

House will be talking about this issue of Make It In America, because if America is going to make it, we have to once again make it in America. We have to make sure that General Motors and Ford—the great manufacturing sector of America—is strong and vibrant and that it has the support it needs, that it has the Federal policies in place that support those manufacturing jobs so that it no longer puts American manufacturing at a disadvantage.

So stay tuned. This is going to be a constant thematic that we will be carrying in the weeks ahead because we are determined that the Federal policies will support making it in America.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Mr. BURGESS, Texas.

HONORING PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGGLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLEGGLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. Mr. Speaker, as the author of the legislation creating the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission, I was asked by the Reagan Foundation to host a Special Order this afternoon, and I am honored to have many of my colleagues here to join us on this floor today.

As a fellow Californian, I had the great privilege of spending some time with President Reagan in my early years here in Congress, and I can tell you that those times will be etched in my mind forever. Coincidentally, my own personal residence happens to be almost adjacent to the Ronald Reagan Library—in fact, only a few hundred yards away—in Simi Valley, California.

I simply can't say enough about how grateful I am for the opportunity to have known Ronald Reagan. I could go on for hours, but we have other Members to whom I want to yield this afternoon, Members from all across the country. So I will stand back and yield

to my colleagues, and then have enough time so maybe I can wrap it up.

At this point, I yield to my good friend STEVE STIVERS from the State of Ohio.

Mr. STIVERS. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in my office, I have a picture of President Ronald Reagan, with a quote from January 25, 1988. It reads: After all our hard-fought victories earned through the patience and courage of every citizen, we cannot—must not—turn back. We will finish our job. How could we do anything else? We are Americans.

These thought-provoking words from President Reagan still inspire us today. We are facing a number of challenges in our country: a tough economy, fierce competition for jobs from nations like India and China, and the fighting of two wars with determined enemies who are committed to destroying the American way of life.

□ 1500

President Reagan's words remind us that while we face difficult challenges, we must face them together, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans because we're all in this together.

His actions lived up to his own words. He rolled up his sleeves, worked with Members on both sides of the aisle, and provided leadership to move America forward.

Today, with a Republican House, a Democratic-led Senate and administration, we only need to look to President Reagan's work with Speaker Tip O'Neill on Social Security reform in 1983 to learn an important lesson. It shows us today that you can be successful in making a good faith effort to work together toward a common goal if you work together and don't lose sight of your core principles.

America is a shining city on a hill, and we will always be living President Reagan's legacy. You know, we need to honor his optimistic spirit by living and leading by his example.

I'd like to join my colleagues in honoring President Reagan on the 100th anniversary of his birth. He was truly one of our great Presidents, a man who understood what it meant to be an American leader.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. Thank you very much, STEVE. At this point I'd like to yield to the gentleman from California on the other side of the aisle, my good friend, JOHN GARAMENDI.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I was on my way out the door when I realized that this Special Order was going to be on President Reagan, and as I was walking out the door, I recalled a picture that's been on my family's wall for a long time. It was a picture of President Ronald Reagan. I'm kind of standing to one side, and he's bending over, and he's shaking the hand of my daughter. It was in the White House. This was in the 1980s when I was in the California legislature.

Embodied in that picture is so much the character of Ronald Reagan, the smile, the bright eyes, the enthusiasm, greeting a young girl. She was about 7 years old at the time, and you can just see that he wanted to spend that moment with her and to give to her his enthusiasm for life, his enthusiasm for America.

That picture has always been there, and every now and then some of my Democratic friends, including the President, see it; what's that doing in this house? And I say, that's a very special moment in the life of my daughter Christina. But that's the way Ronald Reagan was. I was in California when he became the President and actually came into the legislature the day he left office, and he set the stage in California for much of what is good there, and he certainly did that for America, also.

So I join with my colleagues on the Republican side and colleagues on the Democratic side to say a very special man, a very special man in the life of America and a very special man in my life and in my daughter's life. Thank you for the time.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. I thank JOHN very much. I'd just like to say, in listening to the gentleman from California, when we were working on this bill, it got a little complicated at the end, but you know what the simplest part of making this bill work was? I did not have one individual on either side of the aisle say, no, ELTON, I can't be a cosponsor. I don't think there's anytime in history that I've had as many people agree on—we can't get that many people to agree on what day of the week it is around here.

Mr. GARAMENDI. That's true.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. And it was very special to me to hear the comments from the folks on the other side of the aisle. While they may have disagreed with him on certain policy, I don't know that anyone disagreed on the man's integrity and his compassion for this country and how committed he was to make it a better place, and with that, he was able to get a lot of things done on the other side of the aisle that he wouldn't otherwise have been able to do. Thank you very much, JOHN.

At this time, I'd like to yield to my friend, the gentlelady from Kansas, LYNN JENKINS.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding to me.

“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” With those words, President Reagan felled not only a wall dividing a city but an ideology that divided the world. I carry a piece of that wall with me today, and though 20 years have passed, I am struck by the enormity of what this used to represent and the courage, conviction, and character of the man who stared down the Soviet empire and won.

President Reagan was not just “a,” he was “the” Great Communicator, but

it wasn't his style that made the difference. It was his content and corresponding action. Too often rhetoric is turned around in this town with little thought and even less action.

As we celebrate this 100th birthday of President Reagan, I desire that we can remember that not only did President Reagan inspire us with hope for a new morning in America, that he took real action that led a country waiting in gas lines, on the brink of nuclear war, and reminded us all that we truly are a shining city on the hill.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you very much, LYNN.

I now yield to the gentleman from South Carolina, JEFF DUNCAN.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from California for hosting us out there recently at the Reagan library. What an inspiration it was to be at the Reagan library and to understand what President Reagan did and the man, Ronald Reagan, did for liberty, not just in the United States but also around the world.

Today, I join my colleagues in honoring one of my true heroes, Ronald Reagan. It's fitting that we pay tribute to Reagan during a time when conservatives are once again waging battle against dangerous and out-of-control Federal spending. President Reagan understood the dangers of government expansion all too well. In his famous "A Time for Choosing" speech, he called America to action because, "If we lose freedom here, there's no place to escape to. This is the last stand on Earth." This was our "rendezvous with destiny."

As we in the Congress who uphold Reagan's values continue toward that rendezvous with destiny, we should keep Reagan's thoughts about government at the forefronts of our minds.

As I walk the Halls of Congress, his words reverberate in my ears every day that "man is not free unless government is limited." You have to wonder what Reagan would say to out-of-control government growth as we see in this administration.

I learned a lot about politics from President Reagan, and one particular quote has resonated with me about how we should live our lives. He said that "We should not carry a banner of pale pastels but of bold colors which makes it unmistakably clear where we stand on the issues."

