

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.

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#### 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

for principles and causes that, before his Presidency, were considered heresy. Balanced budgets, tax cuts, smaller government, and a robust national defense were the hallmarks of his ideology, and he never shied away from articulating and fighting for those views.

He proudly became the father of political conservatism and made it possible for people like me to become a Member of Congress. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, those who espoused conservative political views had few outlets from which to share their philosophies, but Reagan ushered in an era of conservatism whose tide has yet to wane. The makeup of today's political world is due, in large part, to the legacy of Ronald Reagan.

#### PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, what distinguished President Reagan among American Presidents in the last century? Where many Chief Executives saw gray and moral relativism on the international landscape, he saw good and evil, right and wrong.

What relationship should we in the United States have with the Soviet Union, a tyranny that trampled freedom, starved its people, imprisoned dissidents, choked its economy and wrapped its tentacles around its neighbors? Do we engage them? Do we fight them in one corner of the world while doing business with them in the other? Can we coexist under the constant threat of mutual destruction and endless arms races? Do we practice détente, containment?

Ronald Reagan was the President who said, Americans cannot live like this, and I do not think the world's other citizens should. The day he stood at the Berlin Wall and defiantly challenged the Soviet tyranny with the unforgettable words, Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall, was the beginning of the end of the Cold War. God bless President Reagan.

#### PROGRESS IN THE FREEDOM OF IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of our national loss, gain. In the progress of freedom in Iraq, after months of sacrifice by U.S. and coalition forces, yesterday the United Nations Security Council agreed unanimously to a resolution outlining a free and democratic future for the people of Iraq.

By a 15 to 0 vote, which included France, Germany and Russia, the United Nations agreed to declare a formal end to occupation on June 30 and

set into motion the process of an interim and permanent democracy in Iraq.

Make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker, international approval of the progress of freedom in Iraq is a victory for this President and, I would add, a fitting tribute to the President in whose memory we will gather later today.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning with so many of my friends to pay tribute to the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan, and to extend my condolences to his wife Nancy and to his family.

President Reagan will always be remembered as the architect of policies that ended the Cold War, peace through strength. He more than anyone else was directly responsible for giving us the possibility of a world that could live in peace. He ended the Cold War. He ended the threat of hostilities between the United States and Russia, and he brought an end to the Soviet domination in Eastern Europe.

He unleashed the power of the American economy. Yes, it cost money to defeat the Soviet Union. It cost money to defeat Soviet tyranny, but in the long run, was it worth it? You bet it was, for this generation and for the generations to come.

#### PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN WAS AN INSPIRATION

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan was an inspiration to me and millions of others throughout the U.S. and even all over the world. He saw the American dream come true in his life, rising from humble beginnings and achieving great, great success in almost every way.

He will certainly go down in history as one of our greatest Presidents, but his greatness may have been achieved in large part because, as one of his closest friends said a couple of days ago, he did not worry about how history would view him.

It has been said his greatest legacy will be leading us to victory in the Cold War, but his domestic achievements were great, too, especially in lowering taxes and helping curb the greed of government.

I had the privilege of meeting President Reagan on many occasions, starting when he was Governor of California. He was always so kind to me and to everyone, and possibly one of his greatest attributes may have been

in showing us that you can have strong views on important issues, but still treat opponents with kindness, compassion and even good humor.

We are all better people, Mr. Speaker, because of the life and example of President Ronald Reagan.

#### PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN WAS LIVING PROOF THAT IDEAS WIN BATTLES

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, for many years I have heard comments about the power of ideas. I learned as a youngster that the pen is mightier than the sword and that there is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has come. President Ronald Reagan demonstrated that these and similar statements, are true. He was living proof that ideas win battles.

He was not regarded as an intellectual, but yet he understood the importance of the basic, simple ideas that this country is founded upon, the ideas of peace and freedom, freedom to worship, freedom to speak, freedom of the press, but he also went beyond that. He recognized that these are not ends in themselves, but these are means to an end, and freedom to worship is meaningless unless you use it to worship. Freedom of the press is meaningless unless you use it to print ideas that are for the betterment of the Nation.

Simple ideas, valiantly fought for. With grace, charm and a twinkle in his eye, he succeeded where others had failed. He inspired a troubled Nation. He brought us together. He conquered the symbolic Iron Curtain and brought it down, along with the very real Berlin Wall. He led to nuclear disarmament, the greatest threat to humanity during his tenure.

I rise today to thank President Reagan for what he did for this country, for the ideas he fought for and the transformation he made in the culture and the attitudes of this Nation.

#### RONALD REAGAN DEFINED THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, we rise today with solemn hearts for the loss of an American hero, a man with an optimistic vision of this country that was infectious. I stand as an individual who felt the energy of the Reagan era.

As a 19-year-old in 1980, I attended my first Republican convention where Ronald Reagan accepted the GOP nomination for President. My first vote for President was for Ronald Reagan, and I spent the beginning of adulthood under the spirit of a man who defined the American dream.

Today we stand in awe of a life of passion and accomplishment. Ronald