Ronald Reagan, An American Original

“The greatest president of the 20th century”

or

“an amiable dunce”?

“We will always remember.
We will always be proud.
We will always be prepared,
so we may always be free.”

- Ronald Reagan 6/6/84

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Courtesy Young America’s Foundation
Ronald Reagan, American


This special issue of BrotherWatch is devoted to the incomparable Ronald Reagan, a man who exemplifies the best of what it means to be an American.

The greatness of his vision, the majesty of his character and the largeness of his heart helped restore national pride, rejuvenate the economy and reinvigorate our culture.

In this issue we will hear from those who know him. We look at an ordinary man who became an extraordinary leader. We pay homage to Ronald Reagan with our seventh “Alamo Award.” And we reprint the best of his words of wisdom.

This one’s for you, Ronald Reagan. This one’s for the Gipper.

Yours in liberty,

Ronald Reagan Remembered

His faith in God was seamlessly welded to his faith in America as a Shining City on a Hill. - Michael Reagan, author of The City on a Hill.
A Time for Choosing
(The Speech, 1964)

I am going to talk of controversial things. I make no apology for this.

It’s time we asked ourselves if we still know the freedoms intended for us by the Founding Fathers. James Madison said, “We base all our experiments on the capacity of mankind for self government.”

This idea? that government was beholden to the people, that it had no other source of power is still the newest, most unique idea in all the long history of man’s relation to man. This is the issue of this election: Whether we believe in our capacity for self-government or whether we abandon the American Revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far-distant capital can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves.

You and I are told we must choose between a left or right, but I suggest there is no such thing as a left or right. There is only an up or down. Up to man’s age-old dream—the maximum of individual freedom consistent with order or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism. Regardless of their sincerity, their humanitarian motives, those who would sacrifice freedom for security have embarked on this downward path. Plutarch warned, “The real destroyer of the liberties of the people is he who spreads among them bounties, donations and benefits.”

The Founding Fathers knew a government can’t control the economy without controlling people. And they knew when a government sets out to do that, it must use force and coercion to achieve its purpose. So we have come to a time for choosing.

Public servants say, always with the best of intentions, “What greater service we could render if only we had a little more money and a little more power.” But the truth is that outside of its legitimate function, government does nothing as well or as economically as the private sector.

Yet any time you and I question the schemes of the do-gooders, we're denounced as being opposed to their humanitarian goals. It seems impossible to legitimately debate their solutions with the assumption that all of us share the desire to help the less fortunate. They tell us we’re always “against,” never “for” anything.

We are for a provision that destitution should not follow unemployment by reason of old age, and to that end we have accepted Social Security as a step toward meeting the problem. However, we are against those entrusted with this program when they practice deception regarding its fiscal shortcomings, when they charge that any criticism of the program means that we want to end payments....

(Continued on page 4)
We are for aiding our allies by sharing our material blessings with nations which share our fundamental beliefs, but we are against doling out money government to government, creating bureaucracy, if not socialism, all over the world.

We need true tax reform that will at least make a start toward I restoring for our children the American Dream that wealth is denied to no one, that each individual has the right to fly as high as his strength and ability will take him.... But we can not have such reform while our tax policy is engineered by people who view the tax as a means of achieving changes in our social structure....

Have we the courage and the will to face up to the immorality and discrimination of the progressive tax, and demand a return to traditional proportionate taxation? ... Today in our country the tax collector's share is 37 cents of -very dollar earned. Freedom has never been so fragile, so close to slipping from our grasp.

Are you willing to spend time studying the issues, making yourself aware, and then conveying that information to family and friends? Will you resist the temptation to get a government handout for your community? Realize that the doctor's fight against socialized medicine is your fight. We can't socialize the doctors without socializing the patients. Recognize that government invasion of public power is eventually an assault upon your own business. If some among you fear taking a stand because you are afraid of reprisals from customers, clients, or even government, recognize that you are just feeding the crocodile hoping he'll eat you last.

If all of this seems like a great deal of trouble, think what’s at stake. We are faced with the most evil enemy mankind has known in his long climb from the swamp to the stars. There can be no security anywhere in the free world if there is no fiscal and economic stability within the United States. Those who ask us to trade our freedom for the soup kitchen of the welfare state are architects of a policy of accommodation.

They say the world has become too complex for simple answers. They are wrong. There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right. Winston Churchill said that “the destiny of man is not measured by material computation. When great forces are on the move in the world, we learn we are spirits-not animals.” And he said, “There is something going on in time and space, and beyond time and space, which, whether we like it or not, spells duty.”

You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or we will sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness. If we fail, at least let our children and our children’s children say of us we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done.

Reagan Remembered

Margaret Thatcher said that “Ronald Reagan won the Cold War without firing a shot.” But he did more than that. His policies helped to revive the American economy and the American spirit after years of indefinable malaise. Also he made the world safe for capitalism and democracy. - Dinesh D'Souza, author of Ronald Reagan: How An Ordinary Man Became an Extraordinary Leader
Alamo Award

*BrotherWatch™* proudly presents this award to

**Ronald Wilson Reagan**

in recognition of an extraordinary leader who conquered Communism, led the Reagan Revolution and won the hearts of fellow Americans, becoming the People’s President.

Daniel Borchers
November 1, 1997

Peter Castle
November 1, 1997

Alamo Award # 7
At the end of his two terms in office, Ronald Reagan viewed with satisfaction the achievements of his innovative program known as the Reagan Revolution, which aimed to reinvigorate the American people and reduce their reliance upon Government. He felt he had fulfilled his campaign pledge of 1980 to restore “the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism.”

On February 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born to Nelle and John Reagan in Tampico, Illinois. He attended high school in nearby Dixon and then worked his way through Eureka College. There, he studied economics and sociology, played on the football team, and acted in school plays. Upon graduation, he became a radio sports announcer. A screen test in 1937 won him a contract in Hollywood. During the next two decades he appeared in 53 films.

He has two children, Maureen and Michael, from his first marriage, to actress Jane Wyman. In 1952 he married Nancy Davis, also an actress; their children are Patricia Ann and Ronald Prescott.

As president of the Screen Actors Guild, Reagan became embroiled in disputes over the issue of Communism in the film industry; his political views shifted from liberal to conservative. He toured the country as a television host, becoming a spokesman for conservatism. In 1966 he was elected Governor of California by a margin of a million votes; he was re-elected in 1970.

Ronald Reagan won the Republican Presidential nomination in 1980 and chose as his running mate former Texas Congressman and United Nations Ambassador George Bush. Voters troubled by inflation and by the year-long confinement of Americans in Iran swept the Republican ticket into office. Reagan won 489 electoral votes to 49 for President Jimmy Carter.

On January 20, 1981, Reagan took office. Only 69 days later he was shot by a would-be assassin, but quickly recovered and returned to duty. His grace and wit during the dangerous incident caused his popularity to soar.

Dealing skillfully with Congress, Reagan obtained legislation to stimulate economic growth, curb inflation, increase employment, and strengthen national defense. He embarked upon a course of cutting taxes and Government expenditures, refusing to deviate from it when the strengthening of defense forces led to a large deficit.


In 1986 Reagan obtained an overhaul of the income tax code, which eliminated many deductions and exempted millions of people with low incomes. At the end of his administration, the Nation was enjoying its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity without recession or depression.

