

HONORING PRESIDENT RONALD  
WILSON REAGAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 9, 2011*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 1911, America's fortieth president was born in a small midwestern town. A century later, we remember Ronald Wilson Reagan as a great man and a great leader who personified and advanced the highest ideals of the American people at home and abroad. He may have started his life with a humble beginning in America's heartland, but at a time when America longed for leadership, he answered the call to service.

After eight years of his presidency, the communism of Soviet Russia was collapsing, the American military was rebuilt, the nation's economy restored and its moral fabric renewed. As he said himself, President Reagan left America "more prosperous, more secure, and happier than it was eight years earlier."

Many will remember him as the Great Communicator. But as the President said many times, he was not a great communicator; he communicated great things. He communicated the traditional American values anchored by his profound Christian faith.

His ideas were simple, straightforward and distinctly American. President Reagan believed that freedom depended on limited government. He fiercely advanced the principles of less government, less taxes, a strong defense and a commitment to traditional moral values.

Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, President Reagan changed the course of my life. I had the honor of meeting him in the summer of 1988 as a candidate for Congress. Determined to say something of great meaning to him, I looked the President in the eye and thanked him for all he had done to inspire my generation to believe in America again. He responded with characteristic humility by saying that "the American people decided it was time to right the ship, and I was just the captain they put on the bridge when they did it."

In the midst of his extraordinary gifts, Ronald Reagan was a deeply humble man who believed in God and the American people with an unshakable faith. He also was able to find inspiration in his beloved Rancho del Cielo. When I had the opportunity to visit the ranch, I immediately understood why President Reagan found solace in its beauty. He spent many a day working at the ranch, and it is not difficult to believe that he contemplated many important decisions while clearing brush, fixing fences and breaking new trails in his jeep. The Young America's Foundation has since taken responsibility of the ranch, and I commend them for preserving this significant part of Ronald Reagan's legacy.

In his Farewell Address to the nation, President Reagan spoke poignantly of the distance that high office can place between the servant and the served.

He said, "One of the things about the presidency is that you're always somewhat apart. You spend a lot of time going by too fast in a car someone else is driving, and seeing the people through tinted glass—the parents holding up a child, and the wave you saw too late

and couldn't return. And so many times I wanted to stop and reach out from behind the glass, and connect."

Well, Mr. Speaker, one hundred years after his birth and two decades after he left public service, the American people are still connected to President Ronald Reagan's American ideals and values, which endure to this day.

HONORING LELA DUFFEL MORRIS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Lela Duffel Morris, the first African-American graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Washington, a career nurse, and a trailblazer in the field of occupational and public health. Mrs. Morris and her husband of 62 years, Dr. Walter Morris, have been stalwart members of the Bay Area community for decades. A loving wife, mother, grandmother, friend and colleague, Mrs. Lela Morris will be forever remembered for her warmth and compassion. With her passing on February 1, 2011, we are reminded of her life's journey and the joyful legacy she inspired.

Lela Duffel Morris was born on April 23, 1927, and was the youngest of Thomas Duffel and Harriett Jones Duffel's 12 children. Just before Lela's birth, the family relocated from the state of Louisiana to Beaumont, Texas. And, not long after Lela was born, her mother passed away. As the family struggled through the heights of the depression, Lela was sheltered from hardship and nurtured by her father and siblings.

In the fall of 1945, she enrolled in the School of Nursing at the University of Washington (UW), becoming the first African-American to be admitted, and later, graduate from the nursing program. Mrs. Morris' subsequent career in public health began in the District of Columbia, where she saw a need for regulation and advocacy in occupational and environmental health issues.

At a time when workers were far too often exposed to hazardous workplace conditions, Mrs. Morris became founding director of continuing education for the Northern California Occupational Health Center, a division of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

In her over 50-year career, Mrs. Morris received many accolades, including the 2001 Distinguished Alumna Award from the UW School of Nursing and the Alumni Advisory Council, as well as special recognitions from the Northern California Public Health Association, the American Lung Association, the Golden State Medical Association and the American Cancer Society.

In the midst of her career and raising four children, Mrs. Morris received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California, Berkeley. She also taught college health education courses and served as guest editor of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Journal. She was an active volunteer with community organizations, such as the Oakland Bay Area Chapter of The

Links, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and the Auxiliaries of the National, Golden State and Sinkler-Miller Medical Associations.

On a personal level, I will always remember Mrs. Morris' gentle and kind spirit, but also her strength and brilliance. Her smile lifted my spirits, and she always offered a word of encouragement. She and her husband, Dr. Morris, were my early supporters when I first ran for public office in 1989. They consistently supported me throughout my many campaigns. And for that, I am deeply grateful.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a wonderful human being, Mrs. Lela Duffel Morris. The contributions she made to others throughout her life are countless and precious. Our community is indebted to her work with East Bay organizations and to her many civic contributions over the years. My thoughts are with Dr. Walter Morris, his family, and Lela's extended group of loved ones as we celebrate her incredible life. May her soul rest in peace.

TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF  
EAGLE POINT, OREGON

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 11, 2011*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to mark the centennial of the City of Eagle Point, Oregon. Eagle Point was named for a prominent rocky cliff east of town that was a popular nesting place for eagles.

Today Eagle Point is known as "The Gateway to the Lakes" as it sets the scene for tourists and other visitors traveling east to view Crater Lake and the majestic natural wonders of the southern Cascade Range.

During the gold rush days of the 1850s—before it was even considered a "town"—Eagle Point was known for its rich agricultural production and became the "food basket" to the Rogue Valley. That regional importance was solidified in 1872 when the Snowy Butte Mill was built along the banks of the nearby Little Butte Creek. The grist mill quickly became an economic hub for the area. It is said that wagons lined the road to the mill for miles waiting to have their grain ground into flour. In addition to local farmers, the mill was important to Native Americans, who traveled more than 90 miles over the Old Military Trail from Fort Klamath to trade leather and berries for flour.

It wasn't until the Pacific & Eastern Railroad arrived in the early 1900s that a commercial district was established in Eagle Point, and as a result, the city became incorporated in 1911. As Eagle Point blossomed it became the home to three hotels, a livery stable, blacksmith shop, a few saloons, and some dance halls known for their "rowdy behavior and bootleggers." Three of the original brick buildings which housed the bank, confectionary store and general store still stand and are now home to modern businesses.

Eagle Point residents have gone to great lengths to preserve their history. In 1987, the citizens of Eagle Point relocated a queenpost truss covered bridge built in 1922 from Antelope Creek and placed it across Little Butte Creek for children to cross as they make their way to and from school. In addition to the covered bridge, the Butte Creek Mill also serves