

honor of meeting Ronald Reagan as a young student in California, and in fact, this meeting led to my getting active in Youth for Reagan. He had a powerful message of economic freedom and limited government. Yet it was his ability to translate powerful messages like this into real reforms that set him apart from past leaders.

At the heart of all of Reagan's policies, from supply-side economics to promoting democracy overseas, was the importance of the individual, not the collective. It was the importance of freedom, not statism. This great legacy is what we celebrate today.

I remember, following the Carter administration, our economy was in a state of economic malaise—high unemployment and high inflation. In fact, that legacy led to the creation of the concept of the misery index—inflation plus unemployment—and that reached an all-time high. But through the enactment of a pro-growth agenda, Reagan was able to cut that number in half in that era of stagflation and lead us into prosperity.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAVAACK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have taken this time out this evening so that my colleagues and I might have the opportunity to talk about what took place the day before yesterday and the century that led up to it. I am referring, as did my friend from Fullerton, Mr. ROYCE, to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ronald Wilson Reagan.

We know that Ronald Reagan is an individual who has provided inspiration to Democrats and Republicans alike, and there is a reason for that. The reason is that, while not everyone agreed with Ronald Reagan's policies, he was an individual who was able to provide encouragement; he was an individual who was able to provide inspiration; and I think most importantly, Mr. Speaker, he was an individual who was able to provide hope to so many people all over this country as well as across the globe.

Mrs. Reagan did an interview this past week leading up to February 6 in which she was asked the question: What do you most want your husband to be remembered for?

What she said was that she wanted him to be remembered for the fact that he instilled a sense of optimism for the American people. That great sense of optimism, which was not Pollyanna-like, because he was clearly very realistic, direct, had a great strength of character, an unwavering commitment to his principles, but at the same time, he was always able to encourage people to have hope for the future.

In fact, one of the great things that the Ronald Reagan Foundation has done, as we all know, Mr. Speaker—and we see it on a regular basis right down this hallway into the great rotunda of the Capitol—is there, due in large part, to the now distinguished chair of the Committee on Administration, Mr. LUNGREN, who worked on this statue, and I was honored that he consulted me on a few occasions as he was working on it. To me, the thing that is the most important part of the statue is inscribed at the base. Unfortunately, it's on the back, so you have to go through a little effort to see it, Mr. Speaker. But at the base of that statue, it has three of the great statements that Ronald Reagan was known for.

What were they?

They were, of course: "America's best days are yet to come." "Our proudest moments are yet to be." "Our most glorious achievements are just ahead."

Now, if that doesn't instill optimism and encouragement, I don't know what does. Those three statements, I believe, define Ronald Reagan.

He obviously was someone who enjoyed having a good time. In fact, Nancy said on Sunday, at the party, that her husband always enjoyed celebrating his birthday and that he would have loved the party that took place. And for those who may not have been there or seen it, you should know that the celebration continues.

It actually began at the end of last year. I was privileged to give an address up at the library, during which I was talking about the challenges that exist today and the way that Ronald Reagan dealt with many of the similar problems that we face today. Then on New Year's Day, the Rose Parade featured a float marking the 100th anniversary of Ronald Reagan's birth. Then again this past weekend, on February 5 and 6, there were great activities that took place at the library.

I should say, the weekend before, there was a wonderful opportunity for us to have the Members of Congress who were elected in 1980, with Ronald Reagan, three decades ago, to convene for a class reunion that the Ronald Reagan Foundation helped us put together. At the same time, the Heritage Foundation hosted its meeting, which included many of the newly elected Members of Congress. It was basically a 2½-day gathering.

Several Members have told me about the opportunity to have Members of that 97th class, the class of 1980 which came in with Ronald Reagan, share their experiences with the newly elected Members—87 strong, the largest turnover in three-quarters of a century. We were able to share those experiences, and Members have said that it was probably the highlight of that 2½-day gathering that we had at the Ronald Reagan Library.

I also have to say, Mr. Speaker, that just yesterday we saw the opening of the new Ronald Reagan Museum, and

that museum is an amazing facility. Now, remember, Air Force One, which is the aircraft that Ronald Reagan flew, including Marine One, are both there at the library. This museum, which has been renovated over the past year or so, was reopened. I said at one of the gatherings that anyone who had the opportunity to know Ronald Reagan, to work with Ronald Reagan would have had, clearly, at least one occasion as they went through the library to have a wonderful memory come back to the forefront—and even new experiences. In fact, I had a very moving experience when I went through the museum and saw something that I had not seen before.

The father of one of my closest family friends passed away just before he was born—in fact, 4 months before he was born. He was an only son, and obviously never knew his father. As I walked through the Reagan Museum, I was struck because I saw on the wall the discharge papers that were signed by Captain Ronald Reagan.

When I saw them, I took out my telephone, and called my friend, and said, Did you know that Ronald Reagan had signed your father's discharge papers? He said, no, he didn't know it, and was, needless to say, very emotional having just learned that at that moment as I went in.

Well, this man is on March 20 going to mark his 50th birthday, and his name is John Clark Gable. His father was the legendary actor Clark Gable, who had had his discharge papers signed by Captain Ronald Reagan.

As you look, there is the good and the bad, which are outlined in this museum, including the very tragic day in March of 1981 when an assassination attempt was launched against President Reagan, to lots of exciting and fun times that took place during that period of time. Of course we all know of Ronald Reagan's legendary, legendary sense of humor.