In foreign policy, Reagan sought to achieve “peace through strength.” During his two terms he increased defense spending 35 percent, but sought to improve relations with the Soviet Union. In dramatic meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, he negotiated a treaty that would eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Reagan declared war against international terrorism, sending American bombers against Libya after evidence came out that Libya was involved in an attack on American soldiers in a West Berlin nightclub.

By ordering naval escorts in the Persian Gulf, he maintained the free flow of oil during the Iran-Iraq war. In keeping with the Reagan Doctrine, he gave support to anti-Communist insurgencies in Central America, Asia, and Africa.

Overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of prosperity, and the goal of peace through strength seemed to be within grasp.

Reagan Remembered

Ronald Reagan’s greatest contribution as President was to turn around the perception that victory by the Soviet Union was inevitable. He did so militarily, diplomatically and philosophically. In doing so he emboldened the freedom fighters behind the iron curtain who, in turn, helped the evil empire to crumble. - Paul M. Weyrich, President, Free Congress Foundation
President Ronald Reagan was the greatest President of the twentieth century. President Reagan’s policies caused the greatest peacetime economic expansion of the twentieth century and caused the fall of communism around the globe. But he accomplished more than that; he represents the first step away from the Jacobin revolution born in the enlightenment resulting in existentialism and culminating in the 1960’s which taught that the only person to be concerned about is “me” and “my” self-actualization. We were taught that we are all victims of some sort or another suffering under the oppression of supposed tyranny. Individual rights became the definition of the word liberty replacing “self-government by the members of the community.”

Along with this social propaganda came the campaign to allow self-actualization of all victims through the egalitarian redistribution of wealth. The redistribution process took form in the War on Poverty and skyrocketing tort claims by people who could hardly even qualify as injured.

Against this increasingly overwhelming tide came Ronald Reagan who proclaimed:

In our nation today, government has grown too big, too complex, and possessed of what Cicero called the “arrogance of officialdom.” Remote from the wishes of the people, it forgets that ours is a system of government by the consent of the governed - not the other way around.1

On another occasion he elaborated:

All of these things − learning to control the government, limiting the amount of money it can take from us, protecting our country through a strong defense − all of these things revolve around one word, and that word is “freedom.”2

He stated that “for three decades, we have sought to solve the problems of unemployment through government planning, and the more the plans fail, the more the planners plan.” 3 He reminded us that “government does not produce revenue, it consumes it”4 while keeping in mind that “not everything we did can or should be measured in dollars and cents. ‘Justice is the end of government.’” 5 He said:

We always must ask: Is government working to liberate and empower the individual? Is it creating incentives for people to produce, save, invest, and profit from legitimate risks and honest toil? Is it encouraging all of us to reach for the stars? Or does it seek to compel, command, and coerce people into submission and dependence? 6

Reagan became President and instituted the largest tax cut in history which he followed up with the biggest reduction in federal regulations since federal regulations began. By reducing regulation he returned the power of self-government to the community, the institutions of the community, and the people themselves. By the time he began his second term he could inform us that:

Government is not our master. It is our servant. Its only power: That which we allow it to have. That system has never failed us, but for a time we failed the system. We asked things of government that government was not equipped to give.7

To combat communism, which in the countries it controlled, referred to itself as people’s democracies, Reagan informed us that “the difference between a democracy and a people’s democracy is the difference between a jacket and a straight jacket.” As with excessive government regulation, Reagan won the battle against the “Evil Empire” by standing firm and engaging the Soviets in an arms buildup the Soviets could not win.

Along with President Reagan’s commitment to the principles of proper government, Reagan led this country with wit and vision and humor. He informed us that:

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Reagan Remembered

Ronald Reagan is the most influential man of the 20th century. He stopped the rise of Big Government, he restored our faith in America as the greatest country on earth, and he won the Cold War without firing a shot. - Phyllis Schlafly, President, Eagle Forum
Herbert Hoover was the first President to return his entire salary to the federal government, now we’re all doing it.  

At home our enemy is no longer Red Coats but red ink.  

It’s not that liberals are ignorant, they just know so many things that aren’t so.

As we remember Reagan and his triumphs, his leadership, his humor, and his character let us remember the words that he spoke in remembrance of another great president:

Yes, he is first in our hearts and will be first for all time. But as Abraham Lincoln said, “To add brightness to the sun, or glory to the name of Washington, is impossible. Let none attempt it. Pronounce the name, and leave it shining on.”

Endnotes:

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2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
9 Ibid.
10 Ronald Reagan’s address to the nation on behalf of Barry Goldwater, October 27, 1964.

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Reagan Remembered

Trying to derive a summary of a great man in a couple of paragraphs is difficult if not impossible. Ronald Reagan is this type of man and was that type of president. Reagan touched the heart of Americans at all levels. He did this because he was in touch with the American people. He never forgot why he was elected. His presidency is marked with the same issues and principles that he campaigned for. Not since that time have we had such a strong sense of patriotism, strong moral stance, and love of God that this great country of ours was founded upon. Reagan never wavered on what he knew to be evil. An example of this was his stance on communism. He referred to the former Soviet Union as the evil empire and the Soviets knew that America did not and would never approve of their regime until they left their godless tyranny behind. President Reagan spoke over the heads of the liberal media and straight to the hearts of the American people. He never wavered on his principles, and was overwhelmingly re-elected for a second term as president. That should be a wake-up call for politicians today, that the media and the American people do not want the same things, so stand for what you know is right.

On a more personal and individual level I had the privilege to be a part of the Reagan record. In 1983 a girl was born on Long Island, New York. She was diagnosed with Spina Bifida, an abnormally small head, excess fluid on the brain, and a damaged kidney. The doctors and hospital staff advised the parents that the young infant would never be “normal,” that she would never walk, talk, know her name or who her parents were. The staff persuaded the parents to refuse surgery saying that the case was hopeless. This was reported in The New York Times. The president ordered me to find out about “Baby Jane Doe,” as she was called. We then attempted to obtain the medical records because we felt she was not receiving the best medical treatment that the law guaranteed her. The hospital staff as well as The New York Times denied us access to these records. We were blocked by liberal court orders and were not sure what would happen. Four years later, an article ran about this girl in Newsday. She was then a happy, healthy, walking, and talking child. I read this article to President Reagan at a staff luncheon. After the media uproar about the case and the complaints that Ronald Reagan was abusing his presidential powers, the girl’s parents removed her from the hospital and took her to another hospital where the necessary surgeries were performed. There were no complications. As I read the news clip to the president and his assembled advisers, a single tear fell down Ronald Reagan’s cheek. This is a man who cares not only about the country but all of us who make it up as well. That is what makes Ronald Reagan a remarkable man. He is truly a great heart. - Gary L. Bauer, President, Family Research Council
Reagan, the People’s President

by Daniel Borchers

Ronald Reagan was one of the most popular of American presidents. He won two landslide elections and his popularity propelled George Bush into the Oval Office. Disparagingly called the Great Communicator and the Teflon President, Reagan won the hearts of the American people, becoming the People’s President, because he genuinely loved people. Ronald Reagan loved the People and the People loved him back.

