

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1887. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to lift the patient limitation on prescribing drug addiction treatments by medical practitioners in group practices.

S. Con. Res. 5. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the celebration in 2004 of the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854.

S. Con. Res. 115. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the late Ronald Wilson Reagan, 40th President of the United States.

IN TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I join with others in the House in expressing the deepest condolences to Nancy Reagan and the Reagan family on the passing of Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States of America, and in paying tribute to President Reagan as we remember his Presidency and what he meant to our country and, indeed, to the world.

I deeply admired and respected President Reagan. I had the good fortune to run for the 10th Congressional District of Virginia seat in Congress in November of 1980 when he was elected to his first term. Some called my victory then "on Reagan's coattails." I have no doubt that I am in Congress today because of President Reagan.

I will always be grateful that after my two successful bids for Congress Ronald Reagan led the ticket I was on and I became a member of the class of 1980. I am sure all members of the class of 1980 would agree, President Reagan made us feel good again. He gave us hope. He inspired us. He gave us optimism because he was an optimist. His legacy belongs not only to America but to the world.

I saw a woman in California being interviewed. She was holding a bouquet of flowers and tears were streaming down her face. She had a broken English accent and identified herself as a Russian immigrant. She said she had to come to the makeshift memorial outside the funeral home where President Reagan was resting because, "I owe my life to President Reagan."

Mr. Speaker, I will close by sharing his own words spoken in August 1992 about how he wanted to be remembered. President Reagan said, "Whatever else history may say about me

when I am gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears, to your confidence rather than your doubts, and may all of you as Americans never forget your heroic origins, never fail to seek divine guidance, and never, never lose your God-given optimism."

Mr. Speaker, we thank God for the life of Ronald Wilson Reagan.

RONALD WILSON REAGAN— HELPING US REMEMBER

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week as I reflected on the anniversary of D-Day, I recalled President Reagan's speech on the 40th anniversary of that first day of liberation of Europe on June 6, 1984. President Reagan spoke of "the men of Normandy" who "had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead, or on the next."

As he so often did, his conviction and passion, his grace and sincerity connected a distant event to the struggle each and every human being faces every day, fighting to know what we are doing is right.

Later that day he told a different audience, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared so that we may always be free."

Newsweek called this freedom, which President Reagan mentioned in 1984, the freedom "from self-doubt, from the Soviet threat, from uneasiness about our national power and capacity to do great things."

This was Reagan's gift to his country. He knew that America was great and that our greatness had not come without a price. Indeed, we will always remember, Mr. President. We will always remember so that we may always be free.

HONORING PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I was farming and in the Michigan legislature when Ronald Reagan took office. With President Reagan, he not only led the country but restored America's confidence. He renewed our sense of America's goodness and America's greatness. And with that assurance, the American people achieved great things.

When Ronald Reagan came into office, we had Watergate, defeat in Vietnam, we surrendered control over the Panama Canal. Vietnam fell to Communism and Cambodia soon followed. The Sandinistas took control of Nica-

ragua. The Ayatollah Khomeini held 52 American hostages for more than a year at our embassy in Tehran.

Inflation stood at 13.5 percent and interest rates reached 21 percent. People in America had lost their optimism and pride in our country, and it was Ronald Reagan that brought us back. It was Ronald Reagan who turned it around. He never lost faith in the American people, and he had enough optimism to restore our lost confidence and get America back on its feet.

That is what impressed me so much in those days, that tremendous turnaround from so many being down to being proud again of America. He believed that we could cut taxes and restore our economy, and we did. By the end of his term, the U.S. economy had grown by a third.

He believed we could stand up proudly for American values around the world and stand up to the Soviet Union, and we did. It was President Reagan's resolve that halted the march of Communism in Central America and Afghanistan. It was Reagan's resolve that nurtured the Solidarity movement in Poland, and gave heart to the dissidents of the Soviet Bloc.

Ultimately, it was President Reagan's faith in American ideals and his steadfast determination that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the liberation of Eastern Europe.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, it was that leadership and vision for America that made Ronald Reagan special. And now the country mourns and the world remembers in the death of a great world leader.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1803

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 6 o'clock and 03 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, June 8, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on June 8, 2004 at 2:37 p.m. and said to contain

a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress of the death of Ronald Reagan.

With Best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH,
Clerk of the House.

THE DEATH OF RONALD WILSON REAGAN, THE 40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read:

To the Congress of the United States:

By this Message, I officially inform you of the death of Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States.

Ronald Reagan was a great leader and a good man. He had the confidence that comes with conviction, the strength that comes with character, the grace that comes with humility, and the humor that comes with wisdom.

Through his leadership, spirit, and abiding faith in the American people, President Reagan gave our Nation a renewed optimism. With his courage and moral clarity, he enhanced America's security and advanced the spread of peace, liberty, and democracy to millions of people who had lived in darkness and oppression. As America's President, he helped change the world.

