

IN RECOGNITION OF RUBY
LEHRMANN

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Ruby Lehrmann, Chief United States Probation Officer for the Western District of Texas. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Ruby's long and prestigious career, as well as the countless contributions she has made to her community.

Ruby's professional life reflects hard work, determination, and commitment that began during her college years at Sam Houston State University, where she earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in the field of Health Education. During her undergraduate studies, Ruby was a summer intern with the Goree Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections. Through this internship experience, Ruby began to lay the foundation for her impressive career.

After obtaining her Master's degree, Ruby continued a steady climb up the ranks in the Texas Department of Corrections until she became Assistant Warden for the Goree Unit. In September of 1975, this remarkable woman became the first female U.S. Probation Officer for the Western District of Texas. She was then promoted to Deputy Chief United States Probation Officer in 1983 and was named Chief United States Probation Officer for the Western District of Texas in January of 1995.

Throughout her admirable career, Ruby has always maintained her commitment to education. She has served as an adjunct professor for St. Mary's University and Our Lady of the Lake University. In this capacity, Ruby has shared her knowledge and experiences with others in order to help them achieve success as she has. She has also served as a co-chairman and mentor for Burnet Elementary school in the San Antonio Independent School District.

Ruby's dauntless commitment to her community has been very impressive. She has contributed to San Antonio through volunteer service for many organizations, including the San Antonio Conservation Society and the United Way. In addition to these activities, Ruby is also deeply involved in her church, Concordia Lutheran. There, she has served on a number of committees and has been a coach and a Sunday School teacher.

I deeply appreciate Ruby's many contributions to the Texas Department of Corrections, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, and the city of San Antonio. Her dedication to her career and the humanitarianism she consistently exhibits in her community have made Ruby a role model for all of us. I am proud of Ruby's accomplishments and I wish her continued happiness and success upon her retirement.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY
SPEECH BY SPEAKER HASTERT

SPEECH OF

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, at the ceremony recognizing the 60th Anniversary of D-Day held at the United States Memorial Cemetery at Omaha Beach, you, Speaker DENNIS HASTERT, delivered a moving tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those who fought and died for freedom. The text of these thoughtful remarks follows:

D-DAY MINUS 1

REMARKS BY SPEAKER J. DENNIS HASTERT FOLLOWING A MASS BY HIS EMINENCE FRANCIS CARDINAL GEORGE OF CHICAGO
[From the Omaha Beach Cemetery, France, June 5, 2004]

Thank you Cardinal George for your inspirational words.

Today we stand in this now peaceful cemetery, on the cliffs overlooking the sea, in this field of white crosses and Stars of David—straight and tall—as if they were young men standing at attention.

Together we have made a pilgrimage to this “hallowed ground”—as Abraham Lincoln would have phrased it—to bear witness to what took place here and to spend, at least a fleeting moment, with our brothers that lie beneath this ground—men who sacrificed on this foreign shore so that we might live as free men and women.

It is our privilege, and our duty, to reflect upon the courage and the heroism of those who were called upon to defend our freedom. We honor those who lie here, but we also embrace those who survived, and returned home to raise their families and to build our nation as a beacon to freedom loving people around the world.

Not far from here, at Pointe du Hoc, are the cliffs they said no man could scale. But they were scaled by determined men with ladders and ropes and grappling hooks in the midst of a merciless hail of bullets and shrapnel.

Twenty years ago, on the 40th Anniversary of D-Day, President Reagan looked out at those cliffs and asked, “who were these men?”

They were ordinary men doing extraordinary things. Men who sought no territory—who sought no plunder—and who sought no glory. They simply came, and many died, so we could live in freedom.

“Where do we find such men?” asked President Reagan. He knew the answer. Over there—across the sea—In America.

Sixty years ago today, D-Day minus One, what were those young men thinking as they waited to embark on one of the great crusades of the millennium?

In those tension filled hours some found comfort in quiet prayer. Others may have wondered why they were here.

What threat forced these farmers, accountants, factory workers, college students, athletes and assorted other laborers and professionals, to leave their families, their careers and their American way of life?

They knew the answer. Hitler's Germany was that threat. Hitler's hatred of freedom, his assault on common decency, his brutal murder of millions of his own citizens, and his determination to impose his sick vision of the future on the free world.

To end Hitler's regime and restore common decency in the world: that is why they were there.

Operation Overlord, as with the entire war effort, caused great hardship. But out of such hardship was drawn great courage, and from great courage were forged great leaders. Some of that “greatest generation” returned home and entered politics and went on to serve our Nation in the Congress of the United States.