“We, the People.” This was Reagan’s touchstone, the core of his political philosophy. He viewed the People as rulers over the government, not bureaucrats over the People.

Reagan loved people, put his faith in people. And he considered himself one of the people. While he resolutely stuck to his principles, he humbly considered himself no better than anyone else. Reagan put his principles into practice with compassion.

For Reagan, “We, the People” was the cornerstone of democracy, the natural expression of a national creed claiming the equality of all men. This political and philosophical expression was translated into Reagan’s personal life as well.

While Reagan recognized that no man can be above the law, not even the President — especially not the President — Reagan went beyond this and considered himself above no other man. He considered others equal to, or, in his genuine humility, superior to himself.

Reagan held to his deep convictions of faith in God, country and his fellow man, and he steadfastly held to his guiding principles against all odds and in all circumstances, yet retained his humility and love for all mankind.

Rather than letting his politics and principles separate him from others, his love for others transcended his beliefs. Throughout his triumphs and tragedies, Ronald Reagan remembered that we are all — each of us — placed on this earth for a reason, that we are indeed all created in God’s image, equal in His sight.

Author Dinesh D’Souza writes: “Reagan’s graciousness extended even to his critics and political opponents.” Ronald Reagan even forgave and prayed for his would-be assassin.

Daily, President Reagan would personally read and respond to about 50 letters. “He liked meeting people and hearing about their circumstances ... People considered him their friend. They sent pictures of themselves and their families. In many cases Reagan rewarded the expectations of writers and amazed their families and friends by answering them in his own hand.”

Ronald Reagan secretly helped those in need. He was not a photo-op philanthropist. Reagan always found time for people. He made time.

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D’Souza provides the heartwarming example of an 83-year-old “woman of modest means” who traveled from California to DC to meet Ronald Reagan. When she arrived at the White House her name was not on the guest list.

She was heartbroken. But her story was transmitted to a White House aide, who relayed it to the president’s secretary, who took it to Reagan. He asked them to bring her to see him, but his schedule was crowded that day. His aides were sympathetic, but they didn’t see how they could fit her in. They did the best they could and arranged a tour of the White House for her. It ended at the Oval Office, where she hoped to get a glimpse of the president. A National Security Council meeting was concluding. As the military brass walked out, Frances Green suddenly heard her name called, and it was the president speaking. “Frances! If I had known you were coming, I would have come out there to get you myself.” They sat down in the Oval Office and chatted like old friends. We can be sure Reagan did not consider a minute of that time to be wasted. - Dinesh D’Souza

Michael Reagan tells a similar story of his father who, while on the campaign trail in 1976, privately met a group of five blind children and encouraged them to touch his face (to “see” him). Ronald Reagan’s compassion was real.

He loves people. He never felt superior to anyone, even while he was the Leader of the Free World. And he genuinely enjoys getting to know grassroots folks who are making a difference in the world – one human life at a time. - Michael Reagan

Ronald Reagan was truly a man of the People. He became an extraordinary leader because he understood and loved ordinary people and because he was always willing to translate the commonsense insights of those ordinary people into public action.

Reagan, the Great Communicator, validated the beliefs of the American People years before Rush Limbaugh. While the cultural and political elites continue to disparage Reagan, the People still love him because he remains one of them.

Who is the real Ronald Reagan? A true man of the People.

Even while suffering from Alzheimer’s, Ronald Reagan still goes out in public to meet the people. Reagan “remains as open and friendly as Americans have always sensed he was.” His “personality – his sunniness, his cheer – was not an actor’s mask but a window into his heart.” Ronald Reagan “is revered because he combined personal kindness with an adherence to principle in a way that moved the world.”

Endnotes:

2 Ibid.
3 D’Souza, pp 216-217.
4 D’Souza, p 217.
6 Reagan, p 141.

Reagan Remembered

He was a man fully comfortable with himself and thus able to deal with issues honestly, openly and on their own terms. He actually enjoyed listening to others, and was not in love with the sound of himself. He drew strength from a marriage in which respect and affection abounded. He never minded giving credit to others. This alone made Ronald Reagan a rarity in a town and profession filled with people needing power and adulation to fill the empty spaces within themselves. For this reason alone, Americans trusted and loved him. I loved and trusted him, and working for him will forever be one of the joys and privileges of my life. - Michael Horowitz, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

Reagan Remembered

He’s certainly the greatest president of my lifetime. He will turn out to be for future generations what FDR was for past generations: a symbol of the greatness and goodness of America. - Anita Blair, Executive Vice President, Independent Women’s Forum.
Reagan Wit and Wisdom

No listing of Reagan witticisms and wisdom could be exhaustive. Here we offer a taste of the substance of Ronald Reagan as revealed in his words.

Abortion

If you don’t know whether a body is alive or dead, you would never bury it. Until someone can prove the unborn child is not a life, shouldn’t we give it the benefit of the doubt and assume that it is? (DD, 212-213)

America

I’ve always believed that this land was placed here between the two great oceans by some divine plan – that it was placed here to be found by a special kind of people – people who had a special love for freedom. …We came from a hundred different corners of the earth. We spoke a multitude of tongues. We landed on this eastern shore and then went out over the mountains and the prairies and the deserts and the far western mountains to the Pacific, building cities and towns and farms, and schools and churches. If wind, water, or fire destroyed them, we built them again. And in so doing, at the same time, we built a new breed of human called an American – a proud, an independent, and a most compassionate individual. …

For two hundred years, we’ve lived in the future, believing that tomorrow would be better than today, and today would be better than yesterday. I still believe that. I’m not running for the presidency because I believe that I can solve the problems we’ve discussed tonight. I believe the people of this country can; and, together, we can build the world over again. We can meet our destiny – a destiny to build a land here that will be, for all mankind, a Shining City on a Hill. [9/21/80] (MR, 157-158)

Answers

They say the world has become too complex for simple answers. They are wrong. There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right. [10/27/64] (DD, 59; MR, 255)

Assassination Attempt

Please tell me you’re Republicans. [To doctors] (DD, 206)

Reagan Remembered

President Reagan is one of my heroes. Because of his courage, his character, and his confidence in the common sense of the American people, hundreds of millions of men and women live today in freedom. When the menace of international communism sought to define the 20th Century as one of tyranny and collectivism, Ronald Reagan looked the masters of the Kremlin in the eye and demanded, “Tear down this wall.”

In August, I had the opportunity to travel to what was once East Germany. Thanks to Ronald Reagan and the American values that he championed so courageously, the people of the former East Germany, and hundreds of millions of others around the globe, know the warm embrace of freedom.

