

From humble beginnings, President Reagan went on to play a pivotal role in some of the great events of the 20th Century, most notably the Cold War and eventual fall of the Soviet Union. While never afraid to take a hard line, he was a pragmatic leader who acted without malice, which was evident in the support he received from Democrats. It was this aspect of his leadership that we should all try to replicate. President Reagan's impact on American politics was profound, inspiring legions of young people to public service, not unlike what President Kennedy accomplished years before.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan loved the United States of America, and he was a stalwart leader in the pursuit of freedom and democracy. President Reagan had a personal vision for the country that was undeniable and unshakeable, and the lines of people waiting to view his casket are a testimony to the fact that he had a tremendous emotional impact on this nation. I would like to extend my condolences to his wife Nancy and the rest of their family, and I join the rest of America in honoring his dedicated service.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, Americans often measure history in Presidential cycles. When we look at the individuals who have served in the White House it is the conjunction of character and circumstance that defines and demarcates administrations.

It would be misguided to suggest that any individual "won" the Cold War, but it was Ronald Reagan's inspiration—"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall"—that symbolized American resolve. He gave hope to those oppressed and he gave voice to those who stood tall. Communism imploded, largely on his watch.

Domestically, President Reagan articulated the values of the frontier. "Government is not the solution, it is the problem," he said in his first inaugural address. But he was not a "no government" ideologue. While his administration contrasted in many ways with the social activism of Franklin Roosevelt, he did not favor undoing the New Deal. "How can we love our country and not love our countrymen?" he asked, "and loving them not reach out a hand when they fall?"

Reared on the sweeping plains of the Midwest and, later, an adopted westerner, he loved open spaces—of the land and of the mind. He put his faith in freedom.

Ronald Reagan understood the timber of the American character. With the most authentic voice in the history of democratic politics, he spoke to a world hungry for values. He succeeded because his was the voice of American optimism.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I share your grief at the passing of former President Ronald Reagan and join you in remembering his remarkable service to our country.

I was fortunate to have served as a Member of Congress during President Reagan's eight year tenure. At the time, I was a member of the democratic Boll Weevils, a group frequently called upon to help President Reagan with his legislative agenda. I can attest to what some of you know and what others have read or heard about him—he was among the greatest of our nation's presidents. He was permanently grounded in principle, so much that no one who worked for him had any doubt about what was expected of him.

President Reagan is rooted in the essence of our nation's character. He appealed to our

better instincts and was unyielding in his devotion to our country. I was always amazed at the way he appealed to young people. I think it was because they could see the truth in him. Like a grandfather who had seen it all and abandoned the notion of judging us, he preferred to see the goodness in us all. We, in turn, could imagine that goodness leading us to that shining "city on the hill." Those who came later missed the opportunity to encounter true greatness. Those who experienced him will never forget it.

Thank you for your compassionate support in honoring the legacy of our former President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan. President Reagan was the most courageous, daring and fearless president that I have had the pleasure of serving with in my 22 years in the United States House of Representatives. Ronald Wilson Reagan was one of the two greatest presidents of the 20th Century. Ronald Wilson Reagan was one of the most outstanding presidents in the history of the American Republic. I was a great fan of and on many occasions, a very strong supporter with my vote of President Reagan.

I will always remember the day when my wife, Rose Marie, and I met with President Reagan in the Oval Office. He was as friendly and down to earth as the man-next-door. We had our picture taken with him and asked him to autograph cards with the presidential seal for each of our children, Laura and Dan, which he did. President Reagan first wrote the cards out differently for each my daughter and son, but said he should have known better and so he wrote the same greeting for both of them.

It was a great honor to meet President Reagan and serve with him in the United States of America's government for many, many reasons. But, I believe mainly because he gave back to America its optimism, its pride, its enthusiasm, and its belief in itself. There can be no greater service than that of a president who can render to America these qualities; and for that, President Reagan truly was one of the greatest Presidents of the United States.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, all Americans mourn the death of President Ronald Reagan, but those of us who had the opportunity to know President Reagan are especially saddened. I got to know President Reagan in 1976 when, as a freshman congressman, I was one of only four members of this body to endorse then-Governor Reagan's primary challenge to President Gerald Ford. I had the privilege of serving as the leader of President Reagan's Texas delegation at the Republican convention of 1976, where Ronald Reagan almost defeated an incumbent president for his party's nomination.

I was one of the millions attracted to Ronald Reagan by his strong support for limited government and the free-market. I felt affinity for a politician who based his conservative philosophy on "... a desire for less government interference or less centralized authority or more individual freedom ... ." I wish more of today's conservative leaders based their philosophy on a desire for less government and more freedom.

