

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

Reagan crumbled walls of oppression in Europe and rebuilt the American spirit. He was forever the gentleman statesman, a man who thought that politics, no matter how tough the battle with your opponent, should never leave scars.

In the end he bore no ill will to anyone, and in that mold he was the definition of a leader, a leader who inspired confidence in those around him and who led by example.

He feared not an assassin's bullet or political setback because he always looked to tomorrow, always believed the best days of America were ahead beyond the horizon, and that he would chart the course to take us to a better tomorrow. We stand here as a testament to that simple, yet powerful, truth.

EXPRESSING SORROW AND GRATITUDE TO THE REAGAN FAMILY

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am here to really just first express my sorrow and my gratitude to the Reagan family.

Through President Reagan's optimism and courage and strength, he carried this country from a state of what some people said was a state of malaise to further greatness. He understood and never apologized for his understanding that the United States was a source of good around the world, a source of freedom around the world.

I recall when he said his famous remark about the evil empire how all of the experts said he could not say that, that he was wrong, that they were not bad. Well, he was right, and he tried and fought hard and worked hard to spread freedom across the globe, to strengthen the United States and, therefore, also strengthen our allies to spread freedom.

He succeeded by tearing down the Berlin Wall, by tearing down the evil empire, by spreading freedom to millions of people around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I am here again in awe of the life of President Ronald Reagan, his achievements, his success in spreading freedom, his success in making this country what it is today. The greatness that we have achieved today, in great part, is due to the optimism, the greatness, the spirit of Ronald Reagan. We can never thank him enough.

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR LYING IN STATE OF THE REMAINS OF THE LATE HONORABLE RONALD WILSON REAGAN, FORTIETH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 444) authorizing the use of the rotunda of

the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the late Honorable Ronald Wilson Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 444

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in recognition of the long and distinguished service rendered to the Nation and the world by Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used for the lying in state of the remains of the late Honorable Ronald Reagan from June 9 until June 11, 2004. The Architect of the Capitol, under the direction of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate, shall take all steps necessary for carrying out this event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

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

Mr. Speaker, this may seem like a routine resolution because we must pass these resolutions to allow the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for certain events, but frankly, this is a very auspicious moment.

By statute, we have defined how state funerals are to proceed in this Nation's Capital. We have very few of them. I believe the last one was at the time of the death of President Lyndon Johnson of Texas. It is a great honor to host an event such as this in the rotunda, and today I rise to present a resolution which will grant permission to have the body of President Ronald Reagan rest in state in the rotunda of the Capitol so that the Members of Congress and members of the public may join in honoring him by viewing the casket.

This is, as I said, a very auspicious event, and fortunately, we do not have to do this often. But it inspires in us, again, respect for the ideals of our Nation and for the things that we do and that we believe in.

When President Reagan's body will arrive, the casket will be placed on a caisson, according to tradition and law, and that horse-drawn procession will proceed from near the White House to the Capitol. It will be followed by a black, riderless horse, indicating a fallen leader. The boots on that horse will be placed in the stirrups backwards, indicating the fallen leader reviewing the troops behind him. When that arrives at the Capitol, with great pomp and circumstance, an honor guard will present the casket and the body and carry them inside the Capitol, displaying the casket in the rotunda.

This evening we will have a memorial ceremony, restricted to the Members of Congress, in the Rotunda. Following that, the people of this Nation, anyone who wishes, may stand in line and view the casket and give their respects to our fallen President.

It is my pleasure to be able to present this resolution honoring President Ronald Reagan and providing the opportunity for the Members of Congress and for the public to view the casket and to pay their respects to this great man. It is the least we can do, and I wish we could do more because he did a marvelous job of leading this Nation in a very troubled time. When we had a broken economy and a dispirited people, he restored their spirits with grace, charm and a twinkle in his eye and eventually helped us prevail over the Soviet Union, which had threatened us for decades with nuclear weapons.

The world is a far better place because of Ronald Reagan, what he did, and the leadership he provided, and it is my pleasure to present this resolution and honor him in this way.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I join the distinguished chairman, or the appropriate person in his place, in support of this legislation to authorize use of the Capitol rotunda for this very sad occasion.

□ 1030

There can be no more proper use of the rotunda, the center of the temple of our democracy, than to honor the late former President Ronald Reagan with a state funeral and lying in state.

With this observance, President Reagan will take his proper place in the pantheon of American heroes who have lain in state in this temple, benefiting their vast contributions to the fabric of our National political life.

Although I did not have the honor to serve in the Congress during President Reagan's term, I greatly admired him as a statesman, and his skills as the Great Communicator, and am grateful for everything he did for our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is especially fitting that Congress and the Nation pay their respects to our 40th President in this temple because several memorable events of his 8 years in office took place here. Of course, he delivered all of his State of the Union messages right here in this Chamber, including the one in which he dropped several pounds of paper onto the rostrum and urged Congress not to send him any more massive, catch-all spending bills.

In 1985, President Reagan returned from a Geneva summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, flew directly from Andrews Air Force Base to the Capitol by helicopter, and addressed a joint session, reporting hopeful progress on arms control and reassuring the Nation and the world.

Perhaps more relevant to the resolution before us, many Americans will recall that the bitter cold of January 21, 1985, forced President Reagan's second inaugural ceremony to come indoors and take place in the rotunda itself in