I've always tried to live my life that way, so let me be bold today and say, in honor of President Reagan, I believe in God; I believe in the United States Constitution; I believe that government spends too much money, borrows too much money, and indebts the American people; and I believe that by protecting liberty in this country that our Nation once again will be a shining city on the hill.

When President Reagan spoke of that shining city, it inspired Americans to greatness. It inspired them to strive for something that is beyond comprehen-

sion at times. He spoke about a new day in America. I think that honoring President Reagan and remembering what he did inspires me as a Congressman and others to help us, once again, be a shining city for America, a shining city for liberty, a shining city for those who believe in freedom. Let us once again strive for a new day in America.

Thank you, Mr. Reagan.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you very much, JEFF, and I really enjoyed you coming out to California and getting an opportunity to really enjoy the Reagan library. It's truly a place that every American should have an opportunity to visit one time or another. It's pretty inspiring. Thank you, JEFF.

At this point I'd like to recognize the gentleman from New York, MICHAEL GRIMM.

□ 1510

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Ronald Reagan this past Sunday.

President Reagan has left a lasting mark on our world, inspiring people to turn to democracy. He often spoke of freedom and made it a driving force behind his foreign policy. During his Presidency, Reagan was instrumental in the collapse of the Soviet Union. He worked tirelessly; and with the words, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," he helped bring freedom to people under Soviet control. He left behind a legacy known for the spread of democracy and freedom throughout the world.

Reagan also understood the value of conservative economic policies. In a 1982 address, he said, "We don't have a trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much." Thirty years later, this message couldn't be more true.

While Reagan may be best known for leading our country through a strong economic recovery or for the fall of the Soviet Union, the Great Communicator was known for his optimism. I hope that Americans can once again find that optimism as we move forward to put power back into the hands of the people. By returning to the same conservative principles on which Reagan relied, I am optimistic that we can restore the honor, individual liberties, and economic prosperity that once defined our great Nation.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you very much, MICHAEL. We know MICHAEL is from the great State of New York, so we have got both coasts covered today, from sea to shining sea.

At this point, I have another great Californian and a new Member. It's my honor and pleasure to recognize my good friend from California, JEFF DENHAM.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our Nation's greatest leaders, President Ronald Reagan. And Congressman

GALLEGLY, you truly are privileged to live so close to Ronald Reagan, in the area, as well as to his library.

This past weekend, on his 100th birthday, Americans in Simi Valley and across the country remembered President Reagan's legacy not only as Governor of California but as the 40th President of the United States.

In tough times, President Reagan was a true leader who inspired millions of Americans with a bold vision to return greatness to our country. While focusing on shrinking the size of the Federal Government, reducing taxes, and growing our economy, he played an influential role in unifying a divided Europe and spreading the principles of democracy across the world.

A true believer in liberty and freedom and limited government, President Reagan taught us important lessons and led with a conviction that continues to encourage us today in the 112th Congress. President Reagan will always be remembered and celebrated not only by Californians but by individuals worldwide.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you very much, JEFF.

At this point, I yield to RICK CRAWFORD from the great State of Arkansas.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to speak in honor of the legacy of President Ronald Reagan.

While running for this office, I was often asked, "Why are you conservative? Why are you conservative?" My answer was always, "Ronald Reagan."

As a soldier, I was stationed in a bomb disposal unit in Pennsylvania, and I was tasked several times with Secret Service details protecting the President. And there was one in particular that I remember, September 17, 1987, when he gave the address at the bicentennial of the Constitution at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. I was literally standing in the shadow of history and, as a 21-year-old soldier, didn't fully appreciate it. And as I look back on that moment now, I fully appreciate what President Reagan had to say.

In his speech, he said the Founding Fathers had the presence of something higher that enabled them to write the Constitution. He said, "It was that ideal that enabled them to rise above politics and self-interest, to transcend their differences, and together create this document, this Constitution that would profoundly and forever alter not just these United States but the world."

We can learn a lot by looking back at President Reagan's speech. President Reagan always remembered the principles and sacrifices this country was built upon. In my opinion, the best way we can honor President Reagan's legacy is to walk these Halls with the sacrifices of our Founding Fathers in mind, just as President Ronald Reagan did.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Now, from Ronald Reagan's home State, the great State of Illinois, RANDY HULTGREN.

Mr. HULTGREN. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be with you today to honor one of my heroes. And I bring greetings to the United States Capitol from Tampico, Illinois, Ronald Reagan's birthplace, and Dixon, Illinois, Ronald Reagan's boyhood home. I am privileged to represent those areas back in Illinois. I was there over this weekend and was able to be in Ronald Reagan's birthplace and also his boyhood home. And I heard from them again all the memories that they have and the incredible roots that were developed there in Illinois into one of our greatest Presidents ever, Ronald Reagan.

As I look back about 30 years ago to 1981, I see that times are similar today as they were when Ronald Reagan took office. It was desperate economic times. There was very discouraging unemployment news. It also was a very dangerous world that we faced. And yet Ronald Reagan came in and had an impact in turning our world around, bringing hope once again.

I see in Ronald Reagan several things:

First of all, he clearly was a man of faith. It was almost exactly 30 years ago next month when, tragically, Ronald Reagan was shot. We are so grateful that he survived and did well through that. And through that lesson and through that horrible experience, Ronald Reagan said he dedicated his life and his Presidency to God. He was a man of faith.

He was also a man of optimism. He saw that the opportunity in America's future was not in government but in the American people.

He was also a man of vision. I appreciate his statement that "it's morning in America again," and I see that same opportunity today, where our days are brighter ahead than they were in the past because of the great American people and their spirit.

Ronald Reagan had three big goals when he entered the Presidency, and he had incredible focus on these three goals. When you talked to people who were here at that time, it was amazing that oftentimes he was the only one talking about these things or had the idea that we could be successful.

One of those was restoring our economy, getting things turned around again, getting people working again. He also wanted to restore American exceptionalism, and he fought diligently to do that, to recognize that we are a great Nation because of our great people. He also was committed to defeating communism. And his strong voice and strong presence against the USSR showed and was successful ultimately because of his diligence and his focus and his vision. And we are so thankful. It is a different world today because of Ronald Reagan.

I look back at so much that he accomplished. Let's go back to the roots that he developed, the Midwestern roots in Illinois that went so deep. I see

it still in the people there—a commitment to America, a commitment to service, a commitment to a brighter future. All of those things were born and bred into Ronald Reagan in Tampico and Dixon, Illinois, and continued on through his life out in California and right here in Washington, DC.