One of my stories—and I'm happy my friend from Huntington Beach, whom I met when he was working for Ronald Reagan shortly after we came to Washington together in the early 1980s, my friend Mr. ROHRBACHER, likes to take credit for many of President Reagan's funny lines. You know, there is a raging debate that he and I have on that on a regular basis. One story I know Ronald Reagan enjoyed but did not, in fact, get from DANA ROHRBACHER, I should say for the record, Mr. Speaker, was when we were dealing with one of the most challenging economic times that the United States of America has gone through. It was in the early 1980s.

□ 1930

I was invited on a Saturday afternoon to a small party in Los Angeles. There were about 20 people gathered, and the people gathered were commiserating over the fact that we had at that point an unemployment rate that was well into double digits. We had an inflation rate that was sky high, and

interest rates were in excess of 15 percent, and so naturally everyone was focused on this.

President Reagan stood up after lunch and said, The other day, somebody asked me how I was doing, and he said, I've never been better. Well, needless to say, everyone at that lunch looked around like how in the world could he say that. He said the reason I say that is I'm reminded of this huge caravan of farm animals being driven through a countryside, and there is a terrible accident, these animals strewn all over the highway. And the sheriff came roaring up, and he looked to the side of the road and saw a horse with two broken legs, frothing at the mouth. So the sheriff pulled out his gun, put it to the horse's head, and put him out of the misery. And then he looked over and saw a dog, just about the same thing. This dog was shaking like there was no tomorrow, and so he put his gun to the dog's head and put him out of his misery. And then he looked over and saw the driver of one of the vehicles. This driver had at least one leg broken, badly bloodied and banged up, and the sheriff looked at the driver and said, And how are you feeling? And the driver responded by saying, I've never been better. And that, in fact, Mr. Speaker, demonstrated that great sense of optimism and hope that was always there for Ronald Reagan.

Now, his policies are something that are desperately needed today, and I'm so happy to see that as we have now won what would be a Reagan-like majority here in the House, that working together in a bipartisan way, which was a message that former Secretary of the Treasury, former Chief of Staff, former Secretary of State James Baker provided Sunday morning at the Reagan Library, working together in a bipartisan way to deal with our Nation's problems and the problems that we're dealing with around the globe is a very important thing.

And that's why as we look at the economic challenges, it seems to me that following what I like to describe as the Kennedy-Reagan economic model would be a great prescription for us to create jobs and get our economy back on track.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that as we look at where it is that we're going, making sure that we have tax rates that encourage job creation and economic growth are important. Thanks to the fact that Japan has just reduced its top rate on job creators, the United States of America today has the highest tax rate on job creators of any country in the world. We have the highest tax rate of any country in the world when it comes to those businesses that are trying to create jobs. We continue to hear and decry the flight of jobs outside of the United States to other parts of the world, and people get into so many other issues. We need to look at our policies that encourage the flight of those jobs outside of the country.

I will tell you that if Ronald Reagan were President of the United States, I have no doubt that he would be championing the notion of reducing that top corporate tax rate, and I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that I was very gratified right behind me just 10 days ago President Obama stood here and advocated a reduction of that top rate on those job creators. We know that he has recently, President Obama, read Lou Cannon's book on Ronald Reagan and understands how successful Ronald Reagan was.

Now, I have lots of things that I want to say, but I'm privileged to be joined by four great Californians who are here right now, and so I think that the most appropriate thing for me to do would be to go by both age and seniority. And so I think that my friend DAN LUNGREN, who has been an inspiration to me as Ronald Reagan was, has joined us, and I mentioned him earlier. He's the distinguished chair of the Committee on House Administration, something that we were never able to do during the Reagan years, that being have the majority, and I know that Ronald Reagan would be very proud to see his friend DAN LUNGREN in the position that he is today.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield to my friend.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I thank the gentleman from California for taking this time and for yielding this time to me and I know to others as we come about this.

You and I have and the other gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER) were privileged to be in that crowd on Sunday where we celebrated Ronald Reagan's 100th birthday.

I was reminded that the last time I spoke with him was 20 years before on his birthday, his 80th birthday, when I was calling him from my office in Sacramento, and he was his usual open, affable, and interested individual who always had an expression of concern for the person he was speaking with and who didn't take himself too seriously but obviously took the job that he had very, very seriously.

One of the insights into President Reagan I think is seen in a film that was done about Ronald Reagan's life that I saw recently, and at the end of the film or close to the end of the film, they had an interview with the Secret Service man who continued to be with Ronald Reagan to the very end, and this Secret Service man was distinguished by the fact that he was a fellow equestrian. He rode with Ronald Reagan, and it was the last time Ronald Reagan rode a horse. He went out riding with him, and when he came back he went to Mrs. Reagan and said, the President didn't have a very good day on the horse today, and that was a nice way of saying maybe it's time that he not risk injury by horse riding. And everybody knew that Ronald Reagan loved to ride horses. Probably his third greatest passion—his passion for his wife, his passion for this coun-

try, and then his passion for riding horses. And Mrs. Reagan told the Secret Service man, well, I can't tell him; you've got to tell him. And it was very uncomfortable. And the agent went up to the President and said very, very quietly, Mr. President, we didn't have a good day riding today. And Ronald Reagan sensed exactly what he was going to say, and instead of protesting, he made every effort to put the Secret Service agent at ease, knowing that it was a difficult thing for him.

