

sullen mood. As recovery finally came and Reagan's "stay the course" was more or less vindicated, his personality and talents as a "Great Communicator" began to sharpen and shape the American and world landscape. He entreated the people of the United States, the country he felt destined to be "a shining city on the hill," to support and further his program and policies. He restored a sometimes teary-eyed patriotism, encouraging Americans to take pride in and celebrate our country, its meaning, and its history. Using his powers as a former actor and the sincerity of his own belief in the goodness of America, whose "morning had just begun," he sought to enlist the people to assist the world along a better path to a brighter future. He returned a pride in military service, severely wounded since the Vietnam war. His own dedication to duty and pride of office restored dignity and world leadership to the presidency.

History may record Reagan as having been extraordinarily lucky to have accomplished his successes at such an advanced age, barely before senility and the eventual ravages of Alzheimer's disease fully took over. D'Souza does not think so. He credits—too much, some will argue—Reagan's ability to cut through the thicket of unimportant matters and take the correct action at nearly every important juncture. Far from being a mere bystander, Reagan led on matters that mattered, even when his decisions were unpopular.

D'Souza notes a nearly mystical aura that President Reagan himself privately acknowledged as governing some of his actions. While many presidents donned the mantra of churchgoing for public consumption, and Reagan himself supported, mainly as a sop to the religious right, a constitutional amendment to allow public school prayer, his own religious beliefs were more complex. Not an active churchgoer before or during his presidency, he apparently firmly believed in an intervening and active higher authority from whom he privately sought solace and guidance. When asked what person he most admired, Reagan invariably answered, "The man from Galilee." Though public ridicule was made of his wife Nancy's seeking guidance from astrologers, without serious objection and perhaps active support from the President, Reagan's truer belief would have been the personally delivered opinion of Mother Theresa that he had been put on this earth for a divine purpose.

This book will not find favor with liberal economists, with those Jeanne Kirkpatrick labeled "Blame America Firsters," or with apologists for the former Soviet communist system who then had advocated accommodation and appeasement, but many of whom now find its demise historically inevitable and Reagan irrelevant. One of D'Souza's obvious purposes in the book is to attack this attempted instant historical revisionism. In so doing, he can fairly be accused of straying too often from a "pure" chronicle of Reagan to a strident attack on his critics. No doubt in anticipated rebuttal, D'Souza points to a "stacked deck" committee chaired by Arthur Schlesinger Jr. and commissioned by the editors of the *New York Times* in December 1996 to render a collective verdict on how history will rank the U.S. presidents. Not surprisingly these "history experts," which included Doris Kearns Goodwin, James MacGregor Burns, ex-Governor Mario Cuomo, and ex-Senator Paul Simon, liberals all, ranked Reagan in the lower half, below George Bush and in the undistinguished company of Jimmy Carter, Chester Arthur, and Benjamin Harrison. In contrast, D'Souza believes Reagan should be ranked with the Roosevelts, Wilson, Lincoln, and Washington.

Interestingly, however, the ideologically conservative "true believers" who allege that Reagan was merely a popular messenger for an irresistible movement will not be overjoyed with the book. D'Souza paints Reagan as a unique individual, the likes of which are unlikely to return. Though Reagan articulated the principals of the ascending conservative movement, he was flexible rather than rigid, and his sunny personality lent itself to compromise on everything except his hardcore principals. This enabled Reagan to overcome popular reluctance to accept his conservative agenda.

D'Souza describes an apparently simple, but actually a flawed, complex, and contradictory man who accomplished his aims by concentrating on a few specifics that were fundamental to his beliefs. To this reviewer, who was initially extremely skeptical of Reagan's governing capability, let alone his electability to the presidency, but who has come to the happy realization that there really was something in the stars that brought forth this unlikely man to lead our country at such an important time in history, Ronald Reagan gets it exactly right.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENN-
SYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students, alumni, faculty and administration of The Pennsylvania State University, known more familiarly as Penn State, as the school turns 150 this year.

Established in 1855 as a land grant college, it began modestly as a one-building agriculture school in the center of Pennsylvania. Because there was not even a town there at the time, the town that grew up around the school eventually became incorporated as State College. In testimony to the grit and hardworking tradition of Pennsylvanians, Penn State grew quickly in size as well as academic stature among institutions of higher learning.

Penn State can be proud of its academic tradition. The university boasts a wide array of academic achievements in countless disciplines, from agriculture to engineering, from mathematics to meteorology, from the arts to applied research. Penn State is well-known and respected in national collegiate athletics for the strict academic standards it applies to its athletes. Penn State intercollegiate athletes graduate at a rate significantly above the national average. This sets a national example not only to other collegiate athletes but to college and high school students as well.

I am proud to join my Pennsylvania Colleagues in paying tribute to an institution that has so enriched Pennsylvania and our nation academically and culturally.

CONGRATULATING MRS. FRANCES
HARRIETT COBB HART ON HER
75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Frances Harriett Cobb Hart on her 75th Birthday. Mrs. Hart, a native Floridian, has given much of her life to serving her family, church, community, and nation. She is truly an exemplary American.

Born on June 28, 1929, Mrs. Hart was born to Charles Ernest Cobb and Mary Elliott Cobb. As the daughter of citrus growers, Mrs. Hart spent much of her early life becoming acquainted with Florida's rich agricultural tradition. Not limited simply to citrus farming, Mrs. Hart's family raised both cattle and horses in a rural community once known as Cobb's Landing.

After graduating from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, Mrs. Hart married Methodist Pastor James Wynne Hart. Choosing to leave her Florida roots behind, Mr. and Mrs. Hart have spent much of their adult lives between the hills and mountains of East Tennessee and Western Carolina.

An extremely active woman, Mrs. Hart was an avid athlete in her youth, often partaking in such physically strenuous activities as the amateur rodeo. In her maturity, Mrs. Hart has spent much of her time as a church historian and artisan. Throughout her life Frances has been an active member of her community, both willingly and unselfishly serving those around her.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Mrs. Frances Hart's birthday we also celebrate her legacy as a wife, mother, and community volunteer. For her endless contributions and uncompromising devotion to her family and community we are proud to honor Mrs. Frances Harriett Cobb Hart on her 75th birthday. Let us rise today to honor this great woman of strength, character, and moral standing.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOP-
MENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4614) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I rise to address serious problems with this bill and particularly with its Report, which cannot be fully remedied by the amendment I propose.

The problem is not so much with the bill, which we have before us, but with the directive report language that goes along with it.

As members, we rarely focus on report language and our vote in favor of the bill does