It is my honor to recognize one of my heroes just a couple days after his 100th birthday and say, Thank you, President Reagan. Thank you for all that you've done. Thank you for the hope and the future that we all enjoy because of what you have done.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you very much, RANDY.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina). The gentleman has 39 minutes remaining.

Mr. GALLEGLY. At this point, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, ANDY HARRIS, a freshman Member and good friend.

Mr. HARRIS. I thank the gentleman from California for giving me this opportunity.

"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Mr. Speaker, perhaps those were Ronald Reagan's most famous words, words which meant a great deal to millions of people. But his speech at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin that June afternoon touched me and my family personally.

As many of you may know, my immigrant parents were victims of communist regimes in Eastern Europe. My Hungarian father served 2 years in a Siberian gulag for his anticommunist views, and my Ukrainian mother fled just before the Red Army seized control of her native country. They, like Ronald Reagan, understood that communism, especially the Soviet brand of communism, meant a life of restriction, oppression, and in many cases violence or cold-blooded murder.

□ 1520

While some derided President Reagan when he took on the USSR to win the Cold War, it was a point of inspiration for the Harris family. His courage and unwavering belief that freedom must always conquer evil has forever immortalized him to those who witnessed and lived through one of the most despicable and deadly regimes in the history of mankind.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Harris family, I want to thank President Reagan. May his legacy always remain a beacon for those around the world who seek the asylum of freedom and liberty.

Mr. GALLEGLY. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my very good friend from the State of Texas, Tyler, Texas, as a matter of fact, Judge LOUIE GOHMERT.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, my friend from California. At Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1978–1980, we saw the military being cut, demoralized and marginalized. Our U.S. embassy in

Iran was attacked and our diplomats taken hostage, while the sad administration wrung its hands and begged Iran to let them go. The U.S. seemed pathetic in the face of a vicious enemy.

Interest rates were rising from 12 percent up to 20 percent as my wife and I purchased our first home. Inflation and unemployment were both in double digits.

The Carter administration decided to deal with an over-reliance on foreign oil by asking people to wear sweaters at home and leave the heat turned down lower. Then, as now, the President waged a private war against producing our own energy, so then, as now, the price of gasoline skyrocketed.

We in the U.S. Army could not publicly express our dismay over our dismal leadership because it is a military crime to be disrespectful of the Commander in Chief.

Then in 1980, a new day dawned with the election of Ronald Reagan. Our hostages were released when President Reagan took office, and we had a newfound respect from other countries. As Reagan's tax-cutting policies took over, double-digit inflation, unemployment, and interest rates all came down.

Our military began to be respected again and feared again, which provided much needed protection for America.

The Bible says, "Joy comes in the morning." It truly was morning in America. Thank God for the life and the gift of Ronald Reagan.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you very much, LOUIE. And now I would like to yield to the gentleman from California, my good friend, KEN CALVERT, who played an instrumental role in helping to bring Air Force One to Simi Valley.

Mr. CALVERT. I want to thank my good friend, ELTON GALLEGLY, from Simi Valley, California, where, of course, our library for Ronald Reagan is located. We're very proud of it.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to the 100th birthday of the late President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, a man who deeply loved our country and who, through the course of his life, changed the world to a better place.

Upon taking office, President Reagan initiated sweeping economic reforms to combat double-digit unemployment and inflation. His policies ended the recession and provided one of the longest peacetime economic booms in our history. I wish we can do that again very soon.

America was also facing a 35-year-long war at that time, the Cold War, and President Reagan never shied away from speaking in defense of freedom. He delivered his courageous address near the infamous Berlin Wall and demanded, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." This was the beginning of the end of the Cold War and the wall would come down 1 year after President Reagan left office.

President Reagan brought so much greatness to the world; and 2 years ago,

as a Californian, working with my friend, ELTON GALLEGLEY, and others, I had the privilege of initiating the effort to bring the statue of President Reagan to our Nation's Capitol. So those of you who visit the Capitol, I encourage you to go visit the statue. It's a fitting tribute to our former President of the United States. The statue is a constant reminder of his legacy. Today, as we honor his life, we will always remember his words and pledge to forever preserve his vision of America as a shining city on a hill for all mankind to see. God bless America. God bless Ronald Reagan, and thank you for the time.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. Thank you, KEN.

I'd now like to yield time to my next-door neighbor in the Rayburn Building and a friend of mine, I think the only senior Member to me here today, the gentleman from Indianapolis, Indiana, DAN BURTON, who personally knew Ronald Reagan very well.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me just say that we all talk about what Ronald Reagan did as President and the great things he did for the country and for the world. But I want to tell you a story that's a personal story of mine.

My mother was a waitress for 18 years, and my stepfather only went to the seventh grade. And I told them when I entered politics one day I was going to run for Congress, and if I got elected to Congress, I was going to take them in the front door of the White House and introduce them to the President of the United States. So finally I got elected to Congress after quite a while.

And I called the White House and I got a hold of Reagan's secretary, and I told her the story about how I'd promised this to my mother and how she'd worked for 18 years as a waitress, and about my stepfather. And she says, well, let me talk to the President about it. So I got a call about a day or two later, and she said, the President can see you on this particular day. So I called my mother and my stepfather and I said, I want you to come out, I want to take you in the front door of the White House to meet the President.

Well, it came out my mother loved Ronald Reagan as an actor. He was her favorite. And so here she was coming in the front door of the White House, and I've got her hand in one hand and my stepfather in the other, and they're both shaking because here they are very common folks, and they're going to meet the most powerful man in the world, and her great favorite actor.

So we go in. And when we walked in the Oval Office, Ronald Reagan stole my heart forever, and I want to tell you why. He came up and he looked at my mother and he looked at me and he put his arm around me and he says, Ms. Kelly, I want you to know your son is one of the brightest young men we have in Congress, and he's going to do great things for America. And I know

you had to wait on tables, and I know he shined shoes and I know you had a tough time. We had a tough time in my family like that. And he says, but I know things are going to be great from here on out, and you ought to be very proud of him.

And I kept thinking, how does he know all this? And he had called my office to get information so he'd make my mother feel really, really proud and happy. And they took those pictures, and my mother carried those pictures with her till the day she died. And from that moment on, I'd have done anything for that guy. He could walk on water. He was not only a great President; he was a great human being. Thanks for the time.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. Thank you, DANNY.

I now yield to a Member from Ronald Reagan's home State, BOB DOLD from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Times have changed, but familiar challenges remain. We must strive to make our government smarter, protect America in a dangerous world, and create jobs here at home. As we enter a new era, we look to the past for guidance, to the man from Dixon, Illinois, who redefined our party and who reshaped the world, and we look forward always with the optimism and competence of our 40th President.