You have to understand that. He was being told that something that he loved almost as much as anything else in his life, his avocation, his—some people play golf; Ronald Reagan rode horses. He was being told he could no longer do that, and instead of thinking about himself and the pain it was going to cause him and the lack of opportunity to enjoy himself, his first concern was for the person who was delivering that message to him, and he wanted to put him at ease.

And that gives you a bit of an understanding of the character of the man who thought about what he was doing for others rather than what they were doing for him, or, excuse me, to put it this way: He thought more about what gratitude he had for what other people were doing for him, rather than accepting praise for what he was doing in that circumstance.

I remember the last great speech that I remember that Ronald Reagan gave. It was at the 1992 Republican convention in Houston, and some of you may remember it. You've seen film of it if you weren't there. He wore a suit or a sport coat and a shirt that, if we wore it, we would be told you don't wear those sorts of things when you're appearing at a political event. It was sort of a maroon or almost maroon to brown jacket, and I remember the shirt had a white collar and it had stripes that were of the same color as the coat.

And when he started to speak, and I was watching closely because my son, who at that time was in college, had gotten a pass to the floor of the convention, and I said, I want you to see the master speak, using that in quotation marks, because this may be the last great speech he ever gives. When Ronald Reagan got up, he looked every bit his age. In fact, he looked a little bit tired. As he started to speak, some young people in front of him began chanting his name and cheering him, and at first he couldn't hear very well. And then he realized what they were saying, and you saw that Ronald Reagan grin begin, and you saw him start to speak. And at the end of his speech, I guarantee you he was 20 years younger than when he started that speech.

And he gave that vibrancy to the entire assembled crowd there in that convention hall, and I was so happy that I had my son there to be able to see this remarkable man give this remarkable performance at the end of his career. But when you think about that, sometimes you think maybe we just think

about him as the communicator, and as we know in the final address he made to the Nation from the Oval Office, he said some people say that I'm a great communicator. It's not so much that I'm a great communicator, it's that I was able to communicate great things that came from this country.

That always remained with me. I always thought Ronald Reagan had spent his whole life reading, thinking, thinking about this Nation, thinking about the principles that made this Nation great.

□ 1940

And in my own mind, whenever I met with him with other Members of Congress or alone, you had this idea that he had developed this philosophical or political schematic.

If you were speaking to him about a subject, he would put that schematic over that discussion. And if, in fact, it fit within those principles he had developed over a lifetime, he would basically allow you to go do it. He would basically give you a charge, and he would be behind you—may not tell you the details, but he would be with you. And if you didn't, if you had something that was outside that philosophical political schematic that he had developed over a lifetime, he would in some ways gently tell you that, No, I don't think we're going to do that. And you knew at that point in time that he wasn't going to be with you on it; but he was, again, thinking a little bit about you and the reaction that you would receive when he would tell you "no."

One of the most difficult things I ever had to do was to tell him "no" on the phone. I was in my office. He was calling on a vote. And I can't even recall what the subject was.

Mr. DREIER. If I can reclaim my time, I will tell you exactly what the vote was because I remember it so vividly. It was the 1982 Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act. And I further yield to my friend.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. It may very well have been that.

He called me personally to talk to me about that. And I had the hardest time saying "no" to him, but I did. The remarkable thing about it was that he didn't pressure me anymore. He didn't make me feel bad. He didn't say, Well, you'll hear from us again, or if you want something in your district. All he said was, I understand. I'm sorry I couldn't convince you. I got off that phone. I thought I was right in the decision I had made, but I felt badly that I had to tell him "no," and I think that was it.

One of the highlights of my first 10 years in the Congress was going to my alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, on Air Force One with Ronald Reagan when he was going to unveil the stamp commemorating the 100th birthday of Knute Rockne—or as he said, "Ke-Nute" Rockne because that's what Knute Rockne's widow had told

him was the proper pronunciation. And we flew there, and it was a great day. A little bit of rain. We got in the Athletic and Convocation Center, and it was standing room only. They didn't have enough room for all the students. The overflow crowd was in another room that had a television.

There were four of us, graduates of the University of Notre Dame, who were Members of Congress at the time that he had with us and Dick Lyng who was the Californian who was the Secretary of Agriculture, also a Notre Dame grad. And in his speech, he said, "I want to introduce you to the new Four Horsemen of Notre Dame," and then mentioned each one of our names. I have that on tape, and that is one of my highlights of my life. And at some point in time, I will make sure I make copies and give it to my children and my grandchildren.

But he loved the fact that people remembered him for that role and for the spirit that he had there. And I am proud of the fact that after his recovery from that assassination attempt, the first public major address he made away from the Capitol was at the University of Notre Dame.

Ronald Reagan was a hero to many of us. He was an inspiration to many of us, but he was a real man. He had his weaknesses as well as his strengths. He had his shortcomings, and he would be the first one to admit it. But above all, he was that person who told us, as Republicans, that we should approach the future not only with confidence, not only with hope, but with a sense of joy, an idea that this country is the greatest country in the history of the world and gives us the greatest opportunity to succeed. And he always felt a sense of gratitude that he was here, that he was born here, that he was allowed to raise himself up. And he thought that ought to be the opportunity given to everybody.

When he came into a room, there was just a feeling there that was not there at any other time. And it's hard for some of us to realize that he has been gone for 6½ years now and that he would be 100 years old today. All we can say is, we're not looking backwards. We're trying to take the essence of the man, his commitment to the foundations of this country, his openness and his optimism, and utilize that at a time when we desperately need it.

