

for the eradication of curable diseases among African children. This work was continued in a convention called "Children of the Front Line" in Harare, Zimbabwe. As part of this effort, with the largest concentration of African artists ever assembled, Mr. Belafonte performed a concert benefiting UNICEF.

Mr. Speaker, there is much more that I would like to share about this living legend who has left a mark on our world. Clearly, Mr. Belafonte is laudable recipient of this award, which highlights his contributions toward securing human rights and freedoms locally and throughout the world. Most importantly, I am proud and honored to call "Harry" my friend.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to honor Mr. Belafonte, a World War II veteran, musician, visionary, activist, and my brother, in the struggle for social justice and peace.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO "RAY
CHARLES—A NATIONAL TREASURE"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, tonight I pay tribute to the angel of soul in music Mr. Ray Charles the piano man with the soulful voice who reshaped American music for a half century. He brought the essence of soul to country, jazz, rock, and every other style of music that you can think of he had an influence on it.

Mr. Charles died at the age of 73 of an acute liver disease at his Beverly Hills home at 11:35 a.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2004 surrounded by family and friends. As a singer, pianist and composer, Charles broke racial and musical barriers as an African American, blind by the age of 7 and an orphan at 15, he spent the rest of his life blending rhythm and blues into various musical art forms that earned him 12 Grammy Awards and immense fame for five decades.

Ray Charles "The Genius" produced many hit songs like "What'd I Say?" which featured the Raelettes, was his first million selling song. Next came a classic version of Hoagy Carmichael's 1930 song "Georgia on My Mind." Charles version became the official state song of Georgia. Due to some objections by recording executives at the label company, Charles made "Modern Sounds in Country and Western music" in 1962, an album that produced a million-seller with songs like "I Can't Stop Loving You" and the popular hit "Hit the Road, Jack" and "Let the Good Times Roll." At the 1960 Grammy Awards, he took home four awards across all genres, including best vocal performance by a pop artist ("Georgia on My Mind"), best vocal performance album ("The Genius of Ray Charles") and best R&B performance ("Let the Good Times Roll").

He later won Grammy Awards for "Busted" in 1963 and "Crying Time" in 1966 and other songs like "Let's Go Get Stoned." In all, Mr. Charles made more than 60 albums and his influence has resonated through generations of country, pop, R&B and gospel singers.

Mr. Charles began involving himself in music at a very early age. In his autobiography, Charles said, "as long as I can remem-

ber, music has always been something extraordinary in my life. It's always been something that completely captured my attention—from the time I was three, when Mr. Pitman was showing me these little melodies. My first love was the music I heard in the community: blues, church gospel music, and country and western. My mom would let me stay up to listen to the Grand Old Opry on Saturday night. That's the only time I got to stay up late. I heard the blues played by Muddy Waters and Blind Boy Philips and Tampa Red and Big Boy Crudup. And of course every night if you listened to the right station, you might pick up a little Duke Ellington or Count Basie. But the bulk of what I heard of blues in those days was called "race music," which became rhythm and blues, and rhythm and blues later was called soul music."

Mr. Charles learned to read and write music in Braille, scored for big bands and played instruments like the trumpet, clarinet, organ, alto sax and the piano. This experience in reading Braille and playing by ear helped Charles develop a superb memory where he could sit at his desk and write a complete arrangement in his head and not touch a musical instrument and the music would come out exactly the way it sounded in his head.

Mr. Charles thank you for being the angel of soul, you will be missed.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan's passing gives this nation an opportunity to reflect on the can-do attitude that he exuded and the greatness of the American people that he believed in. He was the essential American, a President born in mid-America, instilled with solid Midwestern values. He had a deep love affair with the American people, and they with him. Like Franklin Roosevelt, he was an American icon, and like Roosevelt, he had an uncanny ability to connect and communicate with common people.

Today we salute four tenets of President Reagan's legacy: economic growth, deregulation, peace through strength, and patriotism through a return of the American dream.

The father of Reaganomics launched the boldest economic plan since FDR that promoted lower taxes, sound money, and less regulation. Reagan unveiled a "program for economic recovery" to a Joint Session of Congress calling for a \$41.4 billion in tax cuts—the largest in history.