Ronald Reagan realized the strength of the American character; he refused to accommodate us at our lowest and least, and instead, he called us to our highest and best. - Sen. John Ashcroft (R-MO)
Honey, I forgot to Duck. [To Nancy Reagan] (DD, 206)

Michael, if you’re ever shot, make sure you’re not wearing a new suit. [To Michael Reagan] (MR, 120)

Does Nancy know about us? [To solicitous nurse] (DD, 206)

All in all, I’d rather be in Philadelphia. (DD, 206)

I didn’t feel I could ask God’s help to heal Jim, the others, and myself, and at the same time feel hatred for the man who had shot us, so I silently asked God to help him deal with whatever demons had led him to shot us. (RR, 261)

That day, I asked the Lord to heal him [his would-be assassin], and to this day, I still do. (RR, 263)

Whatever happens now I owe my life to God and will try to serve him in every way I can. (RR, 263)

Deficit

I don’t think we’ll solve the problem of the deficit until three things happen: We need more discipline on spending in Congress. We need a constitutional amendment requiring Congress to balance the budget. And we need to give our presidents a line-item veto. (RR, 337)

Democracy

Trust the people. (DD, 229)

I never as a citizen want to see our country … compromise with any of our democratic principles. (DD, 48)

Whether we come from poverty or wealth; whether we are Afro-American or Irish-American; Christian or Jewish, from big cities or small towns, we are all equal in the eyes of God. But as Americans that is not enough we must be equal in the eyes of each other. We can no longer judge each other on the basis of what we are, but must, instead, start finding out who we are. In America, our origins matter less than our destinations and that is what democracy is all about. [1992]

Democratic Party

[The modern Democratic Party has] parted company with its founders … who believed that “governments are not the masters of the people, but the servants of the people governed.” The new school of Democrats thought of government in exactly the opposite way. In 1984, it had become a conglomeration of blocs and special-interest groups, each with narrow special agendas directed at grabbing more of the national wealth for their own interests. Thomas Jefferson’s party had become the party of big promises, big government, and big taxes – the bigger the better. (RR, 325)

Republicians believe every day is the 4th of July, but Democrats believe every day is April 15. (MR, 174)

Drugs

In this crusade, let us not forget who we are. Drug abuse is a repudiation of everything America is. The destructiveness and human wreckage mock our heritage ...  

As we mobilize for this national crusade, I’m mindful that drugs are a constant temptation for millions. Please remember that when your courage is tested: You are Americans. You’re the product of the freest society mankind has ever known. No one, ever, has the right to destroy your dreams and shatter your life. [9/14/86] (MR, 93)
(Continued from page 12)

**Education**

What do we want for ourselves and our children? Is it enough to have material things? Aren’t liberty and morality and integrity and high principles and a sense of responsibility more important? [9/28/67] (MR, 36)

In America we created at the local level and administered at the local level for many years the greatest public school system in the world. Now through something called federal aid to education, we have something called federal interference, and education has been the loser. Quality has declined as federal intervention has increased. ... Control of education should be returned to local districts. [3/31/76] (MR, 54)

Today political correctness has replaced pro-Marxist ideas as the conventional wisdom on too many campuses. The sharpest weapons in this new struggle are a razor-sharp wit and well-honed disdain for intellectual intolerance. (YAF)

**First Amendment**

Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged. When our Founding Fathers passed the First Amendment, they sought to protect churches from government interference. They never intended to construct a wall of hostility between government and the concept of religious belief itself. The evidence of this permeates our history and our government. The Declaration of Independence mentions the Supreme Being no less than four times. “In God We Trust” is engraved on our coinage. The Supreme Court opens its proceedings with a religious invocation. And the members of Congress open their sessions with a prayer. I just happen to believe the schoolchildren of the United States are entitled to the same privileges as Supreme Court justices and congressmen. [3/8/83] (MR, 128)

**Foreign Policy Principles**

1. The United States should not commit its forces to military action overseas unless the cause is vital to our national interest.
2. If the decision is made to commit our forces to combat abroad, it must be done with the clear intent and support needed to win. It should not be a halfway or tentative commitment, and there must be clearly defined and realistic objectives.
3. Before we commit our troops to combat, there must be reasonable assurance that the cause we are fighting for and the actions we take will have the support of the American people and Congress.

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### Reagan Remembered

I was never old enough to vote for Ronald Reagan but I am a Republican because of him. In the summer of 1984 I was a 17-year old high school senior who found herself curiously moved by a man literally four times her age, from a different coast and of a different gender. The enthusiasm and angst President Reagan expressed at the Republican National Convention were mine as well; I recognized him as a fellow traveler on the road to an uncertain future. He faced the Evil Empire and the unrealized promise of the greatest nation on earth, while I confronted the uncertainty of leaving home for college.

For me the Reagan legacy is a collection of tiny lessons which I keep as guideposts. From Mr. Reagan I learned that vision is the ability to see something where no one else can; that being right sometimes means being unpopular; to take my work, but not myself, too seriously; to endure criticism but not engage it; to speak of the difference between Left and Right but to live the difference between right and wrong.

The single most sustaining lesson I cull from Ronald Reagan is one he never stated but always demonstrated: that winners are people who are willing to lose.

For the eight years of his presidency Mr. Reagan kept a plaque on his desk. It read, “There is no limit to what any man can do if he doesn’t care who gets the credit for it.” This is a powerful reminder of Mr. Reagan’s grace and humility at a time when politics seems more about division of spoils rather than division of labor.

On the occasion of his 85th Birthday let us all raise a glass to the man who restored honor to the office of the presidency and pride to the soul of America. God Bless You, President Reagan. - Kellyanne Fitzpatrick, President, The Polling Company
We all felt that the Vietnam War had turned into such a tragedy because military action had been undertaken without sufficient assurances that the American people were behind it.

4. Even after all these other tests are met, our troops should be committed to combat abroad only as a last resort, when no other choice is available. (RR, 466)

Freedom

We Americans make no secret of our belief in freedom. In fact, it’s something of a national pastime. ... Freedom is the right to question and change the established way of doing things. It is the continuing revolution of free marketplace. It is the understanding that allows us to recognize shortcomings and seek solutions. It is the right to put forth an idea, scoffed at by the experts, and watch it catch fire among the people. It is the right to dream – to follow your dream or stick to your conscience, even if you’re the only one in a sea of doubters. (RR, 714)

Freedom is the recognition that no single person, no single authority or government has a monopoly on the truth, but that every individual life is infinitely precious, that every one of us put on this world has been put there for a reason and has something to offer ... (RR, 714)

Free Trade

America’s open market is its strength, not its weakness. (DD, 122)

The principles underlying my support of free and fair trade are pretty simple: The operation of the free market is based on the concept that people make a product or produce a service which they hope other people will want to buy. Then, in millions of separate decision, consumers choose which products and services they want to buy, when they are going to buy them, and how much they are willing to pay for them. Free competition and the law of supply and demand determine the prices and the winners and losers in the competition. If customers stop buying an enterprise's product because it doesn't match the standards of another product, it's up to that enterprise to improve the product or it will lose its ability to compete. ...

For free markets to work, everyone has to compete on an equal footing. (RR, 359)

Foreign Policy

Peace through strength. (DD, 136)

Trust, but verify. (RR, 715)

We bought it, we paid for it, it’s ours and we’re going to keep it. [Panama Canal] (DD, 78)

Our own sovereignty isn’t for sale. [1/20/81] (MR, 243)

In Debate

Student: “You grew up in a different world. Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, nuclear energy, computers.”

