

sticker said it all: I miss Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ronald Reagan. Or as he would have preferred 61st anniversary of his 39th birthday.

Our friendship began when he was Governor of California and I was a newly elected Assemblyman. We had a private meeting about a complex childcare issue. I walked away impressed by his grasp of the subject and how we shared a belief in the importance of the mother's involvement to early childhood development.

I was also impressed by Reagan's efforts to ease the impact of automobile exhaust in California. For too long, a dense layer of smog hid the gorgeous California landscape. Reagan worked tirelessly to make sure that, along with curtailing factory pollution, automobile emissions were kept in check.

President Reagan's leadership style blended deeply held conviction with an ability to transcend partisanship. His friendships with those across the aisle are a timely reminder of how the governing process should work. Reagan meant it when he said "There's no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."

Reagan's contributions on behalf of freedom around the world are unparalleled since the end of World War II. There is no more Cold War, there is no more Berlin Wall, there is no worldwide threat of Communist dictatorship because of the leadership of President Reagan.

When the history of our time is written, the accomplishments of President Reagan will shine out. He made America the land of opportunity once again, and brought the breath of freedom to millions of people around the world who had spent decades under the yoke of tyranny. His memory will live on among all the freedom-loving people around the world.

For me, the most endearing of his traits was his eternal optimism. Ronald Reagan truly believed that America was a "shining city on a hill." His ability to see that, despite tough times, America is a nation of limitless potential was an inspiration to all.

I am honored to have both known and worked with Ronald Reagan, one of the great leaders of the 20th century. On behalf of all my Congressional colleagues, I wish him the happiest of birthdays.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago, an ambitious little boy named Ronald Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois; a little boy who was determined to be someone important. When that little boy became this nation's 40th president, he told us that America was too great for small dreams, and that there was purpose and worth in every life.

President Reagan believed in the individual character of the American people. He believed in the great power that human liberty and freedom had to change the lives of citizens not only in this country, but of those around the world. Ronald Reagan acknowledged that oppression, tyranny, and evil anywhere in the world was a threat to us all, and he was not afraid to call it by its proper name. He was determined to not merely contain communism, but to conquer it. In his 1982 speech to the British Parliament, President Reagan predicted "The march of freedom and democracy will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash-heap of

history as it has left other tyrannies which stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people." In his unwavering determination to defeat communism through initiatives like his foreign policy offensive, pro-democratic public diplomacy, along with what became known as the Reagan Doctrine, President Reagan brought communism to its knees. The most symbolic result of his efforts came on the 9th of November, 1989, when the Berlin Wall separating Western and Eastern Germany came crumbling down. Pieces of that wall can now be found beneath the feet of President Reagan's statue in the Capitol Rotunda, a reminder that Tyranny must be temporary in order for human liberty to prevail.

President Reagan also believed that a prosperous nation relied on economic freedom; that the entrepreneur and their small enterprises were the driving force behind economic growth in America. This belief was reflected in his policies of freedom and his "common sense" approach to economics that laid the foundation for a prosperous nation. On August 17, 1981, President Reagan signed the Economic Recovery Tax Act into law, cutting all income taxes by 25 percent and reducing the top marginal tax rate from 70 percent to 50 percent. President Reagan's policies reduced inflation, lowered unemployment, cut the prime interest rate in half, and increased economic growth by 6 percent only two years into his administration. In addition to those accomplishments, nearly 17 million new jobs were created by the time Reagan left office.

Mr. Speaker, today we not only honor a former President, but a remarkable American who truly loved his country. And through his impeccable character and leadership, his generosity and humor, the American people loved him. Throughout his eight years in office, we laughed together and we cried together. Even in its darkest days, President Ronald Reagan recognized that American character and generosity, ideas and ingenuity, liberty and individual freedom are the reasons that the United States of America is and always will be the shining city upon a hill. He believed that it is our inescapable destiny to be the leaders of the free world and that America's best days are yet to come; that our most glorious days are just ahead. On that note, Mr. Speaker, I end with this quote from President Reagan; "If you're afraid of the future, then get out of the way, stand aside. The people of this country are ready to move again."

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak today in remembrance of the life and legacy of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan.

Just prior to Ronald Reagan assuming the Presidency, many people wondered whether this country's best days were behind us.

"What I'd really like to do," he said after six months in the White House, "is go down in history as the President who made Americans believe in themselves again."

He created a sense of pride in our nation that was severely lacking following the Vietnam war.

His reforms to our tax code, tax cuts and a significantly lowered rate of inflation lead to the longest peacetime economic expansion in our history.

President Reagan's longest lasting legacy remains his role in winning the Cold War.

While the common doctrine of the time called for containing Communism, Reagan boldly predicted that it would soon be "left on the ash-heap of history."

During the journey that was the Reagan Revolution, he restored prosperity, confidence, optimism, faith, and pride in America.

We along with countless others around the world will be forever grateful.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is almost impossible to imagine what the world would be like today if Ronald Reagan had never come along. That is because so much of the past 100 years of American and world history was directly impacted by the courage and convictions of our 40th President.

As we all know, the course of the 20th century was not always a smooth ride for the United States or for freedom. At a time when we needed a hero, we got one in the Gipper.

When Ronald Reagan saw the country he loved succumb to the hubris of the welfare state, high taxation, rampant spending and crippling regulation, he set his sights on Washington to turn things around. He believed that government was not the solution but the problem. The status quo of the time begged to differ and he saw no choice but to challenge it. Against all odds, he succeeded.

That same misguided consensus also told us that Soviet communism would forever cohabit the globe with Western democracy. Again, President Reagan disagreed. To him, communism wasn't just flawed—it was evil. That conviction shaped his entire worldview. His forecast for the Cold War was simple: "We win, they lose." His optimism led him to predict a decade before the Cold War ended that "the West won't contain communism, it will transcend communism." Again, President Reagan was right.

All Americans live in a freer and more prosperous world because of Ronald Reagan.

One hundred years from now, President Reagan's legacy will continue to inspire Americans to believe in the greatness of our country. And as long as his principles are cherished and passed down to every new generation, America will remain that "shining city on a hill" and the last best hope for man on earth.

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Ronald Reagan this past Sunday, February 6th.

President Reagan has left a lasting mark on our world, inspiring people to turn to democracy. He often spoke of freedom and made it a driving force behind his foreign policy.

During his presidency, Reagan was instrumental in the collapse of the Soviet Union. He worked tirelessly and with the words "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," he helped bring freedom to people under Soviet control, leaving behind a legacy known for the spread of democracy and freedom throughout the world.

Reagan also understood the value of conservative economic policies. In a 1982 address he said, "We don't have a trillion dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion dollar debt because we spend too much." Thirty years later, this message couldn't be more true.

While Reagan may be best known for leading our country through a strong economic recovery or for the fall of the Soviet Union, the Great Communicator was also known for his optimism. I hope that Americans can once again find that optimism, as we move forward to put power back into the hands of the people.