I never thought that he looked at a person and thought, You're African American, you're Caucasian, you're Hispanic, you're Asian. He looked at you and said, You're an American; and therefore I'm going to expect the best out of you, and this country is going to give you the opportunity to be the very, very best.

So I thank the gentleman from California for this time. And this weekend was wonderful not only for us to reflect in our memories but also to bring the Ronald Reagan we know to the present people of America, particularly those young people who were not born when

he was President of the United States and let them have a sense of what it was that commanded this country, that led this country, that inspired this country.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for his very thoughtful comments. And let me say before yielding to whichever of my colleagues gets to their feet next, Mr. Speaker, I think that when one thinks of some of the great, great Reagan stories that are legendary, you can't help but recall that he had joy in sharing those stories with people. And I guess that had to have been his Irish blood that was flowing that brought that out. But all of those stories did provide so much encouragement.

One of his great lines, to me—and my friend just referred to it—was when he would look to Americans, regardless of what their background was, and say, You're an American. And I am reminded of his famous line where he said, You know, if you immigrate to France, you don't become a Frenchman. If you immigrate to China, you don't become Chinese. The United States of America is the only country in the world where if you immigrate to the United States of America, you become an American which, again, underscores what a melting pot the United States of America is and *e pluribus unum*, "out of many, one." That is what has made us as great as we are.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to my friend from Huntington Beach, California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), the famous, legendary speechwriter of Ronald Reagan. We first met in the decade of the 1980s. We joined with Democrats and Republicans in both Houses of Congress to play a role in liberating the people of Afghanistan from the Soviet Union's horrendous control, and I'm sure he will seize this opportunity to get into that.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Thank you very much, DAVID. Just to expand a little bit on the last point you made, when we were writing for Ronald Reagan, he would insist that we don't talk about people as being—he wouldn't say Irish Americans or Mexican Americans or German Americans. He always insisted that we say "Americans of Irish descent," "Americans of Mexican descent," "Americans of German descent." Americans together, up front. So that's a little bit of wisdom. Just that little expression showed the wisdom of that man.

It was my honor to join with my two colleagues at the 100th celebration. DAN and DAVE and I, we have a special place in our lives for this man, Ronald Reagan. And I think that that birthday and that gathering that we had at the Reagan Library is one of the most memorable times that I will have, and I am just so grateful that I was able to share that with you.

I think the Reagan Library is doing a terrific job, and they will then be able to carry what we are talking about tonight so that younger people, people 100 years from now, will get a good picture of this man who saved America

and saved the world from tyranny. Also, the Young America's Foundation is doing a great job at restoring the Reagan ranch where Reagan spent so much of his time and got his inspiration, and is implementing some great educational activities up there.

I, of course, met Ronald Reagan so many years ago when I volunteered as a youth organizer for his first campaign for Governor. And I was in Youth for Reagan. I was the L.A. County High School chairman of Youth for Reagan, although I was a freshman at a junior college at the time.

There had been so much infighting going on—the Republicans almost enjoy fighting each other as much as they do fighting Democrats and everybody else. Well, it was true back then as well. And there was so much infighting going on in the Youth for Reagan, they were going to eliminate it. I got wind of this, and I had hundreds of kids out walking precincts. I thought this would be horrible for them. So I decided I had to talk to Ronald Reagan personally about this.

□ 1950

And I found out what his address was, and at 2 o'clock in the morning I hiked up this long driveway in Pacific Palisades up to his house. They didn't have a guard. Here's the guy, the candidate for Governor, and nobody is there guarding the gate. And so I camped out on his back lawn, and the next morning, about 6:30, 7:00, Nancy sticks her head out there, What are you doing? Who are you?

And I had a little sign that said, "Mr. Reagan, please speak to me." And I told her I was in the Youth for Reagan and I just needed 2 minutes, just 2 minutes with him, 120 seconds. And she said, Listen, if he comes out here, he's going to spend 20 minutes with you. He's either going to miss his breakfast or be late for the rest of the day. I can't permit that to happen. If you leave right now, I'll get you an appointment with the campaign manager.

Well, you know, that's the best I was going to get. So I was walking real slow down that long driveway dragging my sleeping bag. And behind me I hear, Wait a minute; wait a minute.

And there was Ronald Reagan chasing after me with shaving cream on his face; his shirt's wide open.

If you can spend the night on my back lawn, I can certainly spend a few moments with you. Now what's the problem, young man?

And, you know, he never let me down. I knew him for 40 years after that. He never let me down. He was the same caring, wonderful person.

And as my life went on and I was active in his campaigns, I was with him for 8 months from in the morning he got up till the time he went to bed during the '76 campaign, so I knew everything that was going on in his life. I never heard him say the "F" word. I never heard him say, as the door slammed behind after someone who had

been saying bad things about him, I never heard him say, "That SOB," or anything like that.

Ronald Reagan was centered. He was confident in himself, and he didn't feel threatened by people who disliked him. His way of doing things was always, be very strong for the things you believe, very principled. Be as strong an advocate as you can, but be very nice to people. Be very nice to people even if they're on the other side of the table arguing another case.

Mr. DREIER. If I could reclaim my time and just interject one little story here as we have a discussion here. I'm reminded that one of his domestic policy advisors, Professor Roger Porter from Harvard, had told me that he remembered sitting in the Oval Office with President Reagan, and a group came in and began just maligning and ripping him up one side and down the other. And the President just sat there patiently—and obviously he was on the opposite side of where they were—and they left.