Reagan: “You’re right. It’s true that we didn’t have those things when we were young. We invented them.” (DD, 71)

There you go again! [To Jimmy Carter] (RR, 221)

I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent’s youth and inexperience. [To reporter] (RR, 329)

Iran Contra

We did not, repeat, did not trade weapons or anything else for hostages, nor will we. (RR, 528)

Whatever the truth of the matter, the Iranian initiative was made to look like an arms-for-hostage deal. We learned that the secrecy of our covert operation had first been revealed by an enemy of Rafsanjani’s who wanted to embarrass him politically and leaked the story to that paper in Beirut. Except that he told it wrong. He said we were...
(Continued from page 14)

Doing business with the government of Iran – in other words, the ayatollah himself – and that we were trading arms for hostages. Then our press took it up and printed the same false story – to this day, they still are – that we were doing business with the ayatollah, trading arms for hostages. We weren’t. We had never had any contacts with the kidnappers, had seen to it that the defensive weapons that went to Iran never got into the hands of the people who held our hostages. But the press took the word of the Beirut paper over ours. (RR, 529)

After the initial reaction of surprise, shock, and disbelief to what Ed Meese had Found [regarding Oliver North], I told the cabinet and the White House staff that we were going to do everything we could to get to the bottom of the matter, immediately make public the discovery, and hide nothing. The worst thing we could do was try to cover it up. Early the next morning, I met with the leadership of the Congress – both houses, both parties, in one meeting – to tell them what Ed had found. Then I announced it to the press. Ed took their questions for an hour and we leveled with them, the whole truth. John Poindexter submitted his resignation as national security advisor and Oliver North was relieved of his duties on the NSC staff. Then I went on television to inform the American people what we had discovered. I asked ex-Senator John Tower, former Secretary of State (and former Senator) Edmund Muskie, and former House National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft to make a full and independent investigation to determine exactly what had happened. I also asked for the appointment of an independent prosecutor to look into the matter and determine if any laws had been violated. (RR, 530-531)

I wanted answers, too. I told congressional leaders, who formed two committees to investigate the affair, that I was willing to go along with any effort they felt was necessary to get to the bottom of the problem. I asked them to schedule the hearings as soon as possible, and offered to waive the White House's executive privilege so that Poindexter and North could testify openly and we could all learn the truth. In response to my request, an independent counsel was named to investigate possible criminal violations in the Iran-Contra affair and then added: “What should happen when you make a mistake is this: You take your knocks, you learn your lessons, and then you move on.” (RR, 540)

Reaganomics

Government’s view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it. [8/15/86] (MR, 161)

Excessive tax rates were at the heart of the problem. Back in the fourteenth century, a Muslim philosopher named Ibn Khaldoon wrote something about taxes in ancient Egypt: “At the beginning of the dynasty taxation yields a large revenue from small assessments. At the end of the dynasty, taxation yields a small revenue from large assessments.” In other words, when tax rates were low, the revenue was great; when rates were high, the revenue was low.

During the 1980 campaign, a new term, supply-side economics, came into vogue. People said I embraced this theory, and several economists claimed credit for inventing its principles, which they said I had then adopted as the basis for my economic recovery program.

[Reagan explains his personal experiences with tax codes gave him this understanding.]

Any system that penalizes success and accomplishment is wrong. Any system that discourages works, discourages productivity, discourages economic progress, is wrong. ... A few economists call this principle supply-side economics. I just call it common sense. (RR, 231)

(Continued on page 16)
I believed the economic recovery program would work because I had faith – faith in those tax cuts and faith in the American people. I felt we were going to solve our problems because we had a secret weapon in the battle: our factory workers, our farmers, our entrepreneurs, and the others among us who I believed would prove once again that the American people were gifted with and propelled by a spirit unique in the world, a spirit tenaciously devoted to solving our problems and bettering our lives, the lives of our children, and our country – and if these forces could be liberated from the restraints imposed on them by government, they’d pull the country out of its tailspin. (RR, 311)

Most of those millions of new jobs produced during the economic expansion were created by entrepreneurs – independent businesspeople pursuing one of the oldest of American dreams. (RR, 348)

As I’ve often said, governments don’t produce economic growth, people do. What the government can do is encourage Americans to tap their well of ingenuity and unleash their entrepreneurial spirit, then get out of the way. (RR, 349)

The explorers of the modern era are the entrepreneurs, men with vision, with the courage to take risks and faith enough to brave the unknown. These entrepreneurs and their small enterprises are responsible for almost all the economic growth in the United States. They are the prime movers of the technological revolution. (RR, 713-714)

### Reasons for Opposing Jimmy Carter's Candidacy

Jimmy Carter had run for the presidency on a platform calling for cuts in defense spending and implementation of what the Democrats called “national economic planning.” That meant one thing to me: The Democrats wanted to borrow some of the principles of the Soviets’ failed five-year plans, with Washington setting national production goals, deciding where people worked, what they would do, where they would live, what they would produce.

The Democratic platform also called for “fairer distribution of wealth, income, and power” – code words that to me meant a confiscation of the earnings of people in our country who worked and produced, and their redistribution to people who didn’t.

I’m sure they meant well – liberals usually do – but our economy was one of the great wonders of the world. It didn’t need master planners. It worked because it operated on principles of freedom, millions of people going about their daily business and making free decisions how they wanted to work and live, how they wanted to spend their money, while reaping the rewards for their individual labor.

Our country didn’t need social engineers or economic master planners. Our economic system is based on the law of supply and demand and the right of individuals to choose their line of work, their manner of living, where they live and how they live – all so long as they do not impose on the right of others to enjoy the same freedoms.

I also thought the administration was a disaster in the arena of national security. While it was cutting back on our military power, we were losing ground to Communism in much of the globe; the morale of our volunteer army was plummeting; our strategic forces were growing obsolete; and nothing was being done to reduce the threat of a nuclear Armageddon that could destroy much of the world in less than a half hour’s time. ...

But perhaps worst of all, it seemed to me that America was losing faith in itself. Almost every day, the president was sending a message to the American people that America had passed its prime, that Americans were going to have to get used to less in the future, that we should not have the same hopes for the future that we once did, and that we had only ourselves to blame. (RR, 205-206)

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**Reagan Remembered**

Ronald Reagan had the power to inspire ex-liberals like me to become conservatives. His leadership was largely responsible for defeating Communism – and for permanently discrediting its close cousin, modern liberalism. He had his shortcomings, but I wouldn’t hesitate to call him one of the greatest presidents America has ever had. He belongs on Mt. Rushmore. - **Jeffrey Rubin**, Editor, Conservative Book Club

(Continued from page 15)
But to me none was more serious than the fact America had lost faith in itself. ... We had to recapture our dreams, our pride in ourselves and our country, and regain that unique sense of destiny and optimism that had always made America different from any other country in the world. (RR, 219)

Religion

This is the real task before us: to reassert our commitment as a nation to a law higher than our own, to renew our spiritual strength. Only by building a wall of such spiritual resolve can we, as a free people, hope to protect our heritage and make it someday the birthright of all men. [3/20/81] (MR, 118)

Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid. [3/20/81] (MR, 195)

I’ve always believed that we were, each of us, put here for a reason, that there is a plan, a divine plan, for all of us. [2/4/82] (DD, 39)

God gave angels wings. He gave mankind dreams. And with His help, there’s no limit to what can be accomplished. [2/7/83] (MR, 214)

The real crisis we face today is a spiritual one. At root, it is a test of moral will and faith. [3/8/83] (MR, 114)

Without God, there is no virtue, because there’s no prompting of the conscience. Without God, we’re mired in the material, that flat world that tells us only what the senses perceive. Without God, there is a coarsening of society. And without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we’re one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under. [8/23/84] (MR, 113)