At a time when the world stood at the intersection between freedom and tyranny, President Reagan's leadership made it clear that the American path was the right way to go. As we work to create jobs and rein in spending right now, it is critical that this Congress, and indeed all Americans, stay committed to his vision.

Ronald Reagan trusted the American people, believing that we possess the strength of character to freely lead our lives, to grow our businesses and to create jobs. As I talk with people back home in my district, one constant I hear is the desire for the Federal Government to simply stop making things so difficult on them, to get out of the way.

Today we face great challenges, massive deficits, a weakened economy, and businesses struggling to provide jobs. Moving forward, we need not just a dose but a full commitment to the principles of individual liberty and free markets championed by President Reagan. I believe we need to empower our citizens to create new opportunities for growth.

Today we admire President Reagan for his eternal optimism and his firm belief in American exceptionalism.

□ 1530

Mr. GALLEGLEY. One of the things that creates a challenge for us on a Special Order like this is we have so many folks that want to speak and reminisce about what a great man Ronald Reagan was and I only have so much time. So if you will be sensitive to that, I want to make sure everyone

has an opportunity to recognize Ronald Reagan this afternoon that would like to.

At this point, I yield to my neighbor from California and good friend, GARY MILLER.

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Thank you for giving me the time, Mr. GALLEGLEY. I know you are honored to represent the library and are personal friends with the family, and that speaks volumes for your character.

I rise today to honor the remembrance of the most beloved figure and inspiring man I know of in politics, the late Ronald Reagan.

I think many Members of Congress and politicians speak volumes for the man when they stand before a crowd and say, "I'm a Reagan Republican." When you can leave a legacy like that behind, because not many people say they're a Miller Republican or a Gallegley Republican, but a Reagan Republican, speaks volumes for who the man was.

As we commemorate Ronald Reagan's centennial birthday, I am honored to have the opportunity to reflect on his many accomplishments as a leader and a person. As President, Ronald Reagan believed in the American Dream. And when he talked about the American Dream, he always had this huge smile on his face because he believed in the American Dream.

His wisdom and leadership in promoting freedom, prosperity, and compassionate respect for all individuals guided our great Nation during times of both tranquility and turmoil.

President Reagan's strong belief in a limited government and fiscal responsibility should serve as a model for us today. As President, he refused to deviate from his principles and strong belief in the power of the free market. His success in reducing taxes and government spending led to a period of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity.

In the area of foreign policy, Ronald Reagan's support for a strong national defense strengthened America's standing in the world. His belief that America should serve as a beacon for democracy and freedom was unrelenting. The Reagan administration's tough stance against communist regimes and the negotiation of treaties with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev culminated in the symbolic end of the Cold War and the liberation of millions across the globe.

As we reflect on the life and legacy left by President Reagan, his resounding words of resolve bring hope to our Nation through these times of trial and tribulation. It is my hope that President Reagan's vision for our Nation will long be remembered and revered.

I am honored to represent this man in California and say he is a hero.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. I thank the gentleman.

The next gentleman I would like to introduce is SCOTT TIPTON from the State of Colorado. I had the real honor

of showing SCOTT and his wife, Jean, around the library just last weekend. We had a great time, and I am sure you can attest to what a great venue that is and a tribute to a great man.

Mr. TIPTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And, indeed it was. Thank you so much for your hospitality. That was exceptional.

Members, in 1976, I had the honor and pleasure of serving as the youngest delegate to the Republican National Convention. At that convention, I listened to Ronald Reagan tell us, "Go out and communicate to the world that we may be fewer in numbers than we have ever been, but we carry the message that they are waiting for." His words inspired me to the realization that ours is a Nation of ascendancy, and filled me with hope for the future.

Like then, the future of our country now depends upon our present actions and our ability to deliver a powerful message. Our message is, and must be, clear. We cannot continue down a path of reckless spending that satisfies government excess while enslaving future generations to insurmountable debt. It is time that we roll up our sleeves. For while many may have never met a government program that they do not like, it is time that we get to work cutting spending.

We must embrace Reagan's prudence and heed his warning that government always finds a need for whatever money it gets, and remember that it is our responsibility to tend that fragile flame of liberty so that our children and grandchildren may know brighter days.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina, TREY GOWDY.

Mr. GOWDY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a modern-day forefather who rekindled the foundational beliefs of our country, a leader who earnestly believed in American exceptionalism and the durable power of individual aspirations.

At a time when the prevailing mood in our country suggested that our best days were in the past, a time when the challenges seemed larger than our capacity to meet them, President Reagan gave us a reason to hope.

Through his words, through his actions, he forced us to take a hard look at ourselves and, in doing so, recapture the ideals that made this Nation great: Hard work, perseverance, personal responsibility, the collective belief that, when working together, greatness is always within our grasp. One by one, he re-inspired the robust American spirit of optimism that sustains us as individuals and unifies us as a country. He was a founding father of the New America, and for that we honor his memory and remain forever grateful.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, would you be kind enough to advise me how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 22 minutes left.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this time, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to introduce another Californian, the gentlelady, the leader of the minority, NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for calling this Special Order to give us the opportunity to join in a bipartisan way to celebrate and pay tribute to what would be the 100th birthday of President Ronald Reagan, and to do so with great pride as members of the California delegation.

In August of 2006, the California legislature passed a law in a bipartisan way to have President Reagan representing our State as one of the two statues in the Capitol. Just a year-and-a-half ago, again in a bipartisan way, we celebrated the life of President Reagan by welcoming this statue to the Capitol. So for the last few years we have been building in a tribute to the President.

It is impossible to talk about President Reagan and the optimism he had for life and the love he had for our country and his patriotism without talking about Mrs. Reagan. They shared one of the great love stories of our time. Mrs. Reagan in recent years has turned that love into action, speaking out powerfully about stem cell research. In doing so, she has saved lives, found cures, and given hope to millions. Today, as we pay tribute to President Reagan, we also honor Mrs. Reagan for her service to our Nation and for her love of her husband.

On what would be his 100 birthday, we remember President Reagan's optimism for our Nation, always believing that America's best days are ahead, and we share his patriotism, his life of service to our country.

To honor him, a Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission has been established, and I am pleased to recognize three House appointments—two Republican, one Democrat—to the Reagan Centennial Commission and thank them for their service to the legacy of President Reagan: Congressman GALLEGLY, congratulations to you; Congressman AARON SCHOCK, one of the newest Members of Congress and youngest; and Congressman SILVESTRE REYES, who proudly serves in that capacity.

Again, as a Californian, we take great pride in the fact that Ronald Reagan was not born in California but from California, that his life of service and patriotism is recognized in the Capitol, and that today we send our deepest regards and respect to Mrs. Reagan in celebration of the President's 100th birthday.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I thank the gentlelady, our leader of the minority, and fellow Californian.