And Professor Porter looked to him and he said, Gosh. He said, Why in the world, Mr. President, would you not respond to those people? I mean, they were so horrible to you.

And President Reagan looked to him and said, Well, you know, I can't control how other people act. I can only control how I act.

And that was his response to that kind of attack.

And I am happy to further yield to my friend.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. And I think that that kindness and his personality is what was dictating how he would act.

So I went on after that, and I was a freshman in college when he was running in '66. By the time his administration was over, I was a journalist. I was actually a reporter in Los Angeles. I'd graduated from college.

And anyway, I was someone who was well known as going to the heart of the matter and asking the toughest question at all the press conferences, and he was now Governor, finishing up his last couple of years as Governor of the State. And I remember a press conference that I covered with Ronald Reagan. DAN LUNGREN would appreciate this because it was his commission on crime, and he was going to make this big announcement as to what his commission on crime was recommending.

And I got up and of course wanted to ask the toughest question, and the question was: Governor, you suggested, and many times have suggested in your speeches, that you are a Christian and that this is an important value to you; you base many of your judgments on your faith. How can you justify in Christian theology that you are taking someone, as the commission is suggesting that we expand the use of the death penalty, and that we take someone who is not at that moment a threat to another human being and is in cus-

tody and take that person's life? Isn't that contradictory to your Christian beliefs?

And Reagan, you could see that he really took it so seriously, and he just said, I've prayed about that so many times. I cannot tell you how much thought and prayer has gone into that very issue, and I sought religious help from people and guidance from various spiritual leaders, and I came to the conclusion, well, DANA, I came to the conclusion that if you're killing someone for vengeance, that is not consistent with what Jesus Christ has taught us. But if you realize you're taking that life to save the life of another because other murderers will be deterred from killing innocent victims, well, that's totally consistent.

And I tell you, my view of Ronald Reagan and my admiration for that man went right through the roof.

Well, what happened then, Evelle Younger, who was Attorney General of the State, grabs the microphone and says, Morality and religion have nothing to do with this. The people voted for the death penalty and they're going to get it.

Yeah, my opinion of Reagan was that high. And I would just note Evelle Younger ran for Governor and lost.

Well, this was the type of Ronald Reagan that I got to know, very principled person.

In '76, a year after that press conference, he ran for President. And I was about the only Republican that he could find in the press corps to hire as Lynn Nofsinger's Assistant Press Secretary, and I traveled with him, as I say, through '76 and '80 and then went to the White House with him after that.

And let me just note that when Ronald Reagan went to the White House, it has been again described so many times that our country was in such jeopardy. Freedom was in retreat. The Soviet Union was in the ascendancy. Tyranny, many of us felt in the late '70s that our country would lose the Cold War and that the world would be dominated by this Marxist, Leninist, totalitarian ideology. And of course our economy was near collapse and heading towards disaster.

Ronald Reagan, when he was a young person, was a lifeguard. He saved 77 lives. That was such a part of a self-image of being someone who was going to save the day. And I saw that at work. I saw that at work in the tough decisions.

And by the way, let me just note, I disagree with Jim Baker. I didn't see the bipartisanship that Jim Baker talked about. Maybe he did. But when I worked in the White House with Ronald Reagan, because I went with him there after he won the 1980 campaign, and I was one of his five principal speech writers for 7 years. All I noticed was at that stand right over there the Democrats, over and over again, from this body and from the Senate would do everything they could to defile and

to make it sound like Ronald Reagan was a warmonger because he wanted to make sure that the Soviets were not encouraged to go on further and expand their weapons by us freezing them into a position of superiority.

Mr. DREIER. If I could reclaim my time, I would just say to my friend, obviously that kind of partisan debate takes place regularly. But I think that what Secretary Baker was talking about was, first, the issue of Social Security, where President Reagan did work with Tip O'Neill to try and bring about an effort to save Social Security. In 1986, President Reagan worked with the then chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Dan Rostenkowski, on the 1986 Tax Reform Act.

And so it's true. I mean, in fact, I thank my friend for raising this issue, because the sense that somehow everyone at the end of the day loved each other during that period of the 1980s is a mischaracterization of the way it existed. But President Reagan, as Secretary Baker pointed out, did at the end of the day, when it came to these important issues of economic growth dealing with Social Security, and even on the issue of foreign policy and dealing with both Afghanistan and Central America, while not all Democrats joined, there were more than a few who, with his encouragement, did this. Because remember, were it not for bipartisan support, these policies would not have been implemented because we had 192 Republicans in the House of Representatives and were, in fact, in the minority.

So I am happy to further yield to my friend.

□ 2000

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I will have to admit, even some of the people who were most guilty of not being bipartisan have suggested that it was bipartisanship that ended the Cold War. But your examples that you have given with the Social Security, for example, people don't know that had we not been working together and had Ronald Reagan not been there to provide the leadership, Social Security would have been bankrupt by now easily. But I saw these majors events from inside the White House and watched him.

One note: I was there probably at the low point of the White House. That day was the day that 240 marines were blown to hell in Beirut. I remember my brother's best friend was the first name on that list of people who were killed.

Ronald Reagan felt that it was his worst mistake that he ever made, was sending those marines in there. When his advisers suggested to him that now is the time we've got to prove we're tough. Send in a whole marine division to make sure we kick those guys' butts who killed our people to prove they can't do this and get away with it. Ronald Reagan was wise enough not to go for vengeance, but instead to use his head and to do what was the right policy that would not put us in jeopardy and put us in a quagmire.

