

him and his family, President Reagan wrote on November 5, 1994 one of the bravest and most moving letters in American history.

He said:

Upon learning this news, Nancy and I had to decide whether as private citizens we would keep this a private matter or whether we would make this news known in a public way. So now, we feel it is important to share it with you. In opening our hearts, we hope this might promote greater awareness of this condition. Perhaps it will encourage a clearer understanding of the individuals and families who are affected by it.

After speaking of the burdens he knew his long illness had in store—not for him, but for his beloved Nancy, he thanked his fellow Americans. He said:

Let me thank you, the American people, for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve as your President. When the Lord calls me home, whenever that may be, I will leave with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future.

I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead.

These are the virtuous and loving words of a patriot, of a brave and humble man, of a man who lived every day in the belief that our best days lie ahead. It is America that pauses this week, and I thank God for the gift of the greatest American president of the twentieth century, Ronald Reagan.

We have lost a great American.

I think it is fitting to quote another great American, Daniel Webster who spoke so eloquently about the passing of two other Presidents, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Webster's words were never more true than today:

A superior and commanding human intellect, a truly great man, when Heaven vouchsafes so rare a gift, is not a temporary flame, burning brightly for a while, and then giving place to returning darkness. It is rather a spark of fervent heat, as well as radiant light, with power to enkindle the common mass of human kind; so that when it glimmers in its own decay, and finally goes out in death, no night follows, but it leaves the world all light, all on fire from the potent contact of its own spirit.

I pray that America will always be alight with the spirit of Ronald Reagan.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the remarks of our former colleague, Senator Connie Mack, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RONALD W. REAGAN
1911–2004

(A tribute by former U.S. Senator Connie Mack (R-FL))

RONALD REAGAN WAS MORE THAN THE PRESIDENT, HE WAS AN INSPIRATION, HE WAS MY FRIEND

As America mourns the passing of former President Ronald Reagan, one of the most loved American Presidents in history, it is appropriate that our nation take a moment

to reflect on the life of this remarkable man. He will not only be remembered for his vision and leadership, but also for his conviction to principles, his sense of pride and love of country.

President Reagan made a difference in my life both personally and politically. When he was elected in 1980, I remember vividly saying to my wife Priscilla “this is such an important election for our nation that I have to become involved. I had no idea his election would one day lead me to seek elective office and eventually to represent Florida in the United States Senate.

Knowing Ronald Reagan and serving in the U.S. Congress when he was President of the United States has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I remember when he came to Florida in 1988 to campaign for me in my race for the United States Senate. I introduced him saying: “Mr. President, we will never forget that you gave us back a belief in ourselves and our nation. You restarted our economy giving people hope and opportunity. You rebuilt America’s military and led the fight for freedom around the world.” Ronald Reagan was more than the president, he was an inspiration. . . he was a friend.

Each year, the magnitude of President Reagan’s accomplishments at home and abroad become increasing apparent. As recognition of his achievements and their impacts on our lives today grows so does the nation’s gratitude toward him. He embodied the American Spirit that helped lift the morale of our country.

American Presidents affect history in their own way, but fewer have made more of an impact or shaped the history of their times than Ronald Reagan.

In the election of 1980, Americans were faced with one of the most simple, yet defining questions in American politics: “Are you better off now than you were four years ago?” Were we as Americans willing to accept that the once proud land of the free and the home of the brave was now worn and tired and lacked direction? America said: “No!”

Ronald Reagan reaffirmed my philosophy as well as that of a whole generation which believed that wealth and prosperity emerge from the spirit of creativity that resides in individuals not government, and to the belief in the principles of less taxing, less spending, less government and more freedom. Freedom deeply mattered to Ronald Reagan, and freedom deeply matters to me.

With Ronald Reagan’s election came a renewed vitality in America. He brought a belief that freedom must ring from the bells of this great nation and that opportunity should not be limited. He reminded us of the America that was there all along. A freedom loving country waiting to be unshackled from a Government that had grown too big and cost too much which dictated what was best for us. No, we wanted better and Ronald Reagan led us there.