Reagan was an advocate for deregulation and free trade pacts. He worked to tear down barriers to enterprise and encourage a spirit of self enterprise. His commitment to deregulation was evident when in 1981 he took decisive action to carry out this promise to fire 13,000 air traffic controllers for an illegal strike.

After years of crumbling defense spending, President Reagan increased defense spending 35 percent during two terms and promoted peace through strength. He called the Soviet Union for what it was—an evil empire—and by

standing firm against it hastened the end of the Cold War and the return of Russia to the family of nations.

Influenced by his humble beginnings, Reagan's patriotism and optimistic spirit exemplified the American dream. He restored America's "can do" creed. We will always remember the words of his farewell address, when he said those of his generation "were taught, very directly, what it means to be an American. And we absorbed, almost in air, a love of country and an appreciation of its institutions."

He never trimmed his sails or compromised his values. We will remember him as a president who understood the balance between pragmatism and partisanship. We will remember him as the great communicator who united Americans toward common goals. But most of all we will remember him as a great president who brought honor and respect to the Office of President. I join with all Americans in expressing our sympathy to Nancy Reagan and his family for the loss of this great American.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States and one of the greatest leaders and statesmen of the 20th Century.

America has long known that President Reagan was ill, but his death came as a shock to a country that continued to feel his presence. He touched millions of lives during his tenure as governor of California and two terms in America's highest office. Although long anticipated, his passing marks with finality the end of the Reagan era.

President Reagan's commitment to freedom altered the course of modern history. He brought the United States through the end of the Cold War with strength and resolve, and he led the U.S. economy to heights once unimaginable through his sound domestic policies.

He possessed a vision for America that reflected its devotion to individual liberty, that every person is born with the intrinsic right to achieve their dreams through their own labors and determination.

He will forever be remembered as a champion of promoting peace and prosperity throughout the world with a strong faith at the core of his principles and values. He was a great man elected to take charge of a great country at a time when strong leadership was sorely needed.

President Reagan's infectious optimism inspired many Americans to become involved in the political process, and his influence and vision will continue to live throughout the ages.

My prayers and those of my family are with the family and hundreds of millions of friends of President Reagan, knowing that the Lord has preserved a very special place for him in heaven.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, folks from across the country came to Washington this week to mourn the passing of President Ronald Reagan. Even in death, the former President continued his fascinating connection with Americans of all types.

Although I never met Ronald Reagan, he was one of my inspirations for entering politics. I was 18 at the time of his 1980 presidential campaign and it was the first big election to which I really paid attention. I remember being drawn to what this man, a half a century older than me, was saying about having faith in our country, its people and their future. He was optimistic, cheerful and came across as a thoroughly likable guy.

It was simply astounding how he could establish a bond with even the most unlikely audience. In 1984, I was a senior at The Ohio State University and a member of the marching band. We were asked to play at a rally that President Reagan would be holding at St. John Arena. At first we all thought it would be an official band appearance, but then we were informed that since the President's visit was actually a campaign event, we could not appear as The Ohio State University Marching Band. If we wished, though, we could volunteer on our own, and appear without our uniforms. There were roughly 200 members in the band at that time and, as I recall, roughly 200 of us jumped at the opportunity to play at the President's campaign event. Think of it. A couple of hundred college kids were treating the appearance of a 73-year-old Republican President as enthusiastically as the Michigan game—we would not have missed it for the world.

President Reagan could connect with college kids and he could connect with Democrats, particularly those like my dad, an Italian immigrant who worked as a machinist. He came to America so he could have a better life and his kids' lives would be better still. He knew exactly what Ronald Reagan was talking about.

He was The Great Communicator. President Reagan swept aside the filters and "analysis" of the news media and spoke from the Oval Office directly with the American people. He had the gift of explaining issues and his positions on them in simple, effective terms—a gift all too few of us in politics today possess. President Reagan spoke in a way that made Americans feel like they were almost partners with him.

