

high-level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain proclaim that terrorists will have a more difficult time committing an act of terrorism at one singular site as opposed to 131 commercial nuclear reactors around the country.

Nonsense. What this view does not take into account is how many opportunities terrorists will now be provided if this nuclear waste is transported through 43 States, past the homes, hospitals, and schools of over 123 million Americans. Seventy-seven thousand tons of nuclear waste will require at least 96,000 truck shipments over 3 decades, giving terrorists over 96,000 opportunities to target these shipments as the next act of heinous terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to consider the safety and welfare of the 123 million Americans whose communities could be destroyed by transporting deadly nuclear waste throughout our entire country. Protect Americans from the next possible terrorist act. Stop Yucca Mountain.

IRAQ

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for President Bush in extending our war on terrorism to the countries that make up the axis of evil: Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. These countries have all been designated as state sponsors of terrorism, and all three are engaged in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Today, Iraq poses the most serious threat to America's national security. Iraq and Iran were engaged in a war from 1980 to 1988 which killed approximately 1 million people. Just 3 years after this war was over, in 1991, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Two years after the Gulf War in 1993, Iraq tried to assassinate President George H.W. Bush when he visited Kuwait.

Iraq has consistently destabilized the Middle East over the past 20 years and is trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction which can be used against America and our allies. We should work with our allies to finally bring peace, stability, and democracy to the people of Iraq.

We must also prevent other nations from undermining our efforts to bring about a stable, democratic government in Iraq. Mr. Speaker, I fully support President Bush's efforts to eradicate international terrorism, which threatens all free, democratic nations.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair 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.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT A GOLD MEDAL ON BE- HALF OF CONGRESS TO FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AND HIS WIFE NANCY REAGAN

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 305) permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 305

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on May 16, 2002, for a ceremony to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER).

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand up on behalf of awarding the Congressional Medal to former President Reagan and his wife, Nancy.

I had a long-standing personal relationship with President Reagan, having traveled in his campaign plane going back to the East in 1976. He was a remarkable human being who knew who he was and what he was about, and he left office exactly as he entered it. Uninflated by the trappings of power, he came to do some things, he did them, and then he left.

On the night before he announced his candidacy for President in October of 1975, he gave a speech at the 20th anniversary celebration of the National Review. It was a remarkably confident, uplifting, and humorous speech; but toward the end of that speech, he looked at the world as we see it, and it was not all pretty.

He quoted something written 40 years earlier, or so, by Whittaker Chambers, a former Communist and popular writer in the 1940s and '50s. He said, "It is idle to speak of saving western civilization because western civilization is already a wreck from within. That is why we can hope to do little more than snatch a fingernail from a saint on the rack, or a handful of ash from the fagots, and bury them secretly in the flower pot against that day ages hence

when a few men will dare to believe that there once was something else, that something else was thinkable; and that there are those who, at the dark moments, took loving care to preserve the tokens of hope and truth."

Reagan was looking at a very, very dark time in America. He went on to run for President, and he did not win. In some ways, it does not matter that he did not win in that race. The day after President Ford won the nomination in Kansas City, Ronald Reagan assembled the friendly troops that had followed him so ardently for the past year, and he told them that it was just the beginning, and that we would one day reach that shining city on the Hill.

Four years later, he ran for President again. It is valuable to remember what kind of circumstances the United States faced in 1980 as he ran for President. We have heard for the last 10 years that I have been here on this floor that the 1980s was a decade of greed and that he ran us into all kinds of debt. But let us lay some facts on the table. Facts, as it has been said, are stubborn things.

When Ronald Reagan ran for President, we had interest rates of 21 percent, we had home mortgages at 17 percent, inflation at 14 percent, and double-digit unemployment. He faced these challenges on that January day when he was sworn into office, and he listed them one after the other. Then he told the American people that we can conquer this, because, after all, we are Americans.

Over the next 10 years, not Ronald Reagan and not government policy, but the American people, changed the world with a cut in taxes to take the burden of paying for government off the backs of small businesses, the creators of jobs, with a significant reduction in regulations across the board. The American people, over the next 8 or 10 years, created 4 million businesses and nearly 20 million new jobs. The revenues to the Federal Government after reducing taxes doubled from \$519 billion in 1980 to \$1 trillion 54 billion in 1990.

The American people are a generous sort and also increased their contributions to strangers, people they have never met, through charities from \$48 billion in 1980 to around \$100 billion in 1990. It is now \$195 billion.

Ronald Reagan would be reluctant to take any credit for any of this. He set a tone. He set a tone for the United States, and they followed it. In the 4 years before he became President, from 1976 to 1980, communist influence had increased in 14 major areas around the world from Afghanistan to Zambia. When Ronald Reagan took office, he was facing probably the largest expansion of communist activity in the history of this past century.

As he left office, quietly, without bragging, without talking, communism was collapsing on its own. Shortly thereafter, the Berlin Wall fell, and the

whole idea of communism and socialism were both empirically and theoretically discredited. We now face expansions of freedom around the world.