Under President Reagan’s leadership, the spirit of America was rekindled and the flame of freedom burned bright free markets, free ideas, free trade and freedom as the centerpiece of our foreign policy. The Reagan Revolution had no boundaries. The winds of freedom swept across America and gained momentum throughout the world. Freedom’s ring was heard in Latin America, where nations turned back communism and accepted the free will of the people. In Eastern Europe, freedom broke the rusted chains of totalitarianism and caused the Berlin Wall to fall.

Ronald Reagan never lost faith in the freedom, dignity and liberty of mankind. He understood that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. He never doubted that freedom was more than a

virtue. It was a right given to each of us by a sovereign God.

Ronald Reagan did not invent freedom. He defined it. For through his wit and humility, he carried his role in history as the man who gave freedom a face. And through his undying faith in those who entrusted him the role as their leader, Ronald Reagan achieved greatness.

Even though President Reagan has now completed the journey he began so many years ago, our nation has not yet completed the path we began under his leadership. Ronald Reagan made America stronger, more prosperous and more confident. We still need to do more to make our country and the world a better and safer place to live, work and raise a family. We must continue his legacy so as to ensure that America remains that shining city on the hill that President Reagan described to us.

To Nancy and the Reagan family, our nation is forever in your debt for sharing this unique and special individual with us, the American People.

President Reagan, we say goodbye for now. You have touched our lives deeply. You have indeed lived the words of sacred scripture: “You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith.” Godspeed Mr. President.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF RONALD WILSON REAGAN

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The hour of 11:30 having arrived, the Senate will proceed to consideration of a resolution honoring the former President Ronald Wilson Reagan, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 373) relative to the death of Ronald Wilson Reagan, a former President of the United States.

S. RES. 373

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Ronald Wilson Reagan, a former President of the United States, and a former Governor of the State of California.

Resolved, That in recognition of his illustrious statesmanship, his leadership in national and world affairs, his distinguished public service to his State and his Nation, and as a mark of respect to one who has held such eminent public station in life, the Presiding Officer of the Senate appoint a committee to consist of all the Members of the Senate to attend the funeral of the former President.

Resolved, That the Senate hereby tender its deep sympathy to the members of the family of the former President in their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the former President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. By request, Senators are asked to vote from their desks.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, these past few days we have seen an extraordinary outpouring of affection for our 40th President, Ronald Wilson Reagan. In a few short hours, he will lie in state under the Capitol dome where dignitaries from around the world and citizens from across the country will pay their respects to the man from Dixon.

In his 1982 State of the Union address, President Reagan told the Nation: We don't have to turn to our history books for heroes; they are all around us. In life, Ronald Reagan was a hero to millions. To the freedom fighters in the Soviet Union, to his fellow citizens striving toward that American dream, Ronald Reagan told the world that we are meant to be free.

He was a man of faith and deeply held convictions. Like James Madison, Ronald Reagan believed that in the creation of our Republic was the hand of God. He believed our freedoms flow not from the State but from the Almighty. Our task was and remains to awaken in the people this essential truth.

I close with a story I believe captures Ronald Reagan's remarkable character, his courage, and his vision. It was 1997. From a news report was a story of an emigre.

Walking in Arm and Hammer Park near his home, Reagan was approached by an elderly tourist and his 12-year-old grandson, Ukranian emigres now living near Toledo, OH. They spoke with him for a moment and the grandfather snapped a picture of the boy sitting with the former president. An article about the encounter and the picture appeared first in the Toledo Blade and then in newspapers around the country. The other day, the grandfather recalled their meeting. We went to the park for a picnic with our friends, he said, and then he saw President Reagan. And we began to cheer him and said, Mr. President, thank you for everything you did for the Jewish people, for Soviet people, to destroy the Communist empire. And he said, yes, that is my job.

Ronald Wilson Reagan was raised in a small town. Part of him remained a small town citizen all of his life. Not in the self-conscious way one thinks of a politician stumping on the campaign trail. Ronald Reagan's small town roots informed the way he viewed the body politic—what he believed people wanted from life, from each other and from government.

As he explained, when a person grows up in a small town,

You get to know people as individuals, not as blocs or members of special interest groups. You discover that, despite their differences, most people have a lot in common . . . [W]e all want freedom and liberty, peace, love and security, a good home, and a chance to worship God in our own way; we all want the chance to get ahead and make our children's lives better than our own. We all want the chance to work at a job of our own choosing and to be fairly rewarded for it.