I now yield to PAUL GOSAR from the great State of Arizona.

□ 1540

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor President Ronald Reagan and to commemorate his hope, optimism, and eternal belief that America is truly the greatest country in the world.

Reagan once said, "It is not my intention to do away with government. It is rather to make it work—work with us, not over us; stand by our side, not ride on our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it."

I can think of no better time than the present to listen to the wisdom of Reagan's words. We are at a turning point in our Nation and the American people are asking for a government that works with the people, not one that picks winners and losers. I am forever encouraged by the words of Reagan and will always be inspired to keep his dream of a smaller, more nimble government alive.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I now yield to DIANE BLACK, a new Member from the great State of Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great legacy of our 40th President, Ronald Wilson Reagan. As I watched some of the coverage of the President's centennial, I found myself filled with the same hope and idealism that he inspired in me over 20 years ago.

During the 8 years he was in the White House, President Reagan faced great challenges but was always optimistic that the greatness of our country and its people would bring us to a brighter day. A truly one-of-a-kind leader, President Reagan inspired freedom throughout the world and kept the American dream alive and burning brightly for all of us.

He reminded us that democracy is a precious gift, but one that is dependent on the dedication of all Americans. He believed strongly in American exceptionalism and reminded us that as citizens of such a great Nation, we had a responsibility to be a beacon of hope to all of those around the world who do not enjoy the same freedoms. All of these years later, his ideals still stand true for all of us, and his message is just as urgent today as it was in the past, perhaps even more so.

President Reagan is a personal hero of mine, and I want to work with my colleagues to keep his ideals of a smaller government, a commonsense government, alive here in Washington.

President Reagan believed that the people of this country are the best hope for the future, not the government or its bureaucrats. He believed that the ideal of self-government that this Nation was founded on was one of the greatest ideas of history, and that by giving government back to the people, our Nation would become stronger and more prosperous.

Like Reagan, I too am optimistic. I believe that our best days are still

ahead of us and that a smaller government that answers to the people will let America thrive again. As we face the challenges ahead of us today, let us remember President Reagan, and with hard work we can get this country back on track to a brighter morning.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. I would now yield to my good friend and freshman Member from the great State of Florida, DENNIS ROSS, and also, I might add, a fellow member on our Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to President Reagan on his centennial celebration. As our country's 40th President, no leader in modern history has had a more lasting and greater impact in shaping America's policy on economics, national defense, and social issues. Throughout his time as a public servant, President Reagan championed the core values of lower taxes and less burdensome government that stimulated the economy and brought this country out of a long recession.

Reagan's firm belief in a strong national defense inspired future democracies all over Europe and led to the defeat of the "evil empire," which ended the Cold War and brought peace with Russia.

He became a role model for all Americans with his sense of humor, his sense of compassion, untiring belief in unlimited freedom and respect for the unborn. President Reagan was a leader of extraordinary character, courage, and vision. He changed our great nation and never tired of firmly believing that America's best days were ahead.

Happy birthday, Mr. President.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. Thank you very much, DENNIS.

I would now yield to LARRY BUCSHON, a new Member from Indiana. Indiana is well represented here this afternoon for President Reagan.

Mr. BUCSHON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of our Nation's 40th President. Today, we honor Ronald Reagan's 100th birthday on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. This is the People's House, and Ronald Reagan was the people's President.

President Reagan championed the individual by lowering the tax burden on America's citizens and promoting free markets, actions that resonated with me as a young college student. As a 19-year-old in 1981, it was President Reagan's optimism about our future and clear conservative message that guided me to become a Republican.

What stood out the most to me about President Ronald Reagan was his conviction and steadfast leadership in pulling us out of the Cold War. I am honored to be able to stand here today on the House floor in celebration of a great leader, President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. I would now yield to KEVIN BRADY from Texas, a longtime friend and one of our best baseball

players on the congressional baseball team.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for your leadership as well.

"Before I refuse to take your questions, I have an opening statement."

Mr. Speaker, that was one of the many quips we remember from the Great Communicator, Ronald Reagan. As we mark the 100th anniversary of his birth this week on Capitol Hill, we reflect on President Reagan's many accomplishments, his leadership in tough economic times, and his ability to bring us together, which was good humor.

During his presidency, Ronald Reagan worked across the aisle to grow our economy by cutting tax rates and getting Washington off the backs of our job creators. He believed, as he said, "entrepreneurs and their small enterprises are responsible for almost all the economic growth in the United States." He said, "concentrated power has always been the enemy of liberty."

Those two statements of President Reagan's were never more true than today, as we have a much greater and bigger Washington bureaucracy than we could have ever imagined or could ever afford.

President Reagan believed that we grow our economy by getting Washington out of the way, not by spending more tax dollars borrowed from our children and grandchildren. President Reagan knew that fiscal responsibility was key to our freedom, and he said, "if we lose freedom here, there is no place to escape to."

The American economy is at a crossroads, and the good news is we have been here before, and we know the way to a stronger future, thanks to Ronald Reagan.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. May I again inquire of the time remaining, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). The gentleman has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. I would now yield to TIM WALBERG, making his second tour as a Member from the great State of Michigan.

Welcome back, TIM.

Mr. WALBERG. Thank you, my friend and colleague from California. I am delighted to be here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great man and a great President, Ronald Reagan. Although President Reagan's 100th birthday would have been celebrated this year, I am reminded how clear and timeless his principles of limited government and individual freedom remain. Many of his ideas ring as true today as they did when I first heard him speak so many years ago.

Beginning in 1984, I had the pleasure of meeting President Reagan several times as a member of the Michigan legislature. The first time I met him was when I had the honor of welcoming him to Michigan on behalf of the House of Representatives and the Republican

caucus. Though I forgot most of my planned speech in greeting him, he treated me as a colleague and expressed a genuine interest in our agenda for the State.

His warmth and disarming kindness is what I will always remember about him personally. I always left, after subsequent meetings, believing more strongly in America's exceptionalism and knowing that his commonsense principles would always succeed here and abroad when attached to character, courage, and grace. I am certain that his timeless principles when followed will endure for many, many years to come.

May God bless the history and memory of Ronald Reagan and the country he loved.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. I would now yield to SCOTT DESJARLAIS from the great State of Tennessee, a new Member.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My colleagues have done an excellent job today in eloquently paying tribute to Ronald Reagan's life and the many accomplishments he achieved throughout his presidency. I would like to take a moment, though, to recognize one of the most instrumental figures in shaping the Reagan legacy, Nancy Reagan.

In the immutable words of John Donne, "No man is an island, entire of itself," and with all the accolades we bestow on President Reagan, we must remember that Nancy was a key part of the Reagan team.