Ronald Reagan said, "No. We are going to get our butts out of there" and had he not done that and sent in 20,000 American troops, we would have been on the defensive for the rest of his administration. Instead, he reached out and found elements around the world who were fighting communist dictatorship, they called it the Reagan Doctrine, and he let the enemy of our enemies do the fighting. That was the Reagan Doctrine. That's what succeeded in Afghanistan and elsewhere. It drained the budget of the Soviet Union, and it collapsed.

One last story that I would like to tell, and that is, so many people who have tried to belittle President Reagan have tried to make him look—how many times have I heard this, Well, he's just an actor and he's just reading scripts. You guys are great script writers. First of all, let me note, I never wrote a speech for anybody until Ronald Reagan taught me how to write a speech.

We had a saying at the White House: If this guy wasn't President, he's a good enough writer to be the President's speechwriter. That's number one. But Ronald Reagan was not just reading lines and not just reading scripts, number one. It was his vision of the world we had to capture. But, more importantly, he was making very tough policy statements that would not have been made by other Presidents, and the best example of this is the Berlin Wall speech. As we noted at the 100th birthday, there is a chunk of the Berlin Wall, and the Soviet Union has disintegrated. And now in Russia, by the way, the churches are filled with people in Russia today. Back in those days, Christians and other people who believed in God were being repressed with all the other freedoms.

But Ronald Reagan was going to go to Berlin, and the speechwriters knew that the senior staff would do everything they could not to permit Ronald Reagan to say what he needed to say, which is, Tear down the wall. So we had to plan on it, and actually we underhandedly got the speech to Ronald Reagan. I won't describe the great details it went through, but it was an avenue that we knew once we used it once would be closed up to us.

Once Reagan saw the speech, it was, Oh, yes. This is exactly what I want to say. And then it wasn't the five speechwriters against all these senior advisers to the President. It was the speechwriters and the President. And George Schulz came in; and he was with us the other day, but during that time he was yelling at Ronald Reagan that he was trying to reignite the Cold War by saying, Tear down the wall. All of these people who now are very happy with Ronald Reagan and suggest that, Oh, I was in on it. In this particular case, and many others, they were telling Reagan not to do these things, especially, Don't say, Tear down the wall.

I cannot tell you how far it went. Colin Powell actually gave him a

speech and said, All your advisers except for speechwriters want this speech. And it was the same speech, except "tear down the wall," that page had been left out. And Reagan was, No. I think I'll use the one I've got, thank you.

Well, what happens is this: Reagan gets up, and he is courageous. He is being told not to do this, that this would create new Cold War animosities on the other side. He knew that this was a message to their leadership and to the people behind the Iron Curtain that we were serious about our advocacy of democracy and freedom and peace. He knew that. And he knew if he didn't say it, it would demoralize all of those people. It would change history for the worse if he didn't say it. And he got up there, and he made that strong statement.

The next day, of course, we were all watching to find out exactly what was going to be the reaction. And I don't know how, but somebody from the National Security Council had a copy of a verbatim transcript of Gorbachev's conversation with the senior staff. Now, I have no idea how we happened to get that into our possession, but Gorbachev was saying, This guy Reagan, once he gets his teeth into you, he's like a dog. He'll never let go. And we have got to find a way to bring down that wall and maintain our dignity. And sure enough, then all those other guys that we were talking about who fought this speech, and they did everything they could to get him not to say it, then they started claiming they had written the speech and they were for it all along of course.

Well, the one great thing about Ronald Reagan, he had it right on his desk, and it was, There is no limit to what a person can achieve if he doesn't care who gets the credit. Reagan wasn't looking for credit for the end of the war. He was looking to do great things for America. And I will tell you, he inspired all of us.

Do I have time for one more Reagan story?

Mr. DREIER. One more Reagan story. We want to hear from our two colleagues.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Everyone knows Ronald Reagan the politician. We can go on with all these lists of speeches and the bills and things, but I think the day I remember the most about Ronald Reagan was in North Carolina.

In 1976, Reagan was running and I was the assistant press secretary. And here he had probably 5,000, 10,000 people in this parking lot for a rally, and this lady comes up to me and says, You're with Governor Reagan? And I said, Yes, I am. She said, I have seven blind children here, and they can't get through the crowd. And I wonder if maybe after the speech we can bring them over here and Governor Reagan could shake hands with them. And I said, Let me clear it. Let me find out.

So I went behind the podium there with Mike Deaver. I said, Mike, there's

a lady here; she's got these blind children and they can't get through the crowd. They would really like to shake hands with Governor Reagan. And Reagan was two steps behind us. He hears me and he jumps right in between us and he says, Of course we're going to say hello to those children. But, DANA, we don't want this to be a press event. And you get all the reporters in the buses, and I'll come right over here and spend a couple minutes with those children.

So, sure enough, the reporters head to the buses, and the kids are brought back there behind the podium. And there's Reagan and he is talking to them. They are about 7, 8 years old. And this is the sense of this man. He says, You know, I know that you can't see me. But maybe you would like to touch my face so you can get a sense about who I am and what I look like. And of course they did.