When we grow weary of the world and its troubles, when our faith in humanity falters, it is then that we must seek comfort and refreshment of spirit in a deeper source of wisdom, one greater than ourselves. [9/26/88] (MR, 122)

My optimism comes not just from my strong faith in God but from my strong and enduring faith in man. [11/4/91] (DD, 37)

Soviet Union

The overriding reality of our time is the expansion of Soviet power in the world. (DD, 78)

If the Soviet Union can aid and abet subversion in our hemisphere, then the United States has a legal right and a moral duty to help resist it. [5/9/84] (DD, 161)

I learned the Soviet economy was in even worse shape than I’d realized. I had always believed that, as an economic system, Communism was doomed. Not only was it lacking in the free market incentives that motivated people to work hard and excel – the economic propulsion that had brought such prosperity to America – but history was full of examples showing that any totalitarian state that deprived its people of liberty and freedom of choice was ultimately doomed. The Bolshevik revolution had simply replaced an inherited aristocracy with a self-appointed one, the Soviet leadership, and it, like its predecessor, could not survive against the inherent drive of all men and women to be free. (RR, 237)

[Our dealing with the Soviet Union is] based on three guiding principles – realism, strength, and dialogue. Realism means we must start with a clear-eyed understanding of the world we live in ... Strength is essential to negotiate successfully and protect our interests. If we're weak, we can do neither. (RR, 591)

Reagan Remembered

Ronald Reagan stands head and shoulders above any President who has served in my lifetime. He is a man of high integrity and moral excellence who elevated the position of the office of the President. It was my joy to work with him through Concerned Women for America during his entire eight years of service. He was willing to listen to our insights as much as we wanted to hear his. America was blessed to have a President such as Ronald Reagan. - Beverly LaHaye, President, Concerned Women for America
The years ahead will be great ones for our country, for the cause of freedom and the spread of civilization. The West will not contain Communism; it will transcend Communism. We will not bother to denounce it. We’ll dismiss it as a sad, bizarre chapter in human history whose last pages are even not being written. (MR, 197, May, 1981)

While we must be cautious about forcing the pace of change, we must not hesitate to declare our ultimate objectives and to take concrete actions to move toward them…. What I am describing now is a plan and a hope for the long term – the march of freedom and democracy which will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash heap of history. [6/8/82] (MR, 198)

Terrorism

Long before I ever entered the Oval Office, I had adopted a very simple philosophy regarding the question of what we as a nation should do if an American was held captive abroad against his or her will. I believed that whenever one of our citizens, even the least among us, through no fault of his or her own, was denied the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, it was up to the rest of us to do everything we could to restore those rights, wherever it took us, anywhere in the world that person was. It was a policy I followed for eight years as president. (RR, 237)

Washington, D.C.

an island, surround on all sides by reality. (DD, 219)

Welfare State

We declared war on poverty and poverty won. (DD, 68)

The best social program is a job. (DD, 68)

The size of the federal budget is not an appropriate barometer of social conscience or charitable concern. [10/5/81] (MR, 135)

Sources:

YAF = Ronald Reagan video tribute to Young America’s Foundation
Reagan, a Man of Character
by Jonathan Malloy

Dinesh D’Souza tops his previous two books with this refreshing and revealing portrait of the remarkable Ronald Reagan. Capturing the essence of Reagan’s background and character development, what emerges is the portrait of an ordinary American, adhering to timeless principles, being transformed into an extraordinary leader.

Why was Ronald Reagan remarkable? He was a visionary with 19th century ideals and principles which propelled America into the 21st century. His character, courage and good humor withstood the onslaught of defenders of the status quo and secular statists.

Reagan, defender of Middle America against the onslaught of counterculturalists, intellectuals and elites, restored the people’s faith in America as he had faith in the people.

Throughout his book, D’Souza highlights the divergence between intellectuals/elites and “ordinary” Americans. Reagan, a man of principles and character, is contrasted with today’s politicians, men of compromise.

Without question, Reagan had a vision and the character, strength of will and clarity of thought to achieve it. Reagan became an extraordinary leader through his ability to crystallize the dreams of ordinary men and women into a coherent vision and translate that vision into reality.

“He was the Great Communicator,” writes D’Souza, “because he forcefully articulated the principles of liberty and equality that are at the core of what it means to be an American.” (31) “Reagan was a populist whose conservatism was based on widely shared American values and was not afraid to place its trust in the good sense of the American people.” (74)

He had a deep and abiding faith in the human spirit to transcend difficulties and achieve dreams, while recognizing the tendency of humanity to commit evil acts. Reagan aspired to ideals and inspired his fellow man to follow. Ronald Reagan possessed “moral imagination,” a clear view of right and wrong, of good and evil. (28) He stood firm on matters of principle – “resolute in principle” – yet practical in application of those principles. (30)

Ronald Reagan had a clear grasp of how the world works, of human nature. His keen insight enabled him to cut through the minutiae of problems to the essential elements involved and develop simple (not simplistic) strategies for success. Reagan was able to distinguish between the important and the peripheral. (29) Reagan held the “conviction that the most important truths are moral, not intellectual.” (41) “His core convictions remained solid despite the turbulent currents of criticism.” (36)

D’Souza provides the background, the context, of Reagan’s two administrations, offering an accurate recital of arguments advanced by Reagan’s opponents, coupled with a compelling defense of Reagan’s vision, letting the facts speak for themselves.

Reagan’s presidential platform was built on three pillars: increased defense spending to meet the Soviet threat, a broad-based income tax cut to empower the people, and an affirmation of traditional values. (82) During his first administration Reagan’s top priorities were tax cuts and a defense buildup. (98) Reagan’s campaign promises became reality: 1) reduction in inflation rate, 2) tax cuts, 3) economic recovery, 4) (Continued on page 20)
reduced unemployment, and 5) lower interest rates.
(110-111)

Reaganomics was a strategy which incorporated tax cuts, limits to government growth, deregulation, privatization and devolution of power to achieve the largest economic expansion in American peacetime history. (26) The Decade of Greed was really a Decade of Success. The shrinking middle-class “moved up rather than down.” (113) With his across-the-board tax cuts the rich and middle class earned more and paid “more in taxes but they also gave more in charity.” (116)

“Reagan understood Soviet communism with the same moral clarity that Lincoln had in understanding slavery. Both men were fundamentally motivated not by political calculation but by a basic sense of right and wrong.” (DD, 29) Reagan not only recognized the evil of communism, but he saw its incompetence. He saw the notion of the State creating a “new man” as not just immoral but stupid, something impossible to achieve. (139)

Between 1974 and 1979 the Soviet Union “brought ten countries into the communist orbit.” (142) In the Reagan Era, dictatorships collapsed in three countries “and nine more countries moved toward democracy.” (27)

Ronald Reagan exhibited leadership by 1) having a vision, 2) taking action to bring that vision to life, and 3) getting the consent of the people by clearly articulating his vision. (228)

“Reagan was a revolutionary who intended to change the existing order; a self-confident leader who trusted his beliefs and instincts and could not be seduced by the temptations of power or prestige; a lone warrior who was willing to withstand the disapproval of the intellectuals, the media, and even his own aides; and a shrewd gambler who was ready to take risks to achieve his objective.” (83-84)

(Continued from page 19)

Reagan, a Man of Vision
by Jonathan Malloy

The City on a Hill by Michael Reagan outlines Ronald Reagan’s vision for transforming America into that Shining City on a Hill. Michael presents his father’s blueprint for constructing this city, citing his father’s formula and quoting from his speeches, all interwoven with anecdotal and analytical evidence, seasoned with personal family recollections.