Ronald Reagan was one of the most eloquent exponents of the freedom philosophy in modern American politics. One of his greatest

achievements is the millions of Americans he helped convert to the freedom philosophy and the many he inspired to become active in the freedom movement. One of the best examples of President Reagan's rhetorical powers is his first major national political address, "A Time for Choosing." Delivered in 1964 in support of the presidential campaign of Barry Goldwater, this speech launched Ronald Reagan's career as both a politician and a leader of the conservative movement. The following excerpt from that speech illustrates the power of Ronald Reagan's words and message. Unfortunately, these words are as relevant to our current situation as they were when he delivered them in 1964:

It's time we asked ourselves if we still know the freedoms intended for us by the Founding Fathers. James Madison said, "We base all our experiments on the capacity of mankind for self-government."

This idea—that government was beholden to the people, that it had no other source of power—is still the newest, most unique idea in all the long history of man's relation to man. This is the issue of this election: Whether we believe in our capacity for self-government or whether we abandon the American Revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far-distant capital can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves.

You and I are told we must choose between a left or right, but I suggest there is no such thing as a left or right. There is only an up or down. Up to man's age-old dream—the maximum of individual freedom consistent with order, or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism.

Regardless of their sincerity, their humanitarian motives, those who would sacrifice freedom for security have embarked on this downward path. Plutarch warned, "The real destroyer of the liberties of the people is he who spreads among them bounties, donations and benefits."

The Founding Fathers knew a government can't control the economy without controlling people. And they knew when a government set out to do that, it must use force and coercion to achieve its purpose. So we have come to a time for choosing.

One of the most direct expressions of Ronald Reagan's disdain for big government came during a private conversation when we were flying from the White House to Andrews Air Force Base. As the helicopter passed over the monuments, we looked down and he said, "Isn't that beautiful? It's amazing how much terrible stuff comes out of this city when it's that beautiful."

While many associate Ronald Reagan with unbridled militarism, he was a lifelong opponent of the draft. It is hardly surprising that many of the most persuasive and powerful arguments against conscription came from President Reagan. One of my favorite Reagan quotes comes from a 1979 article he wrote for the conservative publication *Human Events* regarding the draft and related "national service" proposals:

... it [conscription] rests on the assumption that your kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Ronald Reagan's family and friends, especially his beloved wife Nancy and his children. I also urge

my colleagues and all Americans to honor Ronald Reagan by dedicating themselves to the principles of limited government and individual liberty.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of President Ronald Reagan. I do not stand alone. All across the country, and the world, we mourn. We remember a strong governor, President, husband, and father. Let us stand firmly by Mrs. Nancy Reagan and her family, offer our prayers and show our support and appreciation—let us through our actions bring comfort to the Reagan family to help them cope during this difficult time. Little can be said to make this difficult time easier. Given the outpouring of support that this country and his family have received from the world, words are not necessary.

Words are not necessary to honor a man whose popularity stemmed from his ability to communicate. No words I can say today can erase the sorrow and feelings of loss shared by so many communities that he touched throughout his tenure as governor of my state of California and as the President of our nation. Even the “Great Communicator” often relied on actions—not words—to help those who needed it. At a time when the immigrants of our nation had nowhere to turn, President Reagan signed the historic Immigration Reform and Control Act, granting hard-working and deserving families legal permanent residence, paving the way for new American citizens, and thus uniting our nation.

Today, as a united nation, we stand together as fellow Americans and with the world to mourn the loss of Ronald Wilson Reagan, fortieth President of the United States—the picture of unity communicating our sorrow, remembrance and honor for a leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as we pause to remember the life and service of the late President Ronald Reagan, no greater testament to his achievements as leader of this nation exists than the sentiments of gratitude being offered by millions of Americans. It is my great honor to lift up just a handful of the reflections on the passing of President Reagan made by residents of my congressional district:

He was a great American; his message was one that still resonates today.—The Honorable Jane Nelson, Texas Senate.

I had a chance to tell him how much I wanted him to run for president and that if he did, I promised to work really hard for him. He was just the same up close as you perceived him to be on television. He was very sincere, very nice. When he talked to you, he talked to you. He didn't pay attention to things going on around him; you had his attention. The world is certainly a better place because of Ronald Reagan being here and serving as the president of the United States. I'm sad we lost him, but it's wonderful he's now receiving his just rewards.—The Honorable Mary Horn, Denton County, Texas.

President Reagan made us feel good again about being Americans, and not just being proud of our country, but really invoking that patriotic spirit again. We've lost a great, great man.—Dianne Edmondson, Chair, Denton County GOP.

I remember that while Reagan was the oldest elected president, what sticks in my mind was the way he connected to young people. We had been through a decade of young people being disconnected with taking pride in America, and he lit that spark

again.—The Honorable Myra Crownover, Texas House of Representatives.

