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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2004, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2004

The Senate met at 1:31 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, generous giver of wonderful gifts, thank You for the life of former President Ronald Wilson Reagan and for the gift of talented leaders. We praise You for people with vision who see things that are not and ask, why not. Thank You for visionaries who call us out of the night of selfish living to the sunrise of sacrifice and service. Help us to celebrate the lives of faithful leaders while they can still hear our appreciation.

Thank You for the Members of Congress who provide stellar leadership. Keep them from evil and infuse them with a spirit of kindness.

As death reminds us of life's brevity, we turn our eyes toward You, O God. You are our refuge and strength and not even death can separate us from Your love. We pray in Your changeless Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today is a solemn day. In fact, this is a solemn week for the Senate as well as the entire country, as we pay special tribute to the life and to the Presidency of the late Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States.

Many Members are asking about the schedule for this week and when they may have the opportunity to make appropriate remarks. In light of the events surrounding this occasion, I do not expect the Senate to conduct normal business this week. I believe we should postpone the scheduled votes in relation to Defense authorization until next week. This week we will have several resolutions relating to the passing of President Reagan. In a moment we will pass the first of these resolutions.

Members should be aware that although we will not be voting in relation to the Defense bill, rollcall votes may be scheduled this week in relation to the various resolutions scheduled over the course of the week saluting the life and legacy of Ronald Reagan. No votes will occur prior to 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday in any event. I will have more to say on the voting schedule later today.

In addition, we will have extended morning business periods through Wednesday to accommodate Senators who desire to speak.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the order providing for the consideration of the Defense authorization bill for today be vitiated and that the Senate continue in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FILING OF AMENDMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I further state that the filing deadline for amendments will remain in place for 5 p.m. today.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE LYING IN STATE OF THE LATE RONALD WILSON REAGAN, 40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 115 which is at the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 115) 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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 115) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 115

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in recognition of the long and distinguished service rendered to the Nation and to the world, by the late Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, his remains be permitted to lie in state in the rotunda of the Capitol from June 9 until June 11, 2004, and the Architect of the Capitol, under the direction of the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall take all necessary steps for the accomplishment of that purpose.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this week we mourn the passing of Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States. My wife Karyn and I, and indeed the entire Senate family, extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved Nancy and the entire Reagan family. More than 15 years have passed since Ronald Reagan gave his final cheerful salute as President of the United States. He left the Oval Office with the highest approval rating since Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Ronald Reagan had restored our confidence and our optimism in what it meant to be an American. The countless tributes and recollections of the past few days have brought forth a flood of memories, not only of his extraordinary leadership but of his truly exceptional character. We remember Ronald Reagan and love him as we did the day he left the highest post in the land. We feel a strong personal and unbreakable connection with our 40th President.

Some attribute Ronald Reagan's ability to connect with the American people to his abilities as an actor. No politician was better or more comfortable around the camera. When he looked into the lens, he was looking directly into the eyes of the American people. His timing was flawless, and he had a soft touch that could disarm even his most stubborn political opponents.

After being wounded by an assassin's bullet as he lay on a hospital gurney drifting towards unconsciousness, Ronald Reagan quipped to his beloved Nancy:

Honey, I forgot to duck.

So many stories like this remind us that Ronald Reagan was a man of remarkable courage, coupled with boundless good humor. There was more to him than what he said and how he said it, as there was more to Abraham Lincoln than his stirring speeches, and more to Franklin Roosevelt than his fireside chats. Ronald Reagan believed in what he said, and that conviction came through. He believed there is good and evil in the world and that America stands for the good. He believed we must protect freedom wherever it may be threatened and plant its

seeds wherever freedom may take root. He believed democracy to be not the privilege of a fortunate few but the rightful and ordained destiny for all mankind.

At the 1992 Republican convention in Houston, TX, he expounded on these beliefs, telling the American people:

Whether we come from poverty or wealth, whether we are Afro-American or Irish-American, Christian or Jewish, from big cities or small towns, we are all equal in the eyes of God. But as Americans, that is not enough; we must be equal in the eyes of each other.