Now, imagine this: there's Ronald Reagan, a candidate for President, with seven of these little kids, beautiful little kids touching his face. There is not a politician in the world that would not give millions of dollars to have a picture of that. They would be on the cover of all the magazines, and Reagan knew that. But he didn't want anyone, he didn't want those kids or anyone to think that he was exploiting blind children. And it's like us today. We've got to get a sense or feel about this man and who he really was. And I hope that the Reagan Library and what they are doing with the Young America's Foundation up at the ranch will help future generations get a good feel for this wonderful person.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend very much for his very thoughtful contributions. And his last two stories remind me very vividly of the fact that Ronald Reagan was in charge, whether it was ensuring that he penned the: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," or whether he jumped forward and said, Of course I'm going to meet with those young people. And it brought to mind that famous "Saturday Night Live" skit where you may recall where you saw Reagan come out. The perception of him was, as my friend said earlier, that he wasn't in charge and that he was scripted by everyone else but himself. What they did in the skit was he came out and he met with some young children and he shook hands with them and said, How are you doing? And was perceived as this guy who was a long way from being in charge. Then the moment they left, he went back and he said, Okay, fellas, let's get to work here now. So behind the curtain he was doing that. When, in fact, we do know that Ronald Reagan was in charge as he dealt with foreign policy and domestic policy as well.

And I'm very happy that we are joined by my colleague who came to the Congress during the last 2 years of the Reagan administration. He came here in 1986 and I know was inspired by President Reagan. He is a very, very

thoughtful, hardworking member of the Ways and Means Committee and a subcommittee chairman. I am happy to recognize him at this time, my friend, Mr. HERGER.

□ 2010

Mr. HERGER. I want to thank my good friend from California (Mr. DREIER). Particularly, I want to thank my good friend for leading us in this incredibly special, special time to remember an individual who, as we have heard from the speakers before me, individuals like Mr. DREIER who actually spent a lot of time with President Reagan, sharing with us the incredible person, an inspiration, that our 40th President, who we are celebrating this week the 100th anniversary of his birth, is to each of us.

As the gentleman mentioned, I did have the privilege of serving for his last 2 years as President, 1987 and 1988. But I think about what President Reagan meant to me, and when I think about what he meant to me, I know as I have listened to these speakers before me what he meant to so many of us in our Nation and the world today.

My friend Mr. DREIER mentioned in his early remarks what the country was like in 1980 when Ronald Reagan ran for President. We think what it is like today. We have over 9 percent unemployment. We have very low inflation. But in 1980, when President Reagan was running, we had not 9 percent unemployment, but 12 percent unemployment. We had something that we haven't had since the early days of President Reagan's administration, and that was inflation, inflation that was running 13 percent.

As a small businessman then, I remember what it was like. You did not know what to price your products at because you didn't know what you were going to be buying them for again, and it was an unbelievably challenging time. Plus, as a small businessperson, we had a prime interest rate that was 21.5 percent. We had home mortgages that were hitting 16 percent.

Now, those of us who can remember back at that time, talk about challenging times, those were challenging times. And to have someone who was the type of inspiration that Ronald Reagan was, who literally exemplified everything he believed, and we heard so much from our speakers before me, but to Ronald Reagan it was morning in America. He believed. He not only had confidence in himself, he had even more confidence in our Nation. He had confidence in those of us who were small business people, who were Americans. As was mentioned, it didn't matter whether you were immigrants, like my grandparents were from Switzerland, you were an American. He had not only confidence in this, but he could emulate this to all of those around us.

It was interesting, because back about 10 years ago in a Republican Conference of fellow Republicans in

Congress, someone asked a question, who among us, and there were, I don't know, about 150 or so, who among us were inspired by Ronald Reagan to run originally. And over half of us raised our hands. As a matter of fact, it was about three-quarters of us. It was Ronald Reagan who inspired us to leave our positions as a small businessman, as a family rancher or dairy person to run for office. So we see it today. We see those who ran this last time, a very similar time.

But God bless Ronald Reagan. God bless all that he inspired us with.

And, Mr. DREIER, I want to thank you for leading us. This is one of the greatest times of my life, to be able to participate along with you and Mr. LUNGREN and Mr. ROHRBACHER and others in remembering someone who I believe is one of the very greatest Americans ever to live, Ronald Reagan. Thank you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend very much for his thoughtful remarks. I want to assure him that it didn't begin or end this evening, but we are in an entire year's celebration. In fact, tomorrow evening, our colleague who represents the Ronald Reagan Library, ELTON GALLEGLY, is going to be taking an hour out and talking about him as well.

To close out this evening, we are very pleased to have the newest Member who is here on the House floor, who has already become a veteran, one of the great champions of the conservative cause in our State of California, my good friend, Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I thank my friend for yielding, and I want to continue where my friend from California (Mr. HERGER) left off, talking about what kind of times brought Ronald Reagan here to Washington.

We are told today that we face the worst economy since the Great Depression. There are a lot of us that remember an even worse time, when we did have double-digit unemployment and double-digit inflation and mile-long lines around gas stations and interest rates that exceeded 20 percent. And, by the way, when we hear that our world is growing more dangerous by the day, I remember when an American Embassy could be seized with impunity, when an aggressive and expanding Soviet Union daily challenged American interests around the world, when communism went unchallenged in the Western Hemisphere, when the American military had been so badly weakened it couldn't even launch a successful rescue mission.

Perhaps we don't remember those days as vividly because they didn't last very long. At that dark hour in our Nation's history, the American people turned to Ronald Reagan, who diagnosed our country's problems very accurately. In this crisis, he said, government is not the solution to our problems; government is the problem. He said the Soviet Union is indeed an evil empire, and it was time, he said, that

America stopped apologizing for its interests and started asserting them.