Ronald Reagan believed that the government should serve the people. He believed that the strength of our economy came from the creativity, ingenuity and productivity of the individual, not from the plans and schemes of government bureaucrats or intellectual elites.

This view of America's economic success guided his economic policies here at home, and, in no small way, shaped his political policies abroad.

When Ronald Reagan became President, the American economy was in a

shambles. Inflation was in the double digits. Interest rates were soaring. Americans had to wait in endless lines to pump overpriced gas. Real incomes had stagnated and the American worker was demoralized. In his 1989 "Speaking My Mind" collection of essays and speeches, Ronald Reagan reflected that:

Here we were, a country bursting with economic promise, and yet our political leadership had gone out of its way to frustrate America's natural economic strength. It made no sense. My attitude had always been—let the people flourish.

So, he set about slashing Federal income taxes and cutting burdensome regulations. It was his mission to free the American worker and unleash the American entrepreneur. When he came to office, the top marginal tax rate was 70 percent. By the time he left, it was a mere 28 percent. His sweeping tax reforms overhauled the tax code and removed 6 million taxpayers from the tax rolls.

At the same time, President Reagan gave Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker free reign to tighten the money supply and bring down inflation.

Together, these policies worked.

True to the President's forecast, as the economy grew, so, too, did tax revenues. Tax revenues increased faster than GDP. By 1990, the economy had grown by a third—or as the Wall Street Journal put it, "roughly the size of Germany." Over the course of his presidency, the economy created 19 million jobs and the stock market hit a record high. America enjoyed the longest economic expansion up to that time.

Throughout, President Reagan was assailed for the growing deficit. In typical Washington fashion, he got the blame for adverse economic numbers, but never the credit for economic success. Contrary to his critics, however, the Federal deficit fell from 6.3 percent of GNP in fiscal year 1983 to 2.3 percent in 1988. The deficit actually shrank as a percentage of Gross National Product.

At the time, his policies were dubbed, "Reaganomics." Now, they're considered common sense. President Reagan's guiding principle was simple, yet profound: government policies should grow the economy, not manage [or redistribute?] it. The impact of this idea was so great that, now, even the other side of the aisle speaks of targeted tax cuts and tax credits, and no longer openly campaigns to raise our taxes.

Indeed, President Clinton crystallized the Reagan Revolution when he declared, "The era of big government is over."

President Reagan believed in the dreams and dignity of the individual. As he said in his second inaugural address, "There are no limits to growth and human progress, when men and women are free to follow their dreams."

Ronald Reagan reminded the American people that economic liberty and

human freedom are two sides of the same coin.

Some call it the Reagan Revolution. Others call it the Reagan Restoration. I prefer the latter term. The man from Dixon—lifeguard, radio announcer, actor, governor, father, adoring husband, and President of the United States—restored not only our confidence, but our fundamental understanding of the source of America's greatness: the American people.

Indeed, America was blessed to have such a President. Now he will enter the history books as one of our greatest. God bless Ronald Wilson Reagan. God bless America.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Akaka	Dole	Lott
Alexander	Domenici	Lugar
Allard	Dorgan	McCain
Allen	Durbin	McConnell
Bayh	Edwards	Mikulski
Bennett	Ensign	Miller
Biden	Enzi	Murkowski
Bingaman	Feingold	Murray
Bond	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Fitzgerald	Nelson (NE)
Breaux	Frist	Nickles
Brownback	Graham (FL)	Pryor
Bunning	Graham (SC)	Reed
Burns	Grassley	Reid
Byrd	Gregg	Roberts
Campbell	Hagel	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Harkin	Santorum
Carper	Hatch	Sarbanes
Chafee	Hollings	Schumer
Chambliss	Hutchison	Sessions
Clinton	Inhofe	Shelby
Cochran	Inouye	Smith
Coleman	Jeffords	Snowe
Collins	Johnson	Specter
Conrad	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Kohl	Stevens
Corzine	Kyl	Sununu
Craig	Landrieu	Talent
Crapo	Lautenberg	Thomas
Daschle	Leahy	Voinovich
Dayton	Levin	Warner
DeWine	Lieberman	Wyden
Dodd	Lincoln	

NOT VOTING—2

Baucus Kerry

The resolution (S. Res. 373) was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. WARNER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

HONORING PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Under the previous order, S. Res. 374 is considered and agreed to,