He will always be remembered as the architect of the policies that ended the Cold War—peace through strength. He, more than anyone else, was directly responsible for giving us the possibility of the world living in peace: He ended the Cold War, ended the unspoken hostilities between the United States and Russia, and brought an end to the Soviet domination in Eastern Europe. He unleashed the power of the American economy. Yes, it cost money to defeat the Soviet Union; it cost money to defeat Soviet tyranny. Was it worth it in the long run? You bet it was.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life and legacy of Ronald Reagan.

This past weekend, it was fitting, and in some ways almost proper, that we paid tribute to the brave young soldiers of D-Day and simultaneously remembered the life and service of President Ronald Reagan. Like those soldiers who sacrificed on Normandy Beach, Reagan inspired a country at a critical time in our nation's history through his optimism and advocacy for the ideals of democracy, freedom and love of liberty.

He helped end the “Cold War,” confronted the curse of communism, rebuilt American self-confidence and our Armed Forces, and above all, made America a standard bearer for freedom and justice.

Many of our children are not old enough to remember the dangers that stood before us at the height of the Cold War or how President Reagan's resolve helped end it.

Still, over the next few days, maybe even weeks, and certainly in the history books to be written, they will learn, as will our children's children, about who Reagan was and what he did for America.

Like so many of us, I continue to read with interest about the life and times of our former President. One recent newspaper column touched me and I would like to share just a few lines of that with my colleagues.

The columnist wrote: “What an era his was. What a life he lived. He changed history for the better and was modest about it. He didn't bray about his accomplishments but saw them as the work of the American people.”

Mr. Speaker, this is the sign of a leader. We are a grateful nation for his good humor and inspiration.

Thank you Mr. President—for your service; for your optimism; and for your belief and commitment to doing what is right for America.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Reagan family during this time of mourning.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, indeed all Americans, in paying tribute to a great man, the 40th President of the United States—Ronald Wilson Reagan.

President Reagan was an extraordinary and visionary leader, who saw our great Nation as having a unique role, purpose, and destiny in the world. He saw it as a beacon of freedom, a land of unlimited opportunity, and in his words, a shining city on the hill.

Mr. Reagan took office during a time of great pessimism. There was Watergate; Vietnam; the hostage crisis in Iran; and gas lines, runaway inflation, and double-digit interest rates here at home. There were those who told us that we had to lower our expectations, that we could no longer shape our destiny, and that our best days were behind us.

Ronald Reagan saw a different future. It was a future in which we were limited only by the size of our dreams; where the spirit of our pioneer ancestors was still alive, it just needed to be rekindled. It was a vision where hard work, imagination, creativity, and a little luck would allow ordinary men and women to accomplish extraordinary things.

Taxes were cut, inflation and interest rates were reduced, and gas lines disappeared. Americans went back to work; the economy roared forward; and in the process, Mr. Reagan restored our confidence, uplifted our spirits, and made us proud to be Americans again.

The rebirth here at home was accompanied by equally dramatic changes abroad. The march of totalitarianism, that seemed inevitable a few years earlier, was halted as Mr. Reagan rebuilt our defenses. The creaky Soviet system disappeared quietly, without a shot being fired. And the Berlin Wall, the greatest symbol of oppression, fell, and millions of people around the world tasted freedom for the first time.

We Americans, and indeed all freedom loving people around the world, owe President Reagan an enormous debt. We will miss him, but history will never forget what he accomplished in eight short years. As a grateful nation comes together to say goodbye, our collective thoughts and prayers go to Mrs. Reagan and her family.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, President Reagan led the nation with resolve and courage. He showed these same qualities in his battle against Alzheimer's disease.

President Reagan will be remembered for many things—a great communicator, devoted husband and an unflinching patriot.

But I will remember him most for reminding America that when we are at our best, very little can deter or defeat us. God bless you Mr. President and thank you for your service to our country.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan was an American icon. He's the President who won the Cold War. And he'll always be remembered for his eternal optimism, his strength, great wit and charm.

Even when he disagreed with Democrats, he was respected for the honesty of his beliefs and the dedication he displayed in pursuing them. He taught us the difference between strong beliefs and bitter partisanship. He lived by the noble idea that at the end of the day Democrats and Republicans were simply Americans and friends. I wish we had more of that today.

We should be inspired by this 40th American President's patriotism and devotion to our country. And we should remember his faith, his optimism and his unwavering commitment to his convictions as we do the work of the American people.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this week our Nation mourns the death of Ronald Wilson Reagan, our 40th President of the United States. It has been stated in many of the newspaper and television commentaries that he was one of the more complex figures of the 20th century. As with all our major political leaders, he had his share of triumphs and failures.

Ronald Reagan's irrepressible spirit and his conception of America as a “shining city on the hill” engendered a sense of renewal in America. Indeed, his optimism in our Nation