

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Together, these policies worked.

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

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

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

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

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

Ronald Reagan reminded the American people that economic liberty and

human freedom are two sides of the same coin.

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

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

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Leg.]

YEAS—98

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

NOT VOTING—2

Baucus Kerry

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

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

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

HONORING PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

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

the preamble is agreed to, and the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

The resolution (S. Res. 374) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 374

Whereas Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, was born on February 6, 1911, in Tampico, Illinois, to Nelle and John Reagan and raised in Dixon, Illinois;

Whereas as a lifeguard at Rock River in Lowell, Illinois, a young Ronald Reagan saved the lives of 77 swimmers;

Whereas Ronald Reagan enrolled in Eureka College where he played football, acted in amateur theater, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics and sociology;

Whereas Ronald Reagan landed his first job as a radio announcer for WOC in Davenport, Iowa, and went on to become a popular sports announcer;

Whereas Ronald Reagan launched a movie career that spanned 50 movies, including his most famous role as the football legend, "The Gipper";

Whereas Ronald Reagan, who received more fan mail than any other actor at Warner Brothers Studios except Errol Flynn, served as president of the Screen Actors Guild from 1947 to 1960;

Whereas on March 4, 1952, Ronald Reagan married his great love, Nancy Davis, who was to become his lifelong confidante and companion;

Whereas Ronald Reagan was the father of 4 children: Maureen, Michael, Patti, and Ronald Prescott;

Whereas Ronald Reagan hosted the popular television series "GE Theater" from 1954 to 1962;

Whereas in 1962, Ronald Reagan switched his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican and 2 years later delivered a major televised speech in support of Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater;

Whereas in 1966, Ronald Reagan won the governorship of California and in 1970 was reelected to a second term;

Whereas Governor Reagan campaigned for the Republican nomination in 1968, and again in 1976;

Whereas on July 16, 1980, the former Governor won the Republican nomination and on November 4, 1980, won the United States Presidency in a landslide vote;

Whereas President Reagan appointed the first woman to the United States Supreme Court, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor;

Whereas on March 30, 1981, only 2 months into his Presidency, Ronald Reagan survived an assassination attempt and upon meeting Nancy in the hospital, quipped with characteristic good humor, "Honey, I forgot to duck";

Whereas President Reagan delivered on his promise to cut taxes for American workers in 1981, and achieved the historic tax cuts of 1986 which overhauled the Federal tax code and reduced tax rates for almost all taxpayers, including removing 6,000,000 Americans from the tax rolls;

Whereas under President Reagan's leadership, inflation fell, interest rates declined, and by the seventh year of his Presidency, the stock market hit an all-time high;

Whereas President Reagan presided over the longest economic expansion in the history of the United States until that time and rebuilt the national defenses of the United States;

Whereas President Reagan won reelection in 1984 carrying 49 out of 50 States—one of

the biggest electoral victories in the political history of the United States;

Whereas during summit meetings with Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev in December 1987, President Reagan signed a treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces;

Whereas President Reagan's steadfast opposition to communism, his unshakeable resolve to defeat the "Evil Empire", and his secure belief in government for and by the people, led to the collapse of the Berlin Wall and victory in the Cold War;

Whereas President Reagan's belief in freedom as a God-given right of all peoples led to a democratic revolution across Central America; and

Whereas Ronald Wilson Reagan, father, husband, actor, and dedicated public servant, restored the pride, optimism and strength of the United States and earned the deep respect and affection of his fellow citizens: Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the Senate notes with deep sorrow and solemn mourning the death of Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Resolved, That the Senate extends its heartfelt sympathy to the wife and family of President Reagan.

Resolved, That the Senate commends the former President for his Presidency and its many accomplishments.

Resolved, That the Senate calls on all the people of the United States to reflect on the record of the 40th President of the United States during this national period of remembrance.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRESIDENT
RONALD REAGAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today because a mighty oak has fallen. Ronald Reagan has left his life here on Earth, but oh what a life it was. Born in the middle of our great Republic in the beginning of the last century, his was an American tale from start to finish.

Jack and Nelle Reagan brought a son into the world in Tampico, IL, in 1911. Jack was a shoe salesman with an Irishman's flare for storytelling. Nelle was a devout Christian who made ends meet by doing other people's sewing out of their home. When Jack first saw their healthy baby in his crib, he looked at this little baby and said he looked like a "little fat Dutchman." And the nickname stuck, "Dutch."

Times were hard for the Reagans. He commented years later that:

Our family didn't exactly come from the wrong side of the tracks, but we were certainly within sound of the train whistles.

Even then, it was in Ronald Reagan's character to look for the Sun behind the clouds. Growing up, he lived a typical American boy's life. He was a lifeguard in the summer and a football player in the fall. In the fading years, when Alzheimer's robbed him of most of his memory, he could still summon up his youth in Illinois, proudly recalling the 77 lives he saved as a lifeguard from the teeming Rock River, notching each one on a log on the shore.

In Illinois, he discovered there was more to life than just football and lifeguarding. There was also acting. Connecting with an audience plugged him into a broader world. As he later said:

For a kid suffering childhood pangs of insecurity, the applause was music.

Ambition led him westward out of Illinois; Hollywood, to be exact. There, as we all know, he started his successful acting career and, more importantly, met a young actress from Chicago named Nancy Davis. She became the love of his life. Nancy was focused, smart, and loved her Ronnie. Jimmy Stewart once remarked:

If Ronnie had married Nancy the first time, he would have won an Academy Award.

But gradually his time in front of an audience changed from the stage and screen to the assembly hall. Time constraints prevent me from following his ascent to the highest office in the land. Let me simply comment that for most of us being a successful actor and pitchman, union president, two-term Governor of our Nation's largest State, and a national figure to boot would have been enough of a career, especially at the age of 69. But Ronald Reagan had other thoughts, and so began his run against President Jimmy Carter for the Presidency in 1980.

Neck and neck until the debate a week before the election, Reagan broke it wide open when he closed by asking Americans a simple question: Are you better off than you were 4 years ago?

On election day, Reagan won a smashing victory, winning 44 of 50 States. He would top that mark in 1984, winning 49 out of 50 States.

I have listened to and read countless people reflecting on what President Reagan meant to them and to America. Were there enough time, I would fill up the rest of the afternoon with my thoughts about this great man. But I will limit my observations to what I think will be, in addition to restoring America's faith in itself, the way history will remember Ronald Reagan, the peacemaker.

I want to address the question, What does it mean to have won the cold war? Revisionists suggest that Ronald Reagan had little to do with the Soviet Union's fall which they now claim was just inevitable. I can tell you no one thought that in 1979. Communism was on the rise and freedom was in retreat. The United States was the toothless tiger with the uncertain future. Energy shortages crippled us, and rampant crime hunted us down. Interest rates for homes, cars, and businesses were sky high. Our economy was wrenched back and forth between bouts of recession and inflation, both at the same time. America's decline was marked by new, unfamiliar words. We learned stagflation, "taxflation," and, of course, we learned malaise.

America's economy was not the only thing in decline. So, too, was our foreign policy. Still suffering from a Vietnam syndrome, we watched and did