There was one thing—second only to the Almighty—in which he had more faith than all else, and that was the American people. We trusted Ronald Reagan, we respected Ronald Reagan, we loved Ronald Reagan, because he trusted, respected, and loved each and every one of us.

This week we will bear witness to a rare and extraordinary tribute to one of our greatest leaders. Half-masted flags will snap in the wind. Cannons will pound the air with salutes. And a horse-drawn caisson will solemnly pull the flag-draped casket of Ronald Wilson Reagan up to the Hill of our Capital City.

Americans will line up by the thousands to pause at his side, bow their heads, and pay their final respects. Hundreds of leaders will gather at the National Cathedral to show their deep appreciation of a grateful Nation and a grateful world, and on Friday, when President Reagan is laid to rest, each of us will give a moment of our day to remember a man who gave us his very best.

All of this is right and fitting. This is how we honor the lives of great leaders whom we love. But our tribute to Ronald Reagan must be more than a passing historical moment. Although we say goodbye to the man, we must never say goodbye to his values. Let this week reaffirm the goodness of our Nation. Let it reaffirm our faith in freedom. Let it reaffirm democracy as the destiny of all mankind. And let our fond memories, our deep affection and regard for Ronald Wilson Reagan reaffirm that we believe, above all, in ourselves as Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, this past weekend we lost one of Americans greatest leaders, Ronald Reagan. I had the privilege of serving under President Reagan's strong, principled leadership for 7 years—2 years in his White House as assistant to the President, or public liaison, and almost 5 years as his Secretary of Transportation.

Greatness in a President is marked by the ability to chart and implement a new course, a better course, and by his level of decency and integrity. Ronald Reagan knew why he wanted to be President. He came to office with the clearest of vision, a passion for achiev-

ing his goals and in conveying them with an eloquence almost unsurpassed.

Ronald Reagan made all of us, the American people, believe in ourselves again. He literally changed the world. Despite conventional wisdom, he determined that communism had to be defeated, not tolerated. He rejected the Iron Curtain, rejected the status quo, and his legacy to the world is freedom. His strength of character and bedrock belief in right and wrong ended the cold war, and his leadership unshackled the yoke of tyranny for millions upon millions of people who had known only oppression.

I will always remember his remarkable rapport with the American people and what a true gentleman he was. During my time on his White House staff, I brought scores and scores of people, organizations, and groups into the Oval Office, the Cabinet Room, the Roosevelt Room, and he treated every person with courtesy and respect. Occasionally, there would be some who had a difference of view with him on some issue or another, and they were going to give him a piece of their mind. Well, they came into his presence and you could almost see that anger just fading away. He would express his views, he would address their concerns, and then he might sit back and tell them a story or two—perhaps a humorous one—and maybe pass jellybeans around. They would be ready to climb any hill for Ronald Reagan. When the President would explain his position, obviously, he did it in a very eloquent manner.

What a remarkable person his wife Nancy is. What a tremendous partner. She was his best friend, his confidant, his trusted, beloved spouse. She deserves great credit for his accomplishments and hers.

When I left the Cabinet, a farewell function was planned, and we talked about the fact that it would be nice to invite to that farewell party people who would not otherwise be able to meet the President of the United States. He readily agreed.

I can remember one young woman from Arkansas. She was a part of the Make a Wish group. She had a terminal illness and her great desire was to meet President Ronald Reagan. I can still see her there in the White House and the compassionate way in which he greeted her and talked with her.

There was a young man named Tommy, from my hometown of Salisbury, NC, who was in a wheelchair; he had to wear a helmet most of the time because if he were to fall, it would be very severe. His mother and his uncle very tenderly brought him to Washington to carry out his wish to meet the great Ronald Reagan, President of the United States. Once again, to watch the President and his compassion as he talked with Tommy is something I will remember forever.

One of the things that will really be an inspiration to me for the rest of my life is a conversation I had with the