□ 1550

She was an uncommon confidant and was always there to provide the President with unconditional support, which no doubt served as a source of his strength.

I believe President Reagan would find any tribute to him inadequate without also recognizing the person he described as the "companion without whom I'm never quite complete or happy." So, thank you, Mrs. Reagan for the role that you played in guiding our country through difficult times and ensuring that America forever remains a shining city upon a hill.

Mr. GALLEGGLY. I would now yield to BOBBY SCHILLING from President Reagan's home State. Illinois is very well represented today.

Mr. SCHILLING. Today, we remember our Nation's 40th President, President Ronald Wilson Reagan. He would have been 100 this year. President Reagan hails from my home State of Illinois. He spent much of his childhood growing up in the Dixon area and also worked with WOC Radio in Davenport, Iowa. And our area, we believe, had a little bit to do with forming the Great Communicator.

Ronald Reagan was famous for saying, Government is not the solution to our problem. Government is the problem. Reagan stared down the Soviet Union and demanded that they tear down the wall. He nominated the first female Supreme Court Justice in Judge Sandra Day O'Connor.

President Reagan is one of my heroes because he showed what can be accomplished when the best interest of the country are placed ahead of party affiliation. And we need more of this.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be standing here today to celebrate President Ronald Wilson Reagan's 100th birthday.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. Now it's my distinct honor and pleasure to recognize the gentleman from Illinois.

AARON, I don't know if you were even born when Ronald Reagan was first elected, were you?

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. GALLEGLEY, I was not.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. But you knew who he was, and I have heard you speak about him.

It is an honor to yield to the gentleman from Illinois, AARON SCHOCK.

Mr. SCHOCK. To my friend from California (Mr. GALLEGLEY), I appreciate the deference. No, I was not born when Ronald Reagan became President, but what a tribute to President Ronald Reagan this is. Rarely in Congress do we run out of time when we're talking about an issue, but Democrat-Republican time has expired. I had prepared all kinds of flowery remarks that I was going to make in tribute to the President who hails from my home State of Illinois that I represent—Eureka College, his alma mater—but I can't think of anything more to say other than the fact that so much has been said that we've run out of time. And I can't think of a greater tribute. It's why east coast, west coast, Midwest, Republican, Democrat, the oldest Member, the youngest Member have taken time to come to the floor today. And I thank you, Mr. GALLEGLEY from California for organizing this hour.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. I'd just also like to recognize your tribute to Ronald Reagan the other night at the Reagan Library. It was very inspiring. And it was an honor to have you there.

Mr. SCHOCK. I like California weather.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. I would now yield to the gentleman from Georgia, AUSTIN SCOTT.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I just want to say this about President Reagan. He understood that it is the American, not the government, that will make America the greatest Nation on Earth. It's time for this body to tackle some tough issues and follow through on tough decisions. And if I can just read his words, the Gipper's own words: Let us be sure that those who come after will say of us in our time that in our time we did everything that could be done. We finished the race; we kept them free; we kept the faith.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. Next, we have my good friend from the State of Virginia, and seat partner for the last 20 years on Judiciary, BOB GOODLATTE.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding. I also want to tell him how much I en-

joyed visiting his congressional district less than 2 weeks ago and visiting the Reagan Presidential Library, which is a fabulous recounting of the life of the man who I think was the greatest President of the 20th century. He led America to win the Cold War. He re-instilled the economic greatness of this country from the malaise of the 1970s. And, most importantly, he instilled in us his eternal optimism in America.

In his farewell address, Reagan described how he envisioned the "shining city" he invoked countless times. He observed of his time in office, "We weren't just marking time. We made a difference. We made the city stronger, we made the city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad; not bad at all."

"Not bad," reflects the modesty of the man but not the magnitude of his accomplishments.

Asked what Americans saw in him, Ronald Reagan replied, "Would you laugh if I told you that I think, maybe, they see themselves . . . ?"

Hardly would we laugh.

A few years ago I visited Rancho del Cielo, Reagan's beloved "Ranch in the Sky". The home reflects the man . . . with Nancy's and his TV trays still standing by their respective recliners, both facing the old black and white television. It seems they've just gone out for a trail ride and will return at any moment.

At purchase the ranch was a mere 600 sq. feet. Reagan labored diligently to remodel and expand it. Even so, the only thing grand about it is the natural surroundings. Asked once to explain the ranch's almost magnetic appeal for him, Reagan replied with a quote from the Psalms: "I look to the hills from whence cometh my strength."

Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher and Queen Elizabeth were among the notables he hosted there. Gorbachev was disappointed by the humble ranch, knowing the lavish palaces of European leaders. However, it's fitting that the place at which Reagan felt most at ease disarmed the world's dignitaries . . . he always related best with common folks.

And yet he was far from ordinary. To the contrary he lived an extraordinary life which had a profound impact on the span of human history.

He left us on the eve of the 60th anniversary of D-Day, and almost 20 years to the day of one of his most beloved speeches, where he offered a compelling picture of how "the boys of Point du Hoc," struck a death knell to the Nazism and Fascism gripping Europe.

He extended this same moral clarity to the great conflict of his day, possessing a steadfast commitment to not just contain communism, but defeat it. In rebuilding the military, and facing down the tyranny of communism, he relegated the Evil Empire to the ash heap of history. In restoring our faith in the free enterprise system through cutting taxes he encouraged innovation.

And most importantly he instilled in us his eternal optimism in America.

In his farewell address Reagan described how he envisioned the "shining city," he had invoked countless times. He observed this of his time in office, "We weren't just marking time. We made a difference. We made the city stronger, we made the city freer, and we left

her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all."

Not bad reflects the modesty of the man but not the magnitude of his accomplishments. He set this Nation on a new course that still inspires us. We have a right to dream great dreams he said . . . because after all we are Americans.

Yes, Mr. President we do see ourselves in you.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. Thank you very much, BOB.

At this time I yield to the gentlelady from New York, NAN HAYWORTH.

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Chairman, thank you so very much.

What inspires me about President Reagan so greatly is that the power of his vision was so strong that a mere 20 minutes after he took the oath of office on January 20, 1981, our Iranian hostages left the airspace of that hostile country because they knew when he was elected that America would not stand down from its commitment to them, nor its commitment to democracy. And now is the time for all of us to take renewed inspiration from President Reagan's example. He articulated American exceptionalism and the American Dream more eloquently than any President in decades. And now is the time for us to take his example and let it strengthen us as we face tremendous challenges in this country today.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. I would now yield to the gentleman from Louisiana, STEVE SCALISE.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

It's such an honor to be able to pay tribute to Ronald Reagan here on the House floor, especially remembering his 100th birthday. It was special about a week and a half ago to be in the gentleman from California's district, going to the Presidential Library—Ronald Reagan's library; actually walking through that Air Force One plane that, among other places, took President Reagan to Germany, where he gave that famous speech and demanded, Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.