He was an unassuming and decent man, and the American people saw that. They saw what he was, and they gave him two huge Presidential victories. But my favorite story about him was told by his friend of many, many years, Mike Deaver, who, while walking with Ronald Reagan on the streets of Manhattan in 1978, I believe it was, after he had run for President, and much of the world knew who he was from that campaign, he was walking down the street in Manhattan and saw someone inching toward him, wanting to get his autograph, thinking he knew who he was, but not sure.

Reagan, ever the polite gentleman, turned to him and put his hand out and said hello. The gentleman looked at Ronald Reagan and said, Could I get your autograph, Mr. Milland? Ronald Reagan signed "Ray Milland" and moved on. Mike Deaver said, why didn't you tell him who you were? Ronald Reagan said, I know who I am. He wanted to meet Ray Milland.

That is the kind of guy he was, the kind of President he was. He and Mrs. Reagan deserve to be honored with a Congressional Medal as a marvelous team in the history of this great country.

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

□ 1415

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the concurrent resolution to authorize a ceremony to present a Congressional Gold Medal to former President Ronald Reagan and to Nancy Reagan. I regret that President Reagan will not be present for that ceremony.

H.R. 3591, enacted in the last Congress as Public Law 106-251, authorized presentation of this gold medal to our 40th President and our First Lady.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan was a strong leader, both substantively in terms of policy and symbolically in terms of the image he projected to the American people. He was a significant figure at a critical point in time in our history. Ronald Reagan was clearly an effective advocate for his views, and he retained the affection of the American people throughout his Presidency. President Reagan was skilled at representing the office of the Presidency as well as his policies. He was an individual, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) has said, simple, unassuming, profound in some ways and a thoroughly decent human being.

I want to take this opportunity as well to salute Nancy Reagan his wife, an active First Lady and a devoted spouse both in the White House and in the difficult days since she has coped with the former President's tragic Alzheimer's disease. Nancy Reagan has been a tireless proponent of programs

to prevent alcohol and drug abuse as well.

Mr. Speaker, I may disagree with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) in terms of some of the policies and some of the reasons for what has happened in America. We will have those kind of differences appropriately. But what neither of us disagree on and what we both agree on is that Ronald Reagan is in fact a decent human being who cares greatly about his country, who cares about its people, who cares about freedom, and who cares about justice. He was a leader of significance, as I said earlier, a leader who made a difference, a leader who set before the world an image of freedom, a leader who was prepared to commit himself to the defense of freedom and, as a result, in my opinion, gave to those who would undermine freedom in the Kremlin and other places in the world second thoughts.

In the final analysis, I am convinced that Gorbachev, the leader of Soviet Union, looked at his people and said, Ronald Reagan, the Congress, the American people are prepared to pay the price of defending freedom and are not going to let it go by default. We cannot compete, I am sure Gorbachev said, with a President, a Congress and a people with such resolve. As a result, I think, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) has pointed out, shortly after the Reagan Presidency, communism was certainly in retreat, the Iron Curtain came down, the Berlin Wall, which he asked to be torn down, in fact was torn down.

So although during the course of his Presidency I differed on some policies and, frankly, agreed on others, but what we all can agree on is that this was an American who served his country well, an American who gave of himself, of his philosophy, of his intellect, of his devotion to country. Americans and America and, indeed, the world benefitted by that contribution.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to rise with my friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER), in support of this most appropriate use of the rotunda of the Capitol of the United States.

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER), for allowing me the time today to appear and present a few remarks on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the 50th wedding anniversary of former President and First Lady Ronald and Nancy Reagan, a half a century of commitment not just to themselves and to each other but a commitment to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, today we plan for another milestone, the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony for this distinguished couple.

In the 106th Congress I, along with my good friend and colleague, the gen-

tlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN), introduced legislation to award the Reagans the highest honor that Congress can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal. Ronald and Nancy Reagan have dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and bettering the quality of life for every American. Certainly the Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting tribute to their enduring commitment to public service.

Recently, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 305 to authorize the use of the Capitol Rotunda for their Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony to be held on May 16 of this year.

The Reagans have stood as leaders and icons in our Nation's history for years. A popular two-term governor and later as President of the United States, Ronald Reagan was dedicated to encouraging economic growth, recognizing the value of hard work and sparking hope and pride among all Americans. He believed that everyone can rise as high and as far as their abilities 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 of faith and hope. He fulfilled his pledge to restore the great confident roar of American progress, growth and optimism; and Americans once again believed in the good old-fashioned American dream.

Always standing by his side, President Reagan's wife, Nancy, served as a gracious First Lady and a distinguished leader in her own right. Perhaps her most notable and longest-lasting achievement was her "Just Say No" campaign aimed at preventing alcohol and drug abuse among our youth.

Even today, Mrs. Reagan continues to be an active public leader as a champion for increasing funding for research on Alzheimer's disease.

Together, the Reagans have dedicated much of their lives to our Nation. Their leadership and service extended well beyond President Reagan's tenure in office.

It has been an honor for me to lead the effort of awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to this deserving couple.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution which will allow for the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony to occur here, in the People's House, our Nation's Capitol.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN).