While interweaving the dynamics of the blueprint with anecdotal observations, the most touching aspects of his book are the personal stories.

Michael Reagan is at once able to evoke anger at how the Left has distorted the Vision of the Founders and trampled over the freedoms of Americans, and to inspire individuals, families and communities to take back the night and recapture the American Dream, the vision of America as a Shining City on a Hill.

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(Continued from page 20)

Much of the “blueprint” is drawn from Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA) who based his program on Ronald Reagan’s ideas. Reagan’s blueprint is commonsensical, easily understood. Simple (not simplistic), the blueprint can readily be grasped by anyone.

Middle America could be considered the core constituency of the City. Michael Reagan deliberately uses a city – and 19th century imagery – as the model for this paradigm, a town (village) in contrast to the global “village” of Big Government enthusiasts.

Reagan defines the four pillars of the City as

1. The Neighborhood (family, community)  
2. The Corner of Faith and Charity (religion and civic sector)  
3. Main Street (business district)  
4. The City Square (government)

Unlike the Left (whose vision both begins and ends with government), Michael Reagan begins with the foundation of family and local community, expands to faith-based and volunteers organizations, through to the business community, and finally concludes with limited government.

Family Restoration

Family restoration is the cornerstone of Reagan’s shining city, best expressed by this section’s subheadings:

- beware of misleading child advocacy rhetoric  
- open your heart and home to kids who need adoption or a foster home  
- uphold the sanctity and the definition of marriage and family  
- demand that government revise the tax code to male families affordable  
- defend genuine compassion and healthy families – not more government spending  
- demand reform of divorce laws  
- renew our commitment to your marriage and your family

Education Reform

Similarly, Reagan’s prescription for education reform includes:

- work for local control of public schools  
- demand school choice  
- demand litigation reform  
- get involved with your local school  
- keep communication open between you and the teacher  
- stay involved with your kids  
- keep your marriage strong  
- teach your child virtues, values, and character

Tax Reform

- enact the flat tax  
- eliminate the capital gains tax  
- eliminate estate taxes  
- adopt dynamic rather than static scoring  
- block future tax hikes  
- demand across-the-board, not “targeted,” tax cuts  
- defend small business and reduce federal regulations  
- cut spending

Michael Reagan also superbly contrasts Ronald Reagan’s policies with both of his successors, George Bush and Bill Clinton. Bush rejected the Reagan legacy and Clinton, while claiming Reaganesque values, pursues the opposite. Like D’Souza, Michael Reagan is critical of Republicans and conservatives who fear to champion the Reagan legacy.

The City on a Hill is a worthwhile read for those desiring insights into Ronald Reagan and, more importantly, those who want to realize his vision.

Reagan Remembered

Ronald Reagan will always be very much a man who represents the American hero to me. He’s a man who loved not by politics but he loved by principle. He’s a man who wasn’t afraid to do what was right even when it wasn’t popular. And he was a man who without hesitation let us know that it was principle, principle, principle over politics. - Janet Parshall, host of Janet Parshall’s America
The most important political lesson Reagan learned from his Hollywood years was the difference between the endorsement of the critics and success at the box office. ... In his subsequent political career, Reagan never forgot the difference between appealing to the pundits and winning the votes of the general public. ... Reagan’s Hollywood was a distillation of traditional values and mainstream aspirations. So as an actor and later as a politician, Reagan learned how to transcend regional and provincial identity and appeal to a mass audience. - Dinesh D’Souza, Ronald Reagan: How an Ordinary Man Became an Extraordinary Leader, p 44.
Ronald Reagan is a patriarch of our modern era. His two inaugural addresses and other speeches provide the key to understanding his vision for America, a vision rooted in the ideals of the American Revolution and forming the branches of the Reagan Revolution.

**New Beginnings**

Reagan often spoke of New Beginnings, a national renewal of the Founding Fathers’ vision.

Unlike Bill Clinton’s New Covenant, which borrows biblical language to promote a socialist scheme – one that is the antithesis of the Founders – Reagan’s New Beginning was a reaffirmation of the Framers’ vision, a reaffirmation of the Original Covenant.

Ronald Reagan translated the American Dream of the past into a shining vision of hope for the future. He was the perfect synthesis of Dreamer and Visionary. Let’s examine his dreams and visions through his words.

All must share in the productive work of this “new beginning” and all must share in the bounty of a revived economy. With the idealism and fair play which are the core of our system and our strength, we can have a strong and prosperous America at peace with itself and the world. (R1)

Four years ago, I spoke to you of a new beginning and we have accomplished that. But in another sense, our new beginning is a continuation of that beginning created two centuries ago when, for the first time in history, government, the people said, was not our master, it is our servant; its only power that which we the people allow it to have. (R2)

We are creating a nation once again vibrant, robust, and alive. But there are many mountains yet to climb. We will not rest until every American enjoys the fullness of freedom, dignity, and opportunity as our birthright. It is our birthright as citizens of this great Republic, and we’ll meet this challenge. My fellow citizens, our Nation is poised for greatness. We must do what we know is right and do it with all our might. Let history say of us, “These were golden years – when the American Revolution was reborn, when freedom gained new life, when America reached for her best.” (R2)

The time has come for a new American emancipation – a great national drive to tear down economic barriers and liberate the spirit of enterprise in the most distressed areas of our country. … From new freedom will spring new opportunities for growth, a more productive, fulfilled and united people, and a stronger America

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Ronald Reagan exuded the leadership and confidence that is necessary to be an effective leader. He emerged at a time when not only America, but the world as well, was in need of such leadership. - **John W. Whitehead**, President, The Rutherford Institute
an America that will lead the technological revolution, and also open its mind and heart and soul to the treasures of literature, music, and poetry, and the values of faith, courage, and love. (R2)

We, the People

The People are the cornerstone of democracy in Reagan’s vision. They – not government – are the real heroes.

We hear much of special interest groups. Our concern must be for a special interest group that has been too long neglected. It knows no sectional boundaries or ethnic and racial divisions, and it crosses political party lines. It is made up of men and women who raise our food, patrol our streets, man our mines and our factories, teach our children, keep our homes, and heal us when we are sick--professionals, industrialists, shopkeepers, clerks, cabbies, and truckdrivers. They are, in short, “We the people,” this breed called Americans. (R1)

So, as we begin, let us take inventory. We are a nation that has a government – not the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the Earth. Our Government has no power except that granted it by the people. It is time to check and reverse the growth of government which shows signs of having grown beyond the consent of the governed. (R1)

It is American citizens free to pursue the American Dream who are the real heroes, who form these United States.