Sam Gibbons parachuted behind the lines here in Normandy, preparing the way for the invasion that would follow. He would later become a leader on the Ways and Means Committee.

Bob Michel, our beloved leader from Illinois, went ashore here in Normandy and fought the Nazis all the way to Bastogne, where he was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge.

The list of members who served our nation in the Second World War, and still serve in the House of Representatives, is growing ever shorter with the passage of time.

But those proud members—Henry Hyde of Illinois, Cass Ballenger of North Carolina, John Dingell of Michigan, Amo Houghton of New York, Ralph Hall of Texas, and Ralph Regula of Ohio, still bring great honor to the United States House of Representatives.

These Members of Congress and the men of the 1st Division, some of whom are here today, and their millions of comrades-in-arms, understood that the world-wide threat of fascism, if left unchecked, would destroy the free world. They faced that threat and they beat it.

I want to tell you that the “Greatest Generation” still lives today and like the boys of the 1940s, it has a very young face. They are the grandsons and the granddaughters of those who hit this beach in France or raised that flag on Iwo Jimi or pushed the communists back in Korea or in Vietnam.

How do I know that these young warriors of the 21st century are also part of “The Greatest Generation?” Because I have met some of them. I have visited them in hospital wards at Walter Reed and in Landstuhl in Germany.

When you visit these young men and women—some of whom have been severely wounded, and you ask them what they want, you always get the same answer, “I just want to go back and join my unit, sir, to be with my comrades and do my job.”

It happens over and over again, the same response given with pride and determination. I ask myself, often with tears in my eyes as I walk away, “Where do we find such men and women?” And I know the answer. All around me. Everywhere I look. In America.

Today we face the threat of world-wide terrorism. Like the Nazis of the 1930's, the terrorists of the 1990's were a threat too often ignored.

But like Pearl Harbor, September 11th, 2001, shocked us out of our complacency. As Americans, we love peace, but we love freedom more. So we are facing the threat. And we will beat it.

In war, we often sacrifice some of the best and the brightest to further the cause of freedom. But we also forge the leaders for the next generation.

We cannot know who will be the Bob Michel, or Bob Dole, or Sam Gibbons of this new generation. But they are out there. Perhaps serving today in a remote mountain camp in Afghanistan, or in a village in Iraq, or on a ship at sea.

Their mission is not very different from that of 1944—to preserve the freedoms that we cherish and to restore freedom to oppressed people. They are fighting to make our homeland safe. They are sacrificing for others.

Who are these ordinary men and women doing extraordinary things you ask? I cannot tell you their names. But this I know: They are Americans.

May God continue to Bless the United States of America.

FREEDOM IS NOT FOR FREE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the following prayer written by Rabbi Reuven Mann from Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Plainview, New York.

Almighty G-d, we have gathered here today at a crucial moment in our history to honor the memory of all those who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation and its ideals of freedom, compassion and the highest cultivation of the human spirit. We came not only to honor but also to affirm the lesson of their sacrifice: Freedom is not an entitlement; it does not come for free, it is something which has to be fought for. With humbleness and gratitude let us acknowledge a simple truth: We owe these heroes everything. Without them, we would have lost our freedom long ago.

Yet, many people do not feel this way and take what we have here for granted believing that the American way of life is somehow "coming" to them. 9/11 was a wake up call—which happened, to a large extent because nobody believed it could happen. Let us admit it: We were afflicted with the cancer of complacency and blinded by the illusion of invincibility. Suddenly our country was under attack by a merciless, barbaric enemy who wanted us destroyed. 9/11 was a wake up call, but all too many decided to push the snooze button and go back to sleep.

The enemy does not sleep. He continues to remind us of his barbarism and cruelty by beheading innocent Americans and proudly recording his sadism on camera. 9/11 was a wake up call and the message is: If we do not appreciate our freedom and are not willing to fight for it, there is no guarantee that we will always have it. Therefore, I call on all of you to renew your appreciation for our country and its values for we are at war and every war requires the full support of the home front.

We have gathered here today to honor the heroes past and present whose valiant dedication makes our freedom possible. I would be remiss if I did not include among them the civilian heroes of 9/11, the firefighters, police and first responders, who charged into the line of fire to save thousands on that dark day. They wrote a new chapter in the history of bravery and self-sacrifice, and they will never be forgotten.

