



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2004

No. 80

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Throw open the great doors. Let the standard bearers raise their flags. Mount the steps of this city built around the Hill, for he comes.

Prepare the Rotunda. Command the military to stand at attention. Let the people of the Nation and the world gather, for he comes.

Human mortality and dignity is framed for us at this moment, Lord, as a great man awakens from his sleep and enters Your new day.

May both Chambers and all parties, rich and poor alike, with all our greatness and all our frail diversity, prepare ourselves to welcome the 40th President of the United States. Echoes of Psalm 24 resound within us, O Lord, as we receive today the body of Ronald Wilson Reagan.

As he rests in our midst, may the memory of his warm smile melt our differences with candor and humor. May the openness of his faith in an optimistic tomorrow become promise for us all. May the cold walls of indifference and superiority crumble before our eyes. Be with us, Lord, as he sheds the "surlly bonds of Earth" and we prepare President Ronald Reagan and ourselves to touch Your face, O God. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GREEN of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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 concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 116. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

RONALD W. REAGAN

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor as my colleagues have before me saddened by the death of one of our Nation's greatest leaders and humbled by the far-reaching impact his life has had on millions of people throughout the world. He was a great man and a gentle spirit. Optimistic, cheerful in service and buoyed by the confidence that comes with unwavering conviction, President Reagan reignited the feeling of promise for this country.

Ronald Reagan is the reason I became a Republican. And for many Democrats, he was the pathway to the Republican Party. He reminded us all that government cannot replace individual empowerment and told us in 1995 that every dollar the Federal Government does not take from us, every decision it does not make for us will make our economy stronger, our lives more abundant, and our future more free.

We join together with people across the globe in mourning the loss of Ron-

ald Reagan. His decisive leadership during the twilight years of the Cold War indeed made him a beacon of hope for freedom-loving people throughout the world.

Our thoughts and prayers and our love go out to Mrs. Reagan and the entire family. Because of Ronald Reagan our Nation is stronger and our future is more free. Here we honor him and are continually working toward the dreamed-of-day he spoke of when no one wields a sword and no one drags a chain.

TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD 147TH FIGHTER WING DINING-OUT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the men and women of the 147th Fighter Wing of the Texas Air National Guard, the Ace-in-the-Hole Texans, for inviting me to speak at their annual Dining Out recently in Houston.

The 147th Fighter Wing is based at Ellington Field in Houston, Texas. Every day the 147th continues to guard the skies over Houston and our Nation and protect the millions of residents in southeast Texas from drug traffickers, terrorists, and other airborne threats. They are on call 24/7 and keep guard over the fourth largest city in the United States and the vital energy infrastructure that powers our Nation.

They also perform an essential readiness mission by training many of our Nation's pilots as they prepare to protect our national interest overseas.

Houston is fortunate to have such a committed and patriotic group of men and women living and working in our community.

In addition to giving me the chance to meet many of the individuals of the 147th Fighter Wing, it was also an

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3823

honor to meet and be joined at the dinner by Lieutenant General Wayne D. Marty, the Adjutant General for the State of Texas at the dinner.

I would like to thank the 147th and their wing commander, Colonel McNeely, for their hospitality. I was impressed with the fun these men and women can have as a team.

They gave me this T-shirt to wear that shows the F-16 that these Texans in the 147th fly when protecting their community and our Nation. The Ace-In-the-Hole 147th Texans.

HONORING MARCELLE WILDER

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, when I was elected to the Tennessee State senate, one of the first lessons that I learned was that the senate in Tennessee is a family. This week we have lost a member of that family. Ms. Marcelle Ann Morton Wilder left us this week at the age of 83 after a lifetime of dedication to her Lord, her State, and her husband, my former colleague in the Tennessee senate, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the State senate, John Wilder.

Ms. Wilder is an example of a life well lived, a life of grace and dignity. And her 63 years of marriage to Governor Wilder can only be described as a match made in heaven. He will miss his Ms. Marcelle. We will all miss her, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Wilder family.

REMEMBERING PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere condolences to former first lady Nancy Reagan and the entire Reagan family. And I join our Nation in expressing profound sorrow at the loss of our 40th President.

