Nation and to his community throughout his life.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 340

Whereas John "Jack" Amos Shea was born September 7, 1910, in Lake Placid, New York, a village in the Adirondack Mountains;

Whereas Shea was the son of James Shea, a New York State Assemblyman, and Grace Shea;

Whereas at the age of 3 Jack began ice skating and by the age of 10 he was competing in speed skating;

Whereas Shea was the North American speed skating champion in 1929 and 1930;

Whereas at the age of 21 Shea entered the 1932 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York, during which he won the gold medal in speed skating for both the 500 meter and the 1,500 meter events;

Whereas Shea was elected to the Speed Skating Hall of Fame, was among the first group of honorees elected to the Lake Placid Hall of Fame, and received numerous other honors from the speed skating community;

Whereas after graduating from Dartmouth College with a degree in political science, Shea served as the town justice of North Elba, New York, from 1958 to 1974, after which he became the town supervisor until his retirement in 1983;

Whereas Shea was a member of the Executive Committee of the 1980 Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee;

Whereas in 1982 Shea was appointed to serve as vice chairman of the Olympic Regional Development Authority;

Whereas Shea was a loving husband to his wife of 67 years, Elizabeth Steams Shea, and had 4 sons and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

Whereas Shea's son Jim competed in the 1964 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, and his grandson Jim Jr. will compete in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and honors Jack Shea, Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, for his many contributions to the Nation and to his community throughout his life, and for transcending the sport of speed skating and becoming a symbol of athletic talent and a role model as a loving husband, father, and grandfather; and

(2) extends its deepest condolences to the family of Jack Shea and to the Olympic community on their loss.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 340.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the House consider House Resolution 340. I commend my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY), for introducing it. This resolution recognizes the enduring contributions, heroic achievements, and dedicated work of Jack Shea.

Mr. Shea died on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 at the age of 91 from injuries in a car accident a few blocks from his home. The driver of the car that hit Jack Shea's car was charged with driving while intoxicated and other counts.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Shea devoted his life to living the Olympic ideal and passing his inspiration and knowledge to younger generations. At 22, Jack Shea won gold medals in speed skating in both the 500 meter and the 1,500 meter events in front of his hometown crowd at the 1932 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York. With this accomplishment, he became the first double gold medalist in Winter Olympic history.

Later Jack Shea recalled, "When I stood on the dais to get the gold medal and I heard the national anthem of the United States, how proud I was to represent my country, my community, my father, and mother."

Jack Shea not only promoted the Olympic ideal of peace, he lived that ideal. He had a chance to win more Olympic medals at the 1936 winter games in Germany, but Lake Placid had a large Jewish community whose rabbi asked him not to take part in an event linked with Hitler's Germany. Jack Shea honored that request.

Back troubles kept Mr. Shea from skating much after the 1950s. However, he continued to serve the Olympics and the Lake Placid area. He served as the town justice of North Elba, New York, from 1958 to 1974. He then became the town's supervisor and remained in that position until his retirement in 1983.

Jack Shea also served on the executive committee of the 1980 Lake Placid Organizing Committee. He realized his personal quest to bring the Winter Olympic games back to Lake Placid. When speaking about the winter games