Perception is reality, and Ronald Reagan knew that. His message of hope and optimism put a new face on the Republican Party, and brought an end to the dour Nixonian era of GOP politics. Young people like me began looking at the Republican Party in a different way. Because of Ronald Reagan, we could take pride in being Republicans.

I was struck by the attitude I saw in Washington this week. Certainly, there was sadness and grief over the loss of one of the giants of our time. But in keeping with the make-up of the man himself, there was more. As often as

not, people also smiled when they spoke of Ronald Reagan, often displaying that same sense of hope and good cheer that he himself had radiated throughout his life. For all his accomplishments, it's that same sense of hope and optimism that I'll think of whenever I remember Ronald Reagan.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 664, honoring the late Honorable Ronald Wilson Reagan, 40th President of the United States. As is the case for so many speaking in this chamber today, Ronald Reagan was one of my personal heroes.

Although we are all deeply saddened by the passing of President Reagan, Americans today are still touched by his legacy and his steadfast belief in the promise of this great Nation. By using his famous wit, he knew how to make us believe in ourselves again. Each of us has our favorite examples of the Reagan wit. My favorite quote is, "Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

To Ronald Reagan, "America is a shining city upon a hill for all to see and to follow and reach to, something toward which mankind should strive." Reagan brought convictions and determination as well as a genuine, hopeful and optimistic outlook to the office of President. Ronald Reagan never doubted his convictions. He never lost faith in America. His reassuring tones were comforting even in difficult times. With Reagan as president, it was indeed morning again in America.

Just prior to Ronald Reagan assuming the presidency, many people wondered whether this country's best days were behind us. Reagan insisted: "America's best days lie ahead." By the time he left office, the United States was enjoying the longest peacetime economic expansion in our history. President Reagan's most long-lasting legacy is his role in winning the Cold War. While the common doctrine of the time called for containing Communism, Reagan boldly predicted it would soon be "left on the ash-heap of history."

During the journey that was the Reagan revolution, he restored prosperity, confidence, optimism, faith and pride in America. While we will miss Ronald Reagan, his contributions to the world will be felt for generations to come. He came to Washington to change the country and ended up changing the world. As he said in his farewell address to the Nation from the Oval Office, "A final word to the men and women of the Reagan revolution, the men and women across America who for eight years did the work that brought America back. My friends: We did it. We weren't just marking time. We made a difference. We made the city stronger, we made the city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all."

Summing up an American icon, a giant, like Ronald Reagan is an enormous task. I am

grateful for the vision Ronald Reagan taught me and the lessons about the power of convictions, the value of principled leadership, and the goodness and the decency of the human spirit. We'll miss the twinkle in his eyes and affable smile which have left this earth. However, the contributions he made to his country and to mankind remain with us, as vast as the great continent that the United States spans, and God willing, will outlast us all.

As an American, I want to join in offering my support of H. Res. 664, honoring the late Honorable Ronald Wilson Reagan, 40th President of the United States.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in offering a tribute to former President Ronald Reagan. He is rightly remembered as a larger-than-life figure—a man who conquered first Hollywood, then California, and then Washington, DC, and whose message of freedom and democracy spread around the world. Though I did not know him well, I did know his daughter Maureen very well, and she is also missed.

President Reagan was naturally possessed of the qualities that make a great leader. As Governor of California and later as President, he used a blend of humor, kindness and boldness to communicate with the American people, to challenge and defeat the Soviet adversary, and to promote his uniquely American vision of how things should be.

While I disagreed with a number of his policies, I always admired his ability to convey his ideas and his power to persuade.

The enormous outpouring of emotion and love for this man comes as no surprise. When we think of Ronald Wilson Reagan, we will remember his infectious optimism and grace, and his belief that there is always a better day ahead for America.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, along with all of my colleagues here today, I rise to honor President Ronald Reagan. I was first elected to Congress in 1988, on the same day that President George H.W. Bush was elected. Because Members of Congress officially take office on January 3, while a new President does not take office until January 20, my first 17 days as a Congressman were during the last 17 days Ronald Reagan served as President. So when people ask me who was the President when I first came to Washington, I reply that it was Ronald Reagan. I had the opportunity to see Ronald Reagan in person only