It was Reagan's optimism that pulled our country out of the malaise of the 1970s. We need some more of that optimism here today. But while he is no longer with us, Ronald Reagan's legacy still endures today as an example of how we can get to that "shining city on a hill" again.

Mr. GALLEGLEY. Thank you, STEVE.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many things that I would like to express, but I thought it was really important that we had this Nation represented from sea to shining sea. And I think we did that this afternoon with all of our speakers from States from California to New York and everywhere in between.

In closing, and it just seemed appropriate this morning as I was pulling into the Rayburn garage, I came in a little early this morning, and there was a car that had to stop for something for a minute—and I don't normally read bumper stickers, but that bumper

sticker said it all: I miss Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ronald Reagan. Or as he would have preferred 61st anniversary of his 39th birthday.

Our friendship began when he was Governor of California and I was a newly elected Assemblyman. We had a private meeting about a complex childcare issue. I walked away impressed by his grasp of the subject and how we shared a belief in the importance of the mother's involvement to early childhood development.

I was also impressed by Reagan's efforts to ease the impact of automobile exhaust in California. For too long, a dense layer of smog hid the gorgeous California landscape. Reagan worked tirelessly to make sure that, along with curtailing factory pollution, automobile emissions were kept in check.

President Reagan's leadership style blended deeply held conviction with an ability to transcend partisanship. His friendships with those across the aisle are a timely reminder of how the governing process should work. Reagan meant it when he said "There's no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."

Reagan's contributions on behalf of freedom around the world are unparalleled since the end of World War II. There is no more Cold War, there is no more Berlin Wall, there is no worldwide threat of Communist dictatorship because of the leadership of President Reagan.

When the history of our time is written, the accomplishments of President Reagan will shine out. He made America the land of opportunity once again, and brought the breath of freedom to millions of people around the world who had spent decades under the yoke of tyranny. His memory will live on among all the freedom-loving people around the world.

For me, the most endearing of his traits was his eternal optimism. Ronald Reagan truly believed that America was a "shining city on a hill." His ability to see that, despite tough times, America is a nation of limitless potential was an inspiration to all.

I am honored to have both known and worked with Ronald Reagan, one of the great leaders of the 20th century. On behalf of all my Congressional colleagues, I wish him the happiest of birthdays.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago, an ambitious little boy named Ronald Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois; a little boy who was determined to be someone important. When that little boy became this nation's 40th president, he told us that America was too great for small dreams, and that there was purpose and worth in every life.

President Reagan believed in the individual character of the American people. He believed in the great power that human liberty and freedom had to change the lives of citizens not only in this country, but of those around the world. Ronald Reagan acknowledged that oppression, tyranny, and evil anywhere in the world was a threat to us all, and he was not afraid to call it by its proper name. He was determined to not merely contain communism, but to conquer it. In his 1982 speech to the British Parliament, President Reagan predicted "The march of freedom and democracy will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash-heap of

history as it has left other tyrannies which stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people." In his unwavering determination to defeat communism through initiatives like his foreign policy offensive, pro-democratic public diplomacy, along with what became known as the Reagan Doctrine, President Reagan brought communism to its knees. The most symbolic result of his efforts came on the 9th of November, 1989, when the Berlin Wall separating Western and Eastern Germany came crumbling down. Pieces of that wall can now be found beneath the feet of President Reagan's statue in the Capitol Rotunda, a reminder that Tyranny must be temporary in order for human liberty to prevail.

President Reagan also believed that a prosperous nation relied on economic freedom; that the entrepreneur and their small enterprises were the driving force behind economic growth in America. This belief was reflected in his policies of freedom and his "common sense" approach to economics that laid the foundation for a prosperous nation. On August 17, 1981, President Reagan signed the Economic Recovery Tax Act into law, cutting all income taxes by 25 percent and reducing the top marginal tax rate from 70 percent to 50 percent. President Reagan's policies reduced inflation, lowered unemployment, cut the prime interest rate in half, and increased economic growth by 6 percent only two years into his administration. In addition to those accomplishments, nearly 17 million new jobs were created by the time Reagan left office.

Mr. Speaker, today we not only honor a former President, but a remarkable American who truly loved his country. And through his impeccable character and leadership, his generosity and humor, the American people loved him. Throughout his eight years in office, we laughed together and we cried together. Even in its darkest days, President Ronald Reagan recognized that American character and generosity, ideas and ingenuity, liberty and individual freedom are the reasons that the United States of America is and always will be the shining city upon a hill. He believed that it is our inescapable destiny to be the leaders of the free world and that America's best days are yet to come; that our most glorious days are just ahead. On that note, Mr. Speaker, I end with this quote from President Reagan; "If you're afraid of the future, then get out of the way, stand aside. The people of this country are ready to move again."

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak today in remembrance of the life and legacy of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan.

Just prior to Ronald Reagan assuming the Presidency, many people wondered whether this country's best days were behind us.

"What I'd really like to do," he said after six months in the White House, "is go down in history as the President who made Americans believe in themselves again."

He created a sense of pride in our nation that was severely lacking following the Vietnam war.

His reforms to our tax code, tax cuts and a significantly lowered rate of inflation lead to the longest peacetime economic expansion in our history.

President Reagan's longest lasting legacy remains his role in winning the Cold War.

While the common doctrine of the time called for containing Communism, Reagan boldly predicted that it would soon be "left on the ash-heap of history."

During the journey that was the Reagan Revolution, he restored prosperity, confidence, optimism, faith, and pride in America.

We along with countless others around the world will be forever grateful.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is almost impossible to imagine what the world would be like today if Ronald Reagan had never come along. That is because so much of the past 100 years of American and world history was directly impacted by the courage and convictions of our 40th President.

As we all know, the course of the 20th century was not always a smooth ride for the United States or for freedom. At a time when we needed a hero, we got one in the Gipper.

When Ronald Reagan saw the country he loved succumb to the hubris of the welfare state, high taxation, rampant spending and crippling regulation, he set his sights on Washington to turn things around. He believed that government was not the solution but the problem. The status quo of the time begged to differ and he saw no choice but to challenge it. Against all odds, he succeeded.

That same misguided consensus also told us that Soviet communism would forever cohabit the globe with Western democracy. Again, President Reagan disagreed. To him, communism wasn't just flawed—it was evil. That conviction shaped his entire worldview. His forecast for the Cold War was simple: "We win, they lose." His optimism led him to predict a decade before the Cold War ended that "the West won't contain communism, it will transcend communism." Again, President Reagan was right.

