

one time, with his wife Nancy, during the inauguration of President George H.W. Bush. I remember thinking that together they had a larger than life presence.

Although I differed with Ronald Reagan a great deal on domestic policy, I nevertheless admired him for the strong leader that he was. He had an affable manner that allowed him to interact well with people who both supported and opposed his policies. He was a strong leader who had a lot of charm, strength and enthusiasm.

The gulf between the Republican and Democratic policies can sometimes seem vast. But the bridge that spans that gulf is our common heritage as Americans and belief in this great nation. Ronald Reagan had the gift to make that bridge seem very small. I am pleased to honor him today.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, last week our nation honored the life of one of the most beloved, and most important, presidents of the twentieth century. During the 1980s, President Reagan did what many considered the impossible.

As we faced great challenges at home and abroad, he helped us believe that it was "morning in America," and that we would overcome our difficulties. With the will of the nation behind him, President Reagan's steadfast leadership led to the defeat of communism and a robust economic recovery.

When President Reagan took office a quarter century ago, communism was on the march, threatening to bring the free world to its knees. But President Reagan's policy of "peace through strength" starved the Soviet bloc and made it safe for freedom to flourish in new nations. "No weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will of free men and women," he said.

Here at home, our country was in the worst recession since the Great Depression, with high unemployment, inflation, and interest rates. But President Reagan trusted the entrepreneurial spirit and cut taxes from 70 to 28 percent, creating 19 million new jobs and twenty years of growth. His economic policies formed the foundation upon which American families prosper. "We believe that no power of government is as formidable as the force for good as the creativity and entrepreneurial drive of the American people," he said.

By rallying the will of our country, by reminding us of our remarkable abilities—of what it means to be Americans, President Reagan reunited us as a confident and hopeful nation. And with a focused vision, he set us on a course that preserved our liberty and allowed our domestic economy to prosper again.

In life, President Reagan was a guiding light for our nation. Even when times were tough, he rejected the idea that America's best days were past, insisting that there is no limit to what our nation and our people can endure—or accomplish. And he was right.

Today we face a new enemy of liberty, in the war on terror. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the confident optimism and clear vision that President Reagan gave to this nation will light our path.

May God bless President Ronald Reagan.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of President Reagan over the weekend. My thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy and to the Reagan family and friends. This is an extraordinarily difficult time for any family, but I hope they can find some comfort in the joy and inspiration that President Reagan brought to so many around the globe.

Ronald Reagan was a true American original, a Midwestern boy of humble beginnings who chased his dreams of stardom in Hollywood and evolved into one of the foremost political leaders of the 20th Century.

His legacy is so profound and pervasive that it's easy to take for granted. But we should not forget that it was Ronald Reagan who restored strength to the Office of the President. It was Ronald Reagan who reshaped the federal government and ushered in two decades (and counting) of lower taxes and economic growth. It was Ronald Reagan who bolstered America's strength as a world military power. And it was Ronald Reagan who reminded us that America was indeed that "shining city on the hill," and we had bountiful reasons to be proud to be Americans.

His love of country was a guiding force throughout his life and his political career—he knew America was great because America was free, and his sought to shine the light of freedom on corners of the globe darkened by the stain of totalitarianism. His demand for Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall" is not only a seminal moment in Cold War history, but a reminder that America's democratic ideals are ultimately stronger than any barriers erected by forces of oppression.

Quite simply, President Reagan's words and actions helped change the world for the better. And I can't think of a greater accomplishment than that.

We lost more than a man on Saturday, when President Reagan ended his long journey into the sunset.

We lost a true giant, and a great American.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the passing of Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States of America.

As a Vietnam veteran and an officer with the CIA from 1969–1979, my world was changed dramatically and for the better when Ronald Reagan won his historic presidential race in November 1980.

At the time I was serving on the staff of Senator John H. Chafee (R-RI). Politically, it was a watershed year. Not only did the Senate go from Democrat to Republican control for the first time in 26 years, but also some very well known Democratic Senators were swept from office in the "Reagan Revolution." They included Senator Frank Church, former Chairman of the Committee to Investigate the Intelligence Activities of the United States, and Birch Bayh, second Chairman of the newly established Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The Senate Intelligence Committee, where I went on to serve for four years as staff director, gained new leadership under Chairman Barry Goldwater and Vice Chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Goldwater had a long-standing and close political relationship with Ronald Reagan. In fact, many have said that a speech delivered by Reagan during Goldwater's historic 1964 presidential campaign propelled Reagan into the national political spotlight.

Goldwater was excited to work with President Reagan and CIA Director William Casey to institute a new approach to intelligence oversight. First, it focused on bipartisan consensus in intelligence where Vice Chairman Moynihan was a valued partner.

It also departed from the adversarial process of Senators Church and Bayh, and focused on rebuilding the morale and intelligence capabilities of American intelligence. Rather than adopting Church's belief that the CIA was a "rogue elephant," Goldwater expressed his supportive feelings by talking about the "intelligence family."

Sadly, in 1984 these positive developments were disrupted when the CIA was discovered to have been covertly involved in the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, without proper notification to Congress. In the ensuing firestorm, Barry Goldwater wrote a pointed note to CIA Director Casey expressing his concern over the lack of communication. The letter was quickly leaked to an eager press, excited that Senator Goldwater was at odds with the Reagan Administration.

At the time these events were unfolding, President Reagan was scheduled to appear at the Washington Hilton for the White House Correspondents Association annual black-tie dinner. Many observers felt that the press would use the opportunity to embarrass the president over the intelligence "flap." But, in what was to become a classic response of the President to a difficult situation, Ronald Reagan opened his remarks by saying:

"What's all that talk about a breakdown of White House communications? How come nobody told me?" Laughter. "Well, I know this: I've laid down the law, though, to everyone there from now on about anything that happens, no matter what time it is, wake me, even if it's in the middle of a Cabinet meeting." Laughter. The official presidential documents recorded that the President received twenty-six more laughs.

[Bob Woodward, *Veil: The Secret Wars of the CIA 1981–1987*, p. 333]

It was to the point. It was funny. It was self-deprecating. It defused for a moment what was a gathering storm for the Administration.