

one time, with his wife Nancy, during the inauguration of President George H.W. Bush. I remember thinking that together they had a larger than life presence.

Although I differed with Ronald Reagan a great deal on domestic policy, I nevertheless admired him for the strong leader that he was. He had an affable manner that allowed him to interact well with people who both supported and opposed his policies. He was a strong leader who had a lot of charm, strength and enthusiasm.

The gulf between the Republican and Democratic policies can sometimes seem vast. But the bridge that spans that gulf is our common heritage as Americans and belief in this great nation. Ronald Reagan had the gift to make that bridge seem very small. I am pleased to honor him today.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, last week our nation honored the life of one of the most beloved, and most important, presidents of the twentieth century. During the 1980s, President Reagan did what many considered the impossible.

As we faced great challenges at home and abroad, he helped us believe that it was "morning in America," and that we would overcome our difficulties. With the will of the nation behind him, President Reagan's steadfast leadership led to the defeat of communism and a robust economic recovery.

When President Reagan took office a quarter century ago, communism was on the march, threatening to bring the free world to its knees. But President Reagan's policy of "peace through strength" starved the Soviet bloc and made it safe for freedom to flourish in new nations. "No weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will of free men and women," he said.

Here at home, our country was in the worst recession since the Great Depression, with high unemployment, inflation, and interest rates. But President Reagan trusted the entrepreneurial spirit and cut taxes from 70 to 28 percent, creating 19 million new jobs and twenty years of growth. His economic policies formed the foundation upon which American families prosper. "We believe that no power of government is as formidable as the force for good as the creativity and entrepreneurial drive of the American people," he said.

By rallying the will of our country, by reminding us of our remarkable abilities—of what it means to be Americans, President Reagan reunited us as a confident and hopeful nation. And with a focused vision, he set us on a course that preserved our liberty and allowed our domestic economy to prosper again.

In life, President Reagan was a guiding light for our nation. Even when times were tough, he rejected the idea that America's best days were past, insisting that there is no limit to what our nation and our people can endure—or accomplish. And he was right.

Today we face a new enemy of liberty, in the war on terror. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the confident optimism and clear vision that President Reagan gave to this nation will light our path.

May God bless President Ronald Reagan.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of President Reagan over the weekend. My thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy and to the Reagan family and friends. This is an extraordinarily difficult time for any family, but I hope they can find some comfort in the joy and inspiration that President Reagan brought to so many around the globe.

Ronald Reagan was a true American original, a Midwestern boy of humble beginnings who chased his dreams of stardom in Hollywood and evolved into one of the foremost political leaders of the 20th Century.

His legacy is so profound and pervasive that it's easy to take for granted. But we should not forget that it was Ronald Reagan who restored strength to the Office of the President. It was Ronald Reagan who reshaped the federal government and ushered in two decades (and counting) of lower taxes and economic growth. It was Ronald Reagan who bolstered America's strength as a world military power. And it was Ronald Reagan who reminded us that America was indeed that "shining city on the hill," and we had bountiful reasons to be proud to be Americans.

His love of country was a guiding force throughout his life and his political career—he knew America was great because America was free, and his sought to shine the light of freedom on corners of the globe darkened by the stain of totalitarianism. His demand for Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall" is not only a seminal moment in Cold War history, but a reminder that America's democratic ideals are ultimately stronger than any barriers erected by forces of oppression.

Quite simply, President Reagan's words and actions helped change the world for the better. And I can't think of a greater accomplishment than that.

We lost more than a man on Saturday, when President Reagan ended his long journey into the sunset.

We lost a true giant, and a great American.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the passing of Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States of America.

As a Vietnam veteran and an officer with the CIA from 1969–1979, my world was changed dramatically and for the better when Ronald Reagan won his historic presidential race in November 1980.

At the time I was serving on the staff of Senator John H. Chafee (R-RI). Politically, it was a watershed year. Not only did the Senate go from Democrat to Republican control for the first time in 26 years, but also some very well known Democratic Senators were swept from office in the "Reagan Revolution." They included Senator Frank Church, former Chairman of the Committee to Investigate the Intelligence Activities of the United States, and Birch Bayh, second Chairman of the newly established Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The Senate Intelligence Committee, where I went on to serve for four years as staff director, gained new leadership under Chairman Barry Goldwater and Vice Chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Goldwater had a long-standing and close political relationship with Ronald Reagan. In fact, many have said that a speech delivered by Reagan during Goldwater's historic 1964 presidential campaign propelled Reagan into the national political spotlight.

Goldwater was excited to work with President Reagan and CIA Director William Casey to institute a new approach to intelligence oversight. First, it focused on bipartisan consensus in intelligence where Vice Chairman Moynihan was a valued partner.