All Americans live in a freer and more prosperous world because of Ronald Reagan.

One hundred years from now, President Reagan's legacy will continue to inspire Americans to believe in the greatness of our country. And as long as his principles are cherished and passed down to every new generation, America will remain that "shining city on a hill" and the last best hope for man on earth.

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Ronald Reagan this past Sunday, February 6th.

President Reagan has left a lasting mark on our world, inspiring people to turn to democracy. He often spoke of freedom and made it a driving force behind his foreign policy.

During his presidency, Reagan was instrumental in the collapse of the Soviet Union. He worked tirelessly and with the words "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," he helped bring freedom to people under Soviet control, leaving behind a legacy known for the spread of democracy and freedom throughout the world.

Reagan also understood the value of conservative economic policies. In a 1982 address he said, "We don't have a trillion dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion dollar debt because we spend too much." Thirty years later, this message couldn't be more true.

While Reagan may be best known for leading our country through a strong economic recovery or for the fall of the Soviet Union, the Great Communicator was also known for his optimism. I hope that Americans can once again find that optimism, as we move forward to put power back into the hands of the people.

By returning to the same conservative principles on which Reagan relied, I am optimistic that we can restore the honor, individual liberties, and economic prosperity that once defined our great Nation.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 514, EXTENDING COUNTER-TERRORISM AUTHORITIES

Mr. DREIER (during the Special Order of Mr. GALLEGLY), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-8) on the resolution (H. Res. 79) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 514) to extend expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 and Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 relating to access to business records, individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers, and roving wiretaps until December 8, 2011, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

D.C. VOTING RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to claim a half hour this afternoon to speak about the citizens of the Nation's Capital, who are full and equal citizens of the United States of America; that Nation's Capital that was born with the Nation itself, was born with the Constitution. Among the Nation's oldest citizens are the citizens of this very city where the Congress does its work.

□ 1600

Now, there is a complicated relationship between the Federal Government and the Nation's capital, but one thing has never been complicated: The Founders and every American ever since have understood that the citizens of the Nation's capital are entitled to the same constitutional rights and democratic rights as every other American citizen.

I have come to the floor because I think many Members who are incumbents may have forgotten, and the largest class of new Members may be surprised by what they may be about to experience on this floor with respect to a local jurisdiction that they know nothing of and that they have nothing to do with.

The new Members have come with a special distaste for Federal intervention, even into Federal affairs, and I respect that. I think that they, perhaps, would be among the first Members to recognize that the powerful Federal Government should never snatch local control from a local jurisdiction. Indeed, you may be about to experience

something that is so much of a surprise that it will be a kind of an out-of-body experience when you're asked to actually consider a budget that this Congress had nothing do with, a budget for which every living cent was raised by the people I represent. You may be asked to overturn local laws simply because they are different from the laws you would have passed in your own local jurisdictions and where there is no Federal imprimatur on these local laws at all.

Now, gradually, Congress has come to understand that the United States loses its own credibility as the leader of democracy around the world when it does not treat the citizens of a nation's capital as full and equal citizens. Congressional jurisdiction over the District of Columbia appears in the Constitution; but in 1973, Congress recognized that it was wrong—wrong—to rule the local jurisdiction from the Congress, so it delegated what we call home rule, or the right to self-government, to the District of Columbia. That marked a historic realization that local residents must govern themselves locally, that it was wrong that the Nation's capital was the only place—this place where Congress meets—with no local democracy, where hundreds of thousands of its citizens had no say on their own local affairs.

I know it's hard to believe that this could have ever occurred anywhere in the United States. Local control is among the very first principles of the founding of our country; but only in 1973 did your Nation's capital get an elected government, an elected Mayor, and an elected city council. A lot of that had to do with, to be fair, southern Democrats. Although the District for 150 years was a majority white district, the old-time southern Democrats saw the large African American population here as a reason to keep the District from having any local self-government. Republicans weren't much a part of that, and I hope they won't be much a part of it today.

The promise to delegate the same kind of local control to the residents of the Nation's capital, as we assume, even without thinking, is the case for every other local jurisdiction, has been mostly kept. Mayor Vincent Gray runs the city. The City Council passes the laws—except when Congress decides or, rather, when some Members of Congress decide to break the promise of democracy and intervene into the affairs of a local jurisdiction for one reason and one reason only: that they simply disagree with the decisions the local jurisdiction has made. Imagine if in your own districts, from this Congress, I disagreed with some of your decisions, and I could then overturn those decisions.

My colleagues, I am asking you not to do to us what you would not have done to you. We ask only that you apply the same standard of democracy here in the Nation's capital that you insist on in your own districts. You

cannot be for one standard of democracy for the Egyptian people, who are now rising up to demand democracy, without being for the same standard in your own Nation's capital. You wouldn't intervene and tell the Egyptians what to do even when you disagreed with it.

We ask you in the name of the Founders, in the name of American democracy: Do not do that to the residents of the District of Columbia. It is impossible to justify a standard for democracy that makes an exception when you disagree with the decisions that have been made.

I respect that new Members abhor Federal intervention even in areas of legitimate Federal concern. The new Members, some of them tea party members, would like to withdraw Federal intervention from areas long understood to be of some concern to the Federal Government. Their view is that, even in these Federal matters, there is too much Federal Government.

What about Federal intervention where there is no Federal concern whatsoever? What about Federal intervention where there is no Federal money whatsoever but only billions of dollars raised by the local taxpayers? What about Federal intervention where there is no Federal law involved but only the law of the local jurisdiction?

If you think there is too much Federal Government in what we do now, surely you would not tolerate any Federal Government in the local matters of a local jurisdiction, especially in your own Nation's capital. We raise our own funds, \$3 billion, which is more than that of several States. We want to spend it as we see fit, just as my colleagues do in their jurisdictions. Without any Federal intervention, they spend their own local funds as they see fit.

Yet, yesterday, there was a shameful, shameful experience here. There was a hearing on a Federal bill. The Federal bill had to do with restrictions on Federal funding for abortions, restrictions that some of us thought were airtight as it was. I happen to be for the right of a woman to choose, but I have always respected my colleagues who have another point of view. That matter is being decided, as it should be because it involves Federal funding, in several committees of the Congress.

What in the world was the District of Columbia doing in a bill having to do with Federal funding for abortions?

□ 1610

What was this language doing in that bill? And I am quoting: The term "Federal Government" includes the government of the District of Columbia.

It does not, my colleagues. We are a local government. We are not your colony. Declaring that the District of Columbia is part of the Federal Government for purposes of intervening into our local affairs, to tell us how to spend our local money, is an unprecedented violation of the District's right to self-government.