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this resolution to allow the use of the Capitol to honor President and Mrs. Reagan.

I so much appreciate hearing the words of our colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who was eloquent in his description of how this President was able to bring hope to this country and work across the aisle to achieve great things for the United States.

Two years ago the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and I sponsored a bill that awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to President Reagan and his wife and his long-time supporter, Mrs. Nancy Reagan. That bill, as the gentleman from Nevada told us, was passed in both houses; and it was signed by the President. With passage of today's resolution we will have the privilege to present our Nation's highest award to Mrs. Reagan this May in the Capitol Rotunda.

President Reagan delivered his second inaugural address in the Rotunda. I well remember that day because it was about one degree above zero and they actually canceled the parade to be held that day for the inauguration of the President. So President Reagan went ahead with his inaugural address, but he moved it to the Rotunda, so that has significance to us. In that address he personified our country as hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent and fair. Those are the exact words I would use to describe President Reagan himself.

Together, the President and the First Lady dedicated their lives to lifting the American spirit and bettering the quality of life for all Americans.

I continue and I know so many people also continue to be inspired by President Reagan's ideals of lowering the tax burden on individual working Americans, of strengthening families, limiting the control of government and achieving peace through strength here for our United States.

In the early 1980s President Reagan's policy and leadership lifted us out of a terrible economic situation. I well remember the record unemployment, the 21 percent interest rates, the double-digit inflation that we lived through during that time. He stated in his campaign that he would bring America back, and he did.

As we all know, the First Lady has been very instrumental in every Presidency. This is especially true of First Lady Nancy Reagan who traveled tirelessly around this Nation promoting her Just Say No campaign in order to stop substance abuse among young people. She knew she was not elected to office. She was not elected to office and yet she put to the best use the clout that she had as First Lady of this Nation to make what I believe was a lasting impact on our Nation's youth.

President and Mrs. Reagan believed in the promise of the American dream. In an era of growing cynicism, they worked in their own upbeat and hopeful ways to make America a place where everybody can rise as high and as far as their ability will take them.

My best wishes go out to President and Mrs. Reagan who have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Although he has withdrawn from public life and we will be here forever to remember his accomplishments, his wife will come to receive this honor in the Rotunda on May 16. We will be there to greet her, to thank her for her

constant support of this great man and the wonderful activities she herself initiated on behalf of our Nation's youth. We will never forget their achievements.

Now it is time for us to honor these two individuals and to say thank you to our Nation's most magnificent President and his First Lady, Nancy Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER), and I thank the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 305, and I subscribe to everything that the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) thereafter has said and the gentleman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) has said.

President Reagan was an unusually great President of this country. He lowered the burden of taxation on Americans. He in a large measure was solely responsible through his policies and his tenacity for bringing down the Berlin Wall and ending the Cold War. He was a leader of great proportion. But I rise for a different reason, not just to repeat the same.

It is really appropriate that we use the Rotunda to present this award to Nancy Reagan, and it is because she and the President are still achieving great things for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I lost my mother 4 years ago to Alzheimer's, and I have the greatest of regard for the caregivers of America who today deal with the care and the tragedy of that disease that afflicts their loved ones. I am so proud of the President, President Reagan, in the way he, in such a dignified manner, let the American people know of his debilitating disease; and he met it with the same positive influence that he met every challenge, no matter how great it was, in his life.

As President of the United States, he did wonderful things for our country. As First Lady, Nancy Reagan did wonderful things for our country. And when the Gold Medal is presented, it will be for all the positive accomplishments that he made. But at this time in their lives it also recognizes a couple who are a shining beacon to millions of Americans whose loved ones have been confronted with Alzheimer's, who, as caregivers, give every moment of their day to make the life of their loved one as easy as possible.

So on the 50th anniversary of their marriage, on their recognition of the accomplishments as First Lady and the President, it is also appropriate that we point out to the American people that even today, as a past President and a past First Lady, Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan continue to be a beacon to the American people in their handling of the most difficult of diseases in the latter years of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), and I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) for yielding me time, and I urge the support of House Concurrent Resolution 305.

□ 1430

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to urge all of our colleagues to support this resolution in honor of President and Mrs. Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, I said much about President Reagan in the opening of this conversation about his life, and let me close by honoring Mrs. Reagan. President Reagan said for many years that his life started 50 years ago yesterday, that was the day he married Nancy Reagan. She has been a full partner in all of his successes, of which there are many.

It is often the partner, the spouse, that does a lot of the work, while the person up front gets a lot of the credit. She was there from day one, 50 years ago yesterday. She deserves this tribute just as does he. I look forward to their coming here on May 16 to receive this tribute.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 305, as amended.

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. LINDER. 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.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING AS HOUSE DOCUMENT OF COLLECTION OF MEMORIAL TRIBUTES MADE IN HONOR OF THE LATE GERALD SOLOMON

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 338) authorizing the printing as a House document of a collection of memorial tributes made in honor of the late Gerald Solomon.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 338

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF COLLECTION OF STATEMENTS IN TRIBUTE TO GERALD SOLOMON.

A collection of statements made in tribute to the late Gerald Solomon, together with