Ronald Reagan had a special place in the hearts of Nevadans. Long before he came to the White House, Ronald Reagan in a another life headlined on the Las Vegas Strip as an entertainer in the early 1950s. Later as Governor of California, he worked with his counterpart from Nevada, former U.S. Senator and Governor Paul Laxalt, to address environmental threats to Lake Tahoe.

While in the White House, Ronald Reagan would often turn to his old friend from Nevada, Senator Laxalt, who was one of his closest advisers during his time in our Nation's Capital.

Ronald Reagan served our Nation with honor and distinction. He will long be remembered for his warm wit, his quiet strength, and ability to inspire through his words and his deeds. His actions as President reshaped the

course of the 20th century, and his unbridled optimism helped restore America's faith in itself.

Today we also remember Ronald Reagan for his leadership and for his unwavering vision that Americans remain for all a land of hope, promise, and opportunity.

HOW ONE MAN REMEMBERS REAGAN

(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, a few years ago I had the privilege of visiting with Natan Sharansky, a former Soviet dissident who is now an Israeli cabinet minister. I asked him what his reaction was, as he was in the Soviet Gulag at that time, to the "Evil Empire" speech. Here is his reaction as expressed in a recent quotation:

"In 1983 I was confined to an 8 by 10 foot prison cell on the border of Siberia. My Soviet jailers gave me the privilege of reading the latest copy of Pravda. Splashed across the front page was a condemnation of President Ronald Reagan for having the temerity to call the Soviet Union an 'evil empire.' Tapping on walls and talking through toilets, word of Reagan's 'provocation' quickly spread throughout the prison. We dissidents were ecstatic. Finally, the leader of the Free World had spoken the truth, a truth that burned inside the heart of each and every one of us.

"At the time, I never imagined that 3 years later I would be in the White House telling the story to the President. When he summoned some of his staff to hear what I said, I understood that there had been much criticism of Reagan's decision to cast the struggle between superpowers as a battle between good and evil. Well, Reagan was right and his critics were wrong."

There is no doubt that Natan Sharansky speaks for millions of people who today are free. A great President, with a great legacy, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S DRACONIAN EMERGENCY ORDER

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I find it somewhat ironic after the fumbling underreaction to mad cow disease that the United States Department of Agriculture is considering a Draconian emergency order for all Oregon nurseries in order to deal with an infection of sudden oak disease on one nursery.

The State Department of Agriculture has already appropriately quarantined the nursery. But before we create a regulatory nightmare for hundreds of small businesses and a huge regulatory roadblock, I would hope that the U.S.

Department of Agriculture will work with the experts and our industry to protect both the environment and the vital commerce in nursery products.

There is no reason that we cannot do right by the environment and do it in a way that promotes proper treatment of this dangerous disease but avoids doing more harm than we do good.

REMEMBERING THE GIPPER

(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, the world is grieving this week over the loss of a true American hero, President Ronald Wilson Reagan. Ronald Reagan defined the honor and dignity of the office of the Presidency, and he lifted the spirits of a Nation with his hope and joyfulness that sprang from an abiding faith in God and a deeply held belief in the American dream.

President Reagan entered office during a time of doubt and despair and malaise with the economy sputtering and a looming Cold War that threatened our families. Yet he brought his conservative principles of individual freedom, limited government, personal responsibility, and peace through strength.

President Reagan led a successful revolution to promote tax cuts, recognizing taxes are the people's own money. He achieved victory in the Cold War, expanding democracy worldwide. And he realigned America's political process with an open door especially for young people.

His legacy lives on today as America unites to fight the war on terror liberating millions from tyranny to protect American families as our economy is booming through tax relief.

May God bless the Reagan family. May God bless our troops. And may God continue to bless America.

□ 1015

TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD W. REAGAN

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as so many others have, to pay tribute to one of our Nation's finest sons and political leaders. Former President Ronald Reagan is worthy of respect and admiration both as a man and world leader, and his passing this weekend leaves each of us with a sense of loss and sadness.

His lasting mark on American politics is unquestionable. At a time when it was fashionable to declare one's political moderation, Reagan fearlessly changed the face of American politics by standing up and boldly declaring himself to be a conservative. He fought