Almighty G-d, Creator of the Universe, may their selfless service inspire us to appreciate all the blessings that You have bestowed on this Nation. Let their memory be for a blessing—motivating us to become better people: more productive, compassionate, and respectful of the dignity of all men and women who were created in Your Image. And may Your Guidance and Protection be with our men and women who are right now in harms way, to give them the strength, courage and dedication to complete the mission in which they have performed so magnificently. May they speedily return in good health to their country, their homes and loved ones. And let us say: Amen.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great leader, a great man, and a great American. When President Ronald Wilson Reagan passed away on June 5, 2004, his death brought more than an end to his valiant ten-year struggle against Alzheimer's disease. It brought an end to one of the brightest and most optimistic periods in American history.

While President Reagan had been out of the public eye and under the loving care of his beloved wife, Nancy, for over a decade, he was never far from our minds or our hearts. During these past ten years, while he was traveling down the road into the sunset of his life, we have all had the opportunity to consider his true greatness and his many achievements. We have all come to understand that he was more than just our president and the most powerful man in the world; he was, instead, the personification of—and the symbol for—the boundless potential possible in this country.

From Dixon, Illinois, to Detroit, Michigan, from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles, California, and at all points in between, men and women everywhere recognize President Reagan for what he truly was: a gifted leader and a compassionate American with a vision for our future and an unwavering belief in the spirit and goodness of mankind.

To say that Ronald Reagan was an example of the American dream would be an understatement. Ronald Reagan was the American dream, the product of a poor middle class family who, as the result of his own intelligence, determination and strong personality, was able to attend college, enjoy a successful career in broadcasting and motion pictures, and eventually rise to the position of governor of California.

For most, that in and of itself would be a remarkable career. But President Reagan did not stop there. Rather, he continued to focus on what he saw as a need for a strong leader in the White House, someone who could work with a divided Congress and an American public still reeling from the political and economic crises of the 1970s to restore this Nation to its position as the "shining city on the hill."

During his eight years in office, he did just that. The "Reagan Revolution," as it came to be known, provided the impetus for significant changes here at home and around the world. The economy in this country which had been in steep decline for a number of years righted itself and enjoyed a strong period of growth for the next nine years. The Cold War was brought to an end, communism in many countries ultimately collapsed, and a whole new generation of men, women, and children around the world were able to enjoy a new, life free from the fear of oppression.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment, however, was in giving Americans a new sense of hope and pride. President Reagan restored a strong sense of optimism and hopefulness to this country, and made everyone feel proud

that they could once again say with assurance and determination, "I am an American."

Mr. Speaker, just as our nation paused last week to remember and reflect on this good man and great leader, let us, as a nation, remember President Ronald Reagan in the same way that he is remembered by his family: a man full of love, laughter, and life, someone full of boundless optimism and faith, and someone who always believed that America's best days are indeed ahead.

Our country—indeed, our world—has been blessed that we were able to share in a small way in the tremendous life he led. May we never forget the lessons he taught us or the leadership he displayed, and may we continue to keep Mrs. Reagan and the entire Reagan family foremost in our thoughts and prayers.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to President Ronald Reagan. We all join together this week to mourn his passage, but more importantly to celebrate his life. President Reagan meant many things to many people in the United States and throughout the world. Put simply, the world is a better place because Ronald Reagan lived. From his days as an actor and motivational speaker to his time as Governor and President to his final days on his California ranch, Ronald Reagan was a true gentleman who impacted the lives of those around him.

Ronald Reagan was sworn in as the 40th President of the United States the day American hostages were released from Iran—a poignant beginning to the challenges, which would lie ahead. As President, he survived an attack on his life and a battle with colon cancer; he fought communism; he guided the American people through rough economic times and uncertain international struggles; he made history in nominating the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court; and lead Americans through the tragedy of the Space Shuttle Challenger.

But to limit our descriptions of President Reagan to the milestones in his Presidency would be incomplete. His most impressive qualities are the intangibles that are felt but hard to describe.

So many Americans connected with President Reagan on a personal level. His ability to communicate with was unparalleled. "Larger than life" was never a phrase used to describe Ronald Reagan—not because he couldn't have been, but because he didn't want to be. He truly operated as a man of the people.

My first term as Governor of Delaware overlapped with his second term as President of the United States. I had the honor and privilege of working with President Reagan on what I see as one of his greatest landmark accomplishments—welfare reform. The empathy he felt for the American people and the challenges they faced in trying to make ends meet were represented in this landmark legislation. He epitomized a leader who didn't give hand-outs—but a hand up.