

for his love of country, his fervent devotion to freedom, and his commitment to the values of faith, flag, and family. I said I was "inspired and encouraged by his sense of patriotism," and I urged all Americans to work together on our unfinished business with "the spirit of purpose and confidence that is the legacy of the Reagan years."

Today, 15 years later, I am very proud I was able to speak those words, and proud of their truthfulness. My admiration and respect for President Reagan has only grown with time. The optimism, the idealism, the patriotism, and confidence he radiated infected us all and are exactly what we need today.

President Reagan won the trust of the American people and used that trust to lead. I believe he won the trust of the American people because he reflected their values and they knew he was the real thing, that he stuck to what he believed was right, whether it was popular or not. His leadership was classic democratic leadership, with a small "d." His moral conviction, combined with his pragmatism, enabled him to do an awful lot for our country and the world. He understood what America was about, which was freedom and opportunity, and extended both in America and throughout the world.

After all, he led our country and the free world to victory in the final battle of the cold war against communism.

Ronald Reagan's message of optimism and purpose was carried by one of the most effective messengers ever to occupy the Oval Office. His rhetoric, after all, made us swell with pride, sometimes harden with indignation, often resonate with emotion. He also made us laugh.

I loved President Reagan's jokes and borrowed them often, sometimes with attribution, sometimes not. One of my favorites was the one that said a lot about him and about what he believed, what he was for, and what he was against. It was about the commissar who visited the Communist collective farm in Russia. He greeted the farmer, who was the head of the farm, on an inspection tour and asked the farmer how the potato crop had been that year.

The farmer said: Oh, commissar, the potato crop has been excellent. As a matter of fact, if we took all the potatoes we grew on this farm this year and put them one on top of the other, they would reach all the way up to the feet of God.

Troubled, the commissar from Moscow said, comrade farmer, I am glad to hear you did so well raising potatoes, but what do you mean about reaching up to the feet of God? This is a Soviet Communist collective farm. There is no God.

The comrade said, that is okay, because there are no potatoes, either. So it was.

I heard someone in the last few days since President Reagan's death repeat a one-liner of his where the press was

getting on him because they said he was not working hard enough as President. At some public gathering, President Reagan said he was aware of these criticisms and he was also aware of the old line that hard work never killed anybody, but, President Reagan said, I figure why should I run the risk? And so it was.

His sense of humor and exuberance served him and the country well. Yes, he was a cold warrior, our leader in the final battle of the cold war, but he was also a happy warrior. In this and in so many other ways, Ronald Reagan reflected the personality and values of the American people. You could disagree with his policies, but you could never find his personality or his sincerity disagreeable.

He treated Democrats and Republicans alike, which is to say with respect. That attitude was contagious and even infected both Chambers of Congress. President Reagan once urged an audience of young people to live lives "that were a statement, not an apology."

This week we remember a true American giant, whose life was a statement, not an apology—a statement of America's values and its transcendent spirit of our faith in God and our love of country, of our national purpose, which is to uphold and extend the reality of freedom and opportunity in the world.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the record to reflect my appreciation for the courtesy of Senator FRIST. He has a very busy schedule. He has people waiting in his office and it would have been very easy for him to go out without giving Senator LIEBERMAN the opportunity to speak. So we appreciate very much his courtesy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of my colleague.

Indeed, it has been a different week, a very solemn week, and a week that has required all of us to work together from an organizational standpoint and to pull together what has been almost a celebration of this legacy of Ronald Reagan.

This evening members will gather in the Senate Chamber and right around that period of time a number of people will be proceeding to the arrival ceremony. It will indeed be a historic moment for the Senate, for this body, but indeed for the American people. Over 150,000 well-wishers are expected to line the streets as President Reagan's flag-draped caisson is drawn up to this

building, the Capitol, by a single riderless horse.

In the past 5 days, we have witnessed a remarkable unity in the country, a fraternity of spirit in many ways. Partisanship has fallen away, and old political foes have set aside disagreements. Americans have come together to celebrate the remarkable achievements of a truly remarkable man. Lifeguard—the pictures are imprinted in everybody's mind—radio announcer, actor, Governor, father, husband, and finally President of the United States. Ronald Wilson Reagan achieved extraordinary heights.

But he would tell you, I suspect—and it was reflected in so many of the comments among his friends and colleagues over the last several days—that he was simply being an American, fulfilling the American dream. He described the American dream once as "a song of hope that rings through the night air; vivid, tender music that warms our heart when the least among us aspires to the greatest things."

Ronald Reagan brought that song back to our hearts. He believed we could achieve great things, that America could achieve great things, and because of his unshakeable belief in freedom and liberty and democracy and his ironclad faith in progress, his love and respect for his fellow citizen, we did. We triumphed over the Soviet empire. We created one of the longest economic expansions in American history. We regained our strength and our optimism. We remembered the special privilege it is to be an American.

But we also remembered that freedom is not for us alone. It is the right of every man and woman across the globe, in every age, in every civilization.

In 1964, two decades before he would be reelected in a landslide victory carrying 49 of the 50 United States, Ronald Reagan told the Nation:

You and I have the ability and the dignity and the right to make our own decisions and determine our own destiny.

As we would learn later, it was our destiny to choose Ronald Reagan to be our leader, our standard bearer, and our hero. The history books will record Ronald Reagan as one of our greatest Presidents. Of this I have no doubt. And the American people will remember him with love and with affection for generations to come.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2004

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 1 p.m. on Monday, June 14. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate

then begin a period of morning business for 60 minutes, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; provided that following morning business the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 503, S. 2400, the Department of Defense authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. On Monday, following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN have been reviewing the submitted amendments and will be here on Monday to resume work on

that bill. I expect Members to come to the floor to offer amendments on Monday. We anticipate setting votes on amendments for Monday afternoon.

On Monday, we will order any votes to begin at 5:30 on those amendments to be disposed of. Again, I encourage Members to work with the chairman and the ranking member to schedule consideration of their amendments. There were a large number of amendments filed, and I hope that most of those amendments will not be offered.

It will be a busy week next week as we return to regular business. We need to proceed expeditiously toward completing our work on the Defense authorization bill by the conclusion of next week.

With that said, I again thank all of my colleagues who have participated during these past several days in honoring our former President.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
JUNE 14, 2004, AT 1 P.M.

Mr. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of S. Res. 371 as a mark of further respect for President Ronald Wilson Reagan.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:15 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 14, 2004, at 1 p.m.