

May God continue to Bless the United States of America.

FREEDOM IS NOT FOR FREE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the following prayer written by Rabbi Reuven Mann from Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Plainview, New York.

Almighty G-d, we have gathered here today at a crucial moment in our history to honor the memory of all those who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation and its ideals of freedom, compassion and the highest cultivation of the human spirit. We came not only to honor but also to affirm the lesson of their sacrifice: Freedom is not an entitlement; it does not come for free, it is something which has to be fought for. With humbleness and gratitude let us acknowledge a simple truth: We owe these heroes everything. Without them, we would have lost our freedom long ago.

Yet, many people do not feel this way and take what we have here for granted believing that the American way of life is somehow "coming" to them. 9/11 was a wake up call—which happened, to a large extent because nobody believed it could happen. Let us admit it: We were afflicted with the cancer of complacency and blinded by the illusion of invincibility. Suddenly our country was under attack by a merciless, barbaric enemy who wanted us destroyed. 9/11 was a wake up call, but all too many decided to push the snooze button and go back to sleep.

The enemy does not sleep. He continues to remind us of his barbarism and cruelty by beheading innocent Americans and proudly recording his sadism on camera. 9/11 was a wake up call and the message is: If we do not appreciate our freedom and are not willing to fight for it, there is no guarantee that we will always have it. Therefore, I call on all of you to renew your appreciation for our country and its values for we are at war and every war requires the full support of the home front.

We have gathered here today to honor the heroes past and present whose valiant dedication makes our freedom possible. I would be remiss if I did not include among them the civilian heroes of 9/11, the firefighters, police and first responders, who charged into the line of fire to save thousands on that dark day. They wrote a new chapter in the history of bravery and self-sacrifice, and they will never be forgotten.

Almighty G-d, Creator of the Universe, may their selfless service inspire us to appreciate all the blessings that You have bestowed on this Nation. Let their memory be for a blessing—motivating us to become better people: more productive, compassionate, and respectful of the dignity of all men and women who were created in Your Image. And may Your Guidance and Protection be with our men and women who are right now in harms way, to give them the strength, courage and dedication to complete the mission in which they have performed so magnificently. May they speedily return in good health to their country, their homes and loved ones. And let us say: Amen.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great leader, a great man, and a great American. When President Ronald Wilson Reagan passed away on June 5, 2004, his death brought more than an end to his valiant ten-year struggle against Alzheimer's disease. It brought an end to one of the brightest and most optimistic periods in American history.

While President Reagan had been out of the public eye and under the loving care of his beloved wife, Nancy, for over a decade, he was never far from our minds or our hearts. During these past ten years, while he was traveling down the road into the sunset of his life, we have all had the opportunity to consider his true greatness and his many achievements. We have all come to understand that he was more than just our president and the most powerful man in the world; he was, instead, the personification of—and the symbol for—the boundless potential possible in this country.

From Dixon, Illinois, to Detroit, Michigan, from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles, California, and at all points in between, men and women everywhere recognize President Reagan for what he truly was: a gifted leader and a compassionate American with a vision for our future and an unwavering belief in the spirit and goodness of mankind.

To say that Ronald Reagan was an example of the American dream would be an understatement. Ronald Reagan was the American dream, the product of a poor middle class family who, as the result of his own intelligence, determination and strong personality, was able to attend college, enjoy a successful career in broadcasting and motion pictures, and eventually rise to the position of governor of California.

For most, that in and of itself would be a remarkable career. But President Reagan did not stop there. Rather, he continued to focus on what he saw as a need for a strong leader in the White House, someone who could work with a divided Congress and an American public still reeling from the political and economic crises of the 1970s to restore this Nation to its position as the "shining city on the hill."

During his eight years in office, he did just that. The "Reagan Revolution," as it came to be known, provided the impetus for significant changes here at home and around the world. The economy in this country which had been in steep decline for a number of years righted itself and enjoyed a strong period of growth for the next nine years. The Cold War was brought to an end, communism in many countries ultimately collapsed, and a whole new generation of men, women, and children around the world were able to enjoy a new, life free from the fear of oppression.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment, however, was in giving Americans a new sense of hope and pride. President Reagan restored a strong sense of optimism and hopefulness to this country, and made everyone feel proud

that they could once again say with assurance and determination, "I am an American."

Mr. Speaker, just as our nation paused last week to remember and reflect on this good man and great leader, let us, as a nation, remember President Ronald Reagan in the same way that he is remembered by his family: a man full of love, laughter, and life, someone full of boundless optimism and faith, and someone who always believed that America's best days are indeed ahead.

Our country—indeed, our world—has been blessed that we were able to share in a small way in the tremendous life he led. May we never forget the lessons he taught us or the leadership he displayed, and may we continue to keep Mrs. Reagan and the entire Reagan family foremost in our thoughts and prayers.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to President Ronald Reagan. We all join together this week to mourn his passage, but more importantly to celebrate his life. President Reagan meant many things to many people in the United States and throughout the world. Put simply, the world is a better place because Ronald Reagan lived. From his days as an actor and motivational speaker to his time as Governor and President to his final days on his California ranch, Ronald Reagan was a true gentleman who impacted the lives of those around him.

Ronald Reagan was sworn in as the 40th President of the United States the day American hostages were released from Iran—a poignant beginning to the challenges, which would lie ahead. As President, he survived an attack on his life and a battle with colon cancer; he fought communism; he guided the American people through rough economic times and uncertain international struggles; he made history in nominating the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court; and lead Americans through the tragedy of the Space Shuttle Challenger.

But to limit our descriptions of President Reagan to the milestones in his Presidency would be incomplete. His most impressive qualities are the intangibles that are felt but hard to describe.