The sun has now set on Ronald Reagan's extraordinary American life. Just as he told us that our Nation's best days are yet to come, we know that the same is true for him.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 8, 2004.

EXPRESSING PROFOUND REGRET AND SORROW OF THE HOUSE ON THE DEATH OF RONALD WILSON REAGAN, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 663) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 663

Resolved, That the House of Representatives has learned with profound regret and sorrow of the death of Ronald Wilson Reagan, former President of the United States of America.

Resolved, That the House tenders its deep sympathy to the members of the family of the former President in their bereavement.

Resolved, That in recognition of the many virtues, public and private, of one who served with distinction as President, the Speaker shall appoint a committee of the House to join with such Members of the Senate as may be designated, to attend the funeral services of the former President.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection

therewith be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy of the same to the family of the former President.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the former President.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

Mr. Speaker, he was a gift to us: the healthy, hearty child handed down from God to John and Nelle Reagan in Tampico, Illinois, in 1911; the strong, athletic young man handed up from the bustling, laughing, big-shouldered Midwest of his youth; the underrated actor, the underrated labor leader, the underrated politician; and the visionary who foresaw America's victory in the Cold War and brought about that victory with wit, will, and undaunted valor for 8 heroic years.

Everything that America is, and everything that mankind can be, was in our 40th President: wisdom, mercy, humor, honesty, honor, and courage.

In an hour of doubt and fear, Ronald Reagan rose in the West, reminded his Nation of its unique mission in history, and with the help of a few million friends, worked the great miracle of the age. And he did it all smiling through the condescending insults of his critics, who, bless their hearts, could never quite get past his infuriating optimism.

They said Ronald Reagan could ruin the economy, but in fact he led it to heights of strength and prosperity never before witnessed in history.

They said Reagan would provoke our enemies to war, but in fact he bent our enemies to surrender without firing a single shot.

They said Ronald Reagan was an "amiable dunce," but in fact he was a fearless intellectual warrior, who marshaled words like soldiers to fight battles of ideas across a table or across a continent, and won.

Which is why his death, even after a decade of slow, agonizing decline, comes as a shock to all of us. For Ronald Reagan was not just a man. He was the personification of an idea. And not just an idea, but the idea: the irreducible American idea that this Nation, founded by a generation of heroes upon the self-evident truth of equality under God, is possessed of a special commission in the affairs of men.

According to Ronald Reagan, and according to Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Kennedy before him, America is not just another Nation. Instead, we are the last, best hope on Earth; the torch of freedom guiding mankind through the darkness; the living promise to all times and men that despite the relentless march of tyranny, the ultimate victory of liberty is assured.

And people wonder where he got his optimism. Of course Ronald Reagan was an optimist. He was an American.

In his life, the United States pulled the world through the Great Depression, two great world wars, and back from the brink of nuclear holocaust. And all the while, despite all the hardship, indeed perhaps because of it, America got stronger, richer, and, as far as he was concerned, better.

Reagan's confidence and optimism in his country were simply extensions of his confidence and optimism in his countrymen. He knew the things Americans had done, repelling the British, freeing the slaves, settling the West, liberating Europe, shooting the Moon, and simply could not see this arc of history as anything but the irresistible advance of freedom against oppression; or as Reagan sublimely put it: "We win, and they lose."

"We" are those who seek to defend human dignity, and "they" are those who seek to stifle it. This was not a mere political calculation. To Ronald Reagan, the innate dignity of man was a spark of the Divine, a light created in God's image that the darkness could not overcome. He saw it as his role in our Nation and America's role in the world, for that matter, to liberate people from the shackles of government, so that they might first enjoy their right of self-determination, and then share with their neighbors the blessings of faith, hope, and charity.

Reagan knew these were the virtues that built our Nation and remain the essential ingredients of American achievement, the tonic that has sustained the United States for more than 200 years, in Emerson's words, as "the country of tomorrow."

Reagan loved that quote, and the idea behind it; that even as we stand today as the oldest democracy on Earth, we remain the youthful champion of liberty and justice, best poised of all nations to lead mankind in the uncertain future. He believed it was true because he knew it had to be.

He knew that without the American Nation, that is without the American people and their steadfast adherence to the true and the good, the West could fail in the Cold War and fail the cause of freedom around the world. And so he never let failure become an option.

From the earliest days of his administration, President Reagan stood before the world and proclaimed the United States' commitment to freedom. He called the Soviet Union the Evil Empire and declared that "regimes planted by bayonets do not take root." He met with Pope John Paul II and pledged to assist and equip the Solidarity movement in Poland. He called the Soviet's bluff at Reykjavik and went to the Brandenburg Gate to challenge Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

Around the world, his words and deeds filtered down to the oppressed citizens behind the Iron Curtain who knew, for the first time, that the American President and his people were coming to the rescue; that the truth about the evils of Communism