It also departed from the adversarial process of Senators Church and Bayh, and focused on rebuilding the morale and intelligence capabilities of American intelligence. Rather than adopting Church's belief that the CIA was a "rogue elephant," Goldwater expressed his supportive feelings by talking about the "intelligence family."

Sadly, in 1984 these positive developments were disrupted when the CIA was discovered to have been covertly involved in the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, without proper notification to Congress. In the ensuing firestorm, Barry Goldwater wrote a pointed note to CIA Director Casey expressing his concern over the lack of communication. The letter was quickly leaked to an eager press, excited that Senator Goldwater was at odds with the Reagan Administration.

At the time these events were unfolding, President Reagan was scheduled to appear at the Washington Hilton for the White House Correspondents Association annual black-tie dinner. Many observers felt that the press would use the opportunity to embarrass the president over the intelligence "flap." But, in what was to become a classic response of the President to a difficult situation, Ronald Reagan opened his remarks by saying:

"What's all that talk about a breakdown of White House communications? How come nobody told me?" Laughter. "Well, I know this: I've laid down the law, though, to everyone there from now on about anything that happens, no matter what time it is, wake me, even if it's in the middle of a Cabinet meeting." Laughter. The official presidential documents recorded that the President received twenty-six more laughs.

[Bob Woodward, *Veil: The Secret Wars of the CIA 1981–1987*, p. 333]

It was to the point. It was funny. It was self-deprecating. It defused for a moment what was a gathering storm for the Administration.

It gave everyone the opportunity to step away from a potentially explosive moment and get on with the challenging business of government.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of President Reagan, the United States rebuilt her intelligence and national security structure from 1980–1988. This was not done without controversy, but it was done. Morale was restored at the Central Intelligence Agency and elsewhere in the Intelligence Community. Capabilities were improved.

The military, too, regained a new pride and strength following the disasters in Vietnam and Iran. Members of the armed forces felt their service was respected by the Commander in Chief, and they valued his support. They loved his patriotic speeches, and were eager to follow his lead.

And yet for all of his accomplishments as a national and world leader, President Reagan never lost the personal touch. When I departed Washington, DC in early 1985, I left with a personal letter of thanks signed by the President.

This letter hangs in my office even today as a proud reminder of what President Reagan and Congress were able to accomplish during those difficult but historic years. It is also a clear symbol of a man who never allowed the trappings of high office obscure his view of the “little people” who constitute the strength of our government and Nation.

Now as we remember the life of Ronald Reagan, and as his casket lies with honor under the Capitol dome, it is my turn to thank him for his distinguished service to our country and to the world. He left us a better people and he left the world a better place.

The man will be missed, but the memory lives on in all of us who were touched by his life and his leadership. I yield back the balance of my time.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROSALIE GORDON-MILLS

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2004*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to know Rosalie Robinson Gordon-Mills, a community leader and distinguished citizen of Florida's 7th Congressional District. Her recent death is a great loss to St. Johns County and the State of Florida because of Mrs. Gordon-Mills' many contributions to our school system, civil rights, and community service. I join others in paying tribute to this special woman. It is my honor to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives the rich history of her life and many contributions from a recently published obituary.

Mrs. Rosalie Robinson Gordon-Mills, 96, died April 20 at Flagler Hospital following complications of a collapsed lung. A retired educator and counselor for 44 years with the St. Johns County School System, she was head of the English Department at Excelsior School and director of guidance and college placement at St. Augustine High School.

In addition to her teaching career, Mrs. Gordon-Mills was a civic leader and politician, having been the first black woman in 400 years to run for public office in St. Au-

gustine, for which she is currently listed in the Florida history books. In 1986, she received a Presidential Award from President Reagan for Private Sector Initiatives because of her outstanding leadership role with the St. Augustine Council on Aging in procuring the site and establishing the first multipurpose senior citizen's center in St. Augustine.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills was born in Tallahassee, to Arthur Howard Robinson, owner of a dairy business, which exported dairy products interstate. Her mother, Callie Eliza Ferrell, was a school teacher with her own school, as was her grandmother, Henrietta Robinson, the first licensed black teacher in the state of Florida. In the 1920's, her parents moved to St. Augustine, where her father became the head of the Agriculture Division of Florida Normal College and her mother became the dean of women. They came at the invitation of President Collier, who had met them in Tallahassee.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills attended the Model Laboratory School of Florida A & M, where she graduated with highest honors. She then realized her dream of attending college at Boston University, where she majored in chemistry and physical sciences. During her years at Boston University, she was a member of the varsity broad jump and pole vaulting team, as well as the debating team. She also pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority-Epsilon Chapter and was a member of The Aristos, a Boston social club. She would later return to Boston University and receive her master's degree in guidance and counseling in 1947.

When she returned to St. Augustine following graduation to visit with her parents, she met her future husband, Dr. Rudolph Nathaniel Gordon, America's first black maxillo-facial surgeon, who was researching a location for his practice. They met at an Episcopalian Church picnic, were married and were together for 25 years prior to Dr. Gordon's death in 1959. Together they were a formidable force in the St. Augustine community. Education and care of the children of Lincolnville was a top priority. They encouraged young people to attend four-year colleges and often took them to college and paid their tuition. He established a free dental clinic for Lincolnville children and a Boy Scout troop for the boys of the community. After Dr. Gordon's death, Mrs. Gordon-Mills would marry Dr. Otis J. Mills, longtime friend and member of the family that owned the famous “Iceberg” drugstore and manufactured the popular “Smooth As Silk” ice cream. They had a wonderful 12-year relationship before he succumbed to Alzheimer's disease.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills was an enthusiastic participant in the civil rights movement and supported all efforts of Lincolnville to work with Dr. Martin Luther King. She also befriended Mrs. Peabody, who came from Massachusetts to support the movement in St. Augustine. During this time, she ran for the City Council against six males and, after winning the primary, finished third in the final election, making her the first black woman to run for public office. She always felt a strong commitment to the future of St. Augustine and wanted to promote racial harmony. A member of one of Florida's most illustrious families, she was a direct descendant (through her maternal grandmother, Henrietta Robinson) of “The Great Antonio Proctor,” who was born in 1743 and was the recipient of 185 acres in St. Augustine from the Spanish Governor of Florida for his work as an interpreter between the Creek Indians and the Spanish when Florida was still under Spanish rule.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills' elder years were as filled with activity as her early years. A woman of intellectual brilliance, impeccable

character and determination, she continued to be active as a lifetime member of the Board of the Council on Aging; an officer of the Board of Echo House—a tutoring and community center she started—and an active member of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, where she was a member of The Daughters of The King and a member of the Vestry. She was the active C.E.O. of the family real estate business until the week of her death, spending each day problem-solving, meeting with her management crew and ensuring that her tenants and her properties were well cared for. Her considerable business acumen was respected by all of the business people whom she encountered. (She made recent trips to Tallahassee to meet with the State Historical Society to present grant requests for her Echo House project).

Her social life was equally active. As a founding member of the Daytona Beach chapter of the Links, Inc., she attended meetings and activities regularly and participated in their many scholarship fund-raising efforts for regional students. In addition, she administered the scholarship fund set up by her dear, deceased friend, Mrs. Bemis, of St. Augustine, that enables deserving and talented students to attend Bethune Cookman College. She enjoyed the regular gatherings of the Clique Club and Venetian Club, to which she had belonged for many years.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills loved her family; her daughter, Dr. Carlotta Gordon Miles and her son-in-law, attorney Theodore A. Miles, of Washington, D.C. (Her beloved son, Rudolph N. Gordon II, predeceased her in 1967.) Her grandchildren were the loves of her life and she had a special relationship with each of them—Dr. Wendell Gordon Miles and Miss Lydia Carlotta Miles, of Washington, D.C., and Mrs. Cecily Miles Slater and her husband, Ramael Slater, of Hollywood, CA. Her brother, Dr. Arthur J. Robinson, and his son, Arthur J. Robinson Jr., of Palm Coast; her sister-in-law Verna C. Robinson of Washington and her niece, Angela Robinson Witherspoon, and her husband, John Witherspoon, of Los Angeles, CA, and her nephew Elbert C. Robinson, of Washington. Her first cousins, Celestine Nicks of Mandarin, and Ida Mae Harrison, of Columbus, GA. Her family looked to her for guidance, advice and as an example of a Christian life well-lived.

Born into a privileged family, Mrs. Gordon-Mills had a deep sense of obligation to her fellow man and an unflinching determination to make a difference with her life. She had a deep devotion to all children, a strong sense of racial pride and a commitment to the concept of “From those to whom much is given, much is expected.” Her selflessness and generosity to others was unequalled. She believed that love should be put into action and faith in God is the foundation of life.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills was fortunate in having a circle of loving friends who, in the last years of her life, joined her family in making these years especially joyful. W.D. McCoy, a former student and “son,” was a devoted and concerned companion; Dorothy and Rudolph Israel and Maggie and Pat Patterson were ever present and supportive in whatever she chose to undertake. Otis and Myrtis Mason made it possible for her to continue her Links Inc. participation. Father David Allert and the members of the St. Cyprian's congregation admired and respected her wisdom and her spirituality. Arthur Schewecke, her neighbor and “son;” and Joe Logan and Janis Brown, her business manager, helped her continue her corporate activities. Josephine Quarterman, Lena Callueng and John Gilbert enabled her to continue to maintain her household and lifestyle until the end.