At the time, the American left excoeriated Reagan. They warned his policies would lead the Nation to starvation and the world to conflagration. Instead, we enjoyed a period of American prosperity and world influence that was best described with the words "morning again in America." He reduced the tax and regulatory burdens that were crushing America's economy. He reduced government spending as a percentage of GDP. He restored America's military strength and reasserted American interests around the world. He stopped apologizing for America's greatness and started celebrating it.

It was recalled earlier that in his farewell address Reagan attributed his success not to being a great communicator, but to the fact he was communicating great ideas, the self-evident truths of the American founding. He did one other thing. He restored those self-evident truths as the foundation of our domestic and foreign policy, and as a result our Nation prospered and the world enjoyed a rebirth of freedom.

Unfortunately, Reagan's successors gradually abandoned his policies and Americans gradually let loose of those self-evident truths that inspired and animated those policies. But now as our Nation endures prolonged economic distress at home and increasing strife abroad, Americans are beginning to realize that our Nation hasn't been struck down by some mysterious act of God. What has happened to our country is because of specific acts of government, and, as Reagan knew, acts of government are fully within our power to change.

Reagan charted the road back. Our Nation followed him down that road and we discovered that, yes, it does indeed lead to a shining city on a hill. As we remember Ronald Reagan, all that he was and all that he stood for, let's also remember what he did and where he led us. It isn't too late to return to those policies and get back on that road.

Mr. Speaker, I want my children to know what morning again in America actually feels like. I want them to know the optimism that America's best days are yet ahead, and to know the pride and confidence of American exceptionalism. On this centennial of Ronald Reagan's birth, let's not just remember him; let's follow his example and get our Nation back on the road to freedom. And let those looking back on our generation say that just when it began to appear that our Nation had forgotten Ronald Reagan and squandered its wealth and abandoned its destiny and forsaken its founding principles, that this generation of Americans rediscovered, restored and revived the memory of Ronald Reagan and the promise of the American founding, and that from that moment in time, America began her next great era of expansion, prosperity and influence.

□ 2020

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his very thoughtful contribution and his dedication to the Reagan cause. As we think about where we are today, I said at the library the other night that I was privileged to be part of the Reagan revolution, having been elected with President Reagan in 1980. But thanks to the 87 newly elected Members who have joined us, I said what a privilege it is to be a part of the Reagan revolution, because I think that it does continue.

If we look at just foreign policy, again, the fact is that Ronald Reagan, in a very famous speech that he delivered in the early 1980s at Westminster talked about the need to develop the infrastructure, foster the infrastructure of democracy around the world. And he established the National Endowment for Democracy, which has made great strides in expanding the rule of law, political pluralism, the development of self-determination of democratic institutions around the world. And this is a war of ideas that will continue to this very day. It is a war of ideas that consists of that struggle. It's peace and prosperity through freedom and democracy versus oppression and poverty bred of violence and hatred.

And I believe that we can, in fact, win this war of ideas if we do get back to the core principles of Ronald Reagan. And, as I said, Mr. Speaker, the museum has reopened, and I want to encourage our colleagues to take the opportunity to visit this amazing, amazing facility, which I know will bring back memories for every single American who was alive during the Reagan years, and it clearly will be a model for future generations.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CLEAR AIR ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. TONKO. This evening, Mr. Speaker, we will be joined by a number of colleagues in the House to discuss

the Clean Air Act and its impact on jobs, on public health, and our national security. It is interesting to note that we've had an outstanding 40-year record on behalf of the improvements that have come via the Clean Air Act, and now there are forces amongst us that would like to repeal important pollution control standards that are part of that Clean Air Act and roll backward the very progress that we have enjoyed, the impact that it has made. And they're being joined now, these forces, by big polluters, people who would choose to have us go backward and undo the tremendous standards that have brought about and enhanced quality of life.

Since 1970, the Clean Air Act has saved hundreds of thousands of lives and decreased air pollution by some 60 percent, at the same time having grown our economy by some 200 percent. So it is very important to note that there has been a high order of progress associated with the Clean Air Act, which came, by the way, through bipartisan vision that thought we could improve our situation here in America, and those visionaries were absolutely correct.

We now are at risk of endangering our children's health simply by attacking the health standards that the Clean Air Act promotes. We're also at risk of promoting ideas that will denounce innovation—innovation that has moved forward in breaking our gluttonous dependency on oil, oftentimes imported from unfriendly nations to the United States, and where also we will roll back the progress that has come with creating our own sense of innovation as we have responded to these cleanup measures here in the States. This is an important juncture. After a 40-year record, 40 years of success, we're now faced with the forces of big polluters hooking up with our colleagues in the majority in this House looking to roll back progress and denounce policies that have impacted us favorably.

We're joined this evening by a number of colleagues. We're joined by Representative QUIGLEY from the Fifth District of Illinois, who has thoughts that he wants to share with us. We'll be hearing from a number of colleagues from Virginia and Washington State as the hour continues to roll.

Representative QUIGLEY, thank you for joining us this evening on this very important topic and on this very important effort to hold back any efforts made to undo the law and weaken it and put our health standards at risk.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Well, I want to thank you so much for having me. I want to thank my colleague from New York for his efforts and everyone who's here tonight toward this end. This issue is critical not just to our health, our Nation's health, but also to our country's national security and our economy. Because I rise today to protect the integrity of all things of science because it is science that these facts and figures that have led hundreds of scientists to