Reagan Remembered

Ronald Reagan - the “Great Communicator?” Or simply a man who, as President, said what he meant and meant what he said. His quiet confidence – the confidence of a national leader who commanded the respect of the World. Ronald Reagan – a man with a positive vision and plan. A visionary, and yet, with strong traditional American virtues such as his belief in personal responsibility and Freedom for all, with belief in God planted firmly in his soul. - David Cheney, Editor, Conservative America

We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don’t know where to look. You can see heroes every day going in and out of factory gates. Others, a handful in number, produce enough food to feed all of us and then the world beyond. You meet heroes across a counter – and they are on both sides of that counter. There are entrepreneurs with faith in themselves and faith in an idea who create new jobs, new wealth and opportunity. They are individuals and families whose taxes support the Government and whose voluntary gifts support church, charity, culture, art, and education. Their patriotism is quiet but deep. Their values sustain our national life.

I have used the words “they” and “their” in speaking of these heroes. I could say “you” and “your” because I am addressing the heroes of whom I speak – you, the citizens of this blessed land. Your dreams, your hopes, your goals are going to be the dreams, the hopes, and the goals of this administration, so help me God. (R1)

American Values

Reagan often spoke of American values, ideals, and principles. These formed the core of what it means to be an American. Be alert to the overarching themes contained within these inspirational words.

At the heart of our efforts is one idea vindicated by 25 straight months of economic growth: Freedom and incentives unleash the drive and entrepreneurial genius that are the core of human progress. (R2)

You and I are told we must choose between a left or right, but I suggest there is no such thing as a left or right. There is only an up or down. Up to man’s age-old dream – the maximum of individual freedom consistent with order or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism. Regardless of their sincerity, their humanitarian motives, those who would sacrifice freedom for security have embarked on this downward path. (R3)

[The U.S.-Soviet Union struggle is] a test of wills and ideas, a trial of spiritual resolve, the values we hold, the beliefs we cherish, the ideals to which we are dedicated. ... the great civilized ideas: individual liberty, representative government, and the rule of law under God. (R4)
What inspired all the men of the armies that met here? We look at you, and somehow we know the answer. It was faith, and belief; it was loyalty and love. (R5)

The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next. It was the deep knowledge – and pray God we have not lost it – that there is a profound moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so you and those others did not doubt your cause. And you were right not to doubt. (R5)

This land is secure. We are free. These things are worth fighting and dying for. (R6)

There was a time when empires were defined by land mass, subjugated peoples, and military might. But the United States is unique because we are an empire of ideals. For two hundred years we have been set apart by our faith in the ideals of democracy, of free men and free markets, and of the extraordinary possibilities that lie within seemingly ordinary men and women. We believe that no power of government is as formidable a force for good as the creativity and entrepreneurial drive of the American people. … America is the moral force that defeated communism and all those who would put the human soul itself into bondage. (R7)

America was a bright beacon of hope and freedom to oppressed people everywhere. The world looked to us – not just because of our military might – but because of our ideas of liberty and freedom. And, they knew we were willing to defend and promote those ideas in every corner of the earth. (R8)

Faith and Optimism

Reagan saw each new day as a golden opportunity to create that Shining City on a Hill.

By 1980, we knew it was time to renew our faith, to strive with all our strength toward the ultimate in individual freedom consistent with an orderly society. We believed then and now there are no limits to growth and human progress when men and women are free to follow their dreams. (R2)

Let us resolve that we the people will build an American opportunity society in which all of us – white and black, rich and poor, young and old – will go forward together arm in arm. Again, let us remember that though our heritage is one of blood lines from every corner of the Earth, we are all Americans pledged to carry on this last, best hope of man on Earth. (R2)

Now let’s not dismiss our current troubles, but where they see only problems, I see possibilities – as vast and diverse as the American family itself. Even as we meet, the rest of the world is astounded by the pundits and finger pointers who are so down on us as a nation. (R7)

Well I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again – America’s best days are yet to come. Our proudest moments are yet to be. Our most glorious achievements are just ahead. America remains what Emerson called her 150 years ago, “the country of tomorrow.” What a wonderful description and how true. And yet tomorrow might never have happened had we lacked the courage in the 1980's to chart a course of strength and honor. (R7)

A decade after we summoned America to a new beginning, we are beginning still. Every day brings fresh challenges and opportunities to match. With each sunrise we are reminded that millions of our citizens have yet to share in the abundance of American prosperity. Many languish in neighborhoods riddled with drugs and bereft of hope. Still others hesitate to venture out on the streets for fear of criminal violence. Let us pledge ourselves to a new beginning for them. (R7)

And whatever else history may say about me when I’m gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears, to your confidence rather than your doubts. My dream is that you will travel the road ahead with liberty’s lamp guiding your steps and opportunity’s arm steadying your way.

(Continued on page 26)
My fondest hope for each one of you – and especially for the young people here – is that you will love your country, not for her power or wealth, but for her selflessness and her idealism. May each of you have the heart to conceive, the understanding to direct, and the hand to execute works that will make the world a little better for your having been here.

May all of you as Americans never forget your heroic origins, never fail to seek divine guidance, and never lose your natural, God-given optimism.

And finally, my fellow Americans, may every dawn be a great new beginning for America and every evening bring us closer to that shining city upon a hill. (R7)

Conviction

Former British Prime Minister and Reagan’s “political soulmate” Margaret Thatcher paid tribute to Reagan with these words:

You reached beyond partisanship to principles, beyond our own selves to our very souls. You reached for and touched, as Lincoln had said so long before you, the better angels of our nature. Leadership is more than budgets and balance sheets. More than the policy of public measures, it is a matter of moral purpose. And that moral realm is reached by that insight and rhetoric of which only the truly great are capable.

This political instinct of truth, conviction and patriotism began long before you were President. …

When others spoke of the fear of war, you spoke of the need for warriors and peace through strength. When others bewailed the failure of big government to provide for the collective good, you spoke of self-reliance, of personal responsibility, of individual pride and integrity. When others demanded compromise – when other demanded compromise, you, Ronald Reagan, preached conviction. (T1)

Ronald Reagan was a dreamer and a visionary, a man whose faith in God and in a free people helped realize his (and our) vision of a Shining City on a Hill. Mr. President, may God bless you as you have blessed America!

Sources:

R1 = Ronald Reagan, first inaugural address, 1/20/81
R2 = Ronald Reagan, second inaugural address, 1/21/85
R3 = Ronald Reagan, “A Time for Choosing,” 10/27/64
R4 = Ronald Reagan, Evil Empire speech, 6/8/82
R5 = Ronald Reagan, Pointe de Hoc speech, 6/6/84
R6 = Ronald Reagan, Omaha Beach speech, 6/6/84
R7 = Ronald Reagan, National Republican Convention speech, 1992
T1 = Margaret Thatcher, 1994 Gala for Reagan’s 83rd Birthday, 1994

Reagan Remembered

If it were not for Ronald Reagan, we’d all be speaking Russian now and drinking vodka. - Marvin Olasky, Editor, World
Acknowledgments

The editors of BrotherWatch extend their sincere gratitude to each of those who contributed toward this special issue.

We are deeply appreciative of the enthusiasm with which many contributed their quotes and anecdotes, lending their testimony of the greatness of Ronald Reagan’s character, integrity and legacy. Indeed, several contributors responded within minutes and hours to our request for support. Such is the devotion Ronald Reagan has earned.

Here we