So many Americans connected with President Reagan on a personal level. His ability to communicate with was unparalleled. "Larger than life" was never a phrase used to describe Ronald Reagan—not because he couldn't have been, but because he didn't want to be. He truly operated as a man of the people.

My first term as Governor of Delaware overlapped with his second term as President of the United States. I had the honor and privilege of working with President Reagan on what I see as one of his greatest landmark accomplishments—welfare reform. The empathy he felt for the American people and the challenges they faced in trying to make ends meet were represented in this landmark legislation. He epitomized a leader who didn't give hand-outs—but a hand up.

The optimism he felt for every American, our nation and the world was evident to all. His "glass half full" mentality guided us through times of peace and times of uncertainty; through the end of the Cold War and rough economic times. No matter what our nation faced, President Reagan's sense of patriotism, togetherness and hope for the future—was infectious.

His love of country made us believe that America was blessed to do great things for so many people. Sadly, this was probably best communicated in what has come to be known as his Letter to the American people when he told the world he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, when he wrote:

"I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I will know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

Everything he did, he did with grace. He will be remembered—even by those who may have disagreed with him—with respect for his willingness to work together and negotiate, with humor. He and Democratic Speaker Tip O'Neill used to joke that we are "all friends after 6:00 p.m." meaning that at the end of the day, politics was put aside and friendships could grow.

I like to think of President Reagan as a flexible conservative, one who was willing to listen to all sides of an argument, even if he didn't agree, for the chance that he might learn something new or understand a different angle. He didn't pretend to be an expert on all issues, and that is why so many politicians and the American people respected him. He wanted to turn the issue on all sides to see if there were any new approaches that could be taken. Yet at the same time, he was deeply rooted in his beliefs of smaller government, lower taxes and personal responsibility—which continue to guide the Republican Party today.

President Reagan is considered the modern day father of the Republican Party and his long legacy and sunny optimistic spirit will live on in all Americans. And as we all gather today to celebrate the man who meant so much to our country, I would like to invoke the words he used in bidding good-bye to the passengers on the Space Shuttle *Challenger*—"We will never forget them, not the last time we saw them—this morning, as they prepared for their journey, and waved goodbye, and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'touch the face of God'."

The Gipper, the Great Communicator, the Flexible Conservative and the Great Conciliator has gone home. But his legacy will never be forgotten.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED A.
LUNDIN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life and memory of Fred "Fritz" Lundin of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. I personally knew Fritz well, and he was a man of the highest integrity

and ethics and a natural leader in the community. As his family mourns his passing, I believe it appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man.

Born and raised in Brady, Nebraska, Fritz first moved to Colorado when he attended the University of Denver to study accounting on an ROTC scholarship. As a fighter pilot, Fritz honorably served our country in both Korea and Vietnam. For his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Following his military service he received his MBA from the University of Colorado.

In 1950, Fritz married Bette Coad with whom he had four children. Fritz retired from the Air Force in 1973 and moved to Glenwood Springs. During the years Fritz spent in Glenwood Springs, he became active in the community as a supporter of high school athletics. An avid sports enthusiast, he enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren participate in athletics, and he enjoyed outdoor activities with his family. In 1980, Fritz remarried Cindy Dollins with whom he shared a successful accounting practice and with whom he had a son.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Fred "Fritz" Lundin and pay tribute to his life as a valuable citizen of Glenwood Springs. Fritz held both himself and others to the highest standards. His competitiveness was contagious, making people around him better. I wish to express my deepest sympathies to his family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, we often hear negative comments about fathers and fatherhood, about "deadbeat dads" and absent fathers.

It's easy to forget that there are millions of American fathers who love their wives and their children.

They get up every morning and go to work to support their families.

They go to baseball games and ballet performances and school plays.

They help their kids with their homework, chaperone proms and mow the lawn.

They treat their wives with respect and model healthy relationships.

They make sacrifices and invest in the next generation.

Current research shows that these daily acts of responsibility and faithfulness have a major impact on child well-being.

Statistics show us that marriage is the foundation of responsible fatherhood, and that fathers who are married to the mothers of their children are more likely to be involved in their children's lives.

But, we don't need statistics to tell us that committed, involved fathers are essential to the preservation of the family.

On Sunday, thousands of families in my district will celebrate Father's Day.

Amid all the distractions of our society, many will stop, for just a minute, to honor "Dad."

It seems that politics and social change and the faddish nature of our culture have not been able to erase the enduring value of fatherhood and the imprint that fathers have in my district and across this great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present yesterday during rollcall No. 232, I would have voted "aye." During rollcall No. 233, I would have voted "aye." During rollcall No. 234, I would have voted "no." And, on rollcall No. 235, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING CAROLYN
RUBENSTEIN

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary individual who has made a difference in the lives of so many young children. Carolyn Rubenstein, herself just a teenager, started Carolyn's Compassionate Children (CCC), a non-profit organization that links critically ill children with their healthy peers through a pen pal program. Started 5 years ago when Carolyn was 14 years old, the program has connected over 500 children with pen pals in almost every U.S. state and countries around the world, including Canada and England. This excellent program helps children suffering from life-threatening or chronic illnesses connect with their healthy peers. Most of these children are shut in and do not have the ability to interact with others their age or live normal lives. CCC gives them the opportunity to develop friendships and connect with children or teens their age.

In addition to the pen pal program, CCC has awarded 21 college scholarships to cancer survivors. Because of their illness, many of these children who do not have as impressive a resume as their healthy peers and would, otherwise, not qualify for a scholarship. More recently, CCC has set up a scholarship program in the arts for cancer survivors.

I cannot say enough about Carolyn. At a time when our country is asking our young men and women to make sacrifices, Carolyn is a shining example for others to follow. Her compassion, drive and desire to help others has made this world a better place. I commend Carolyn and CCC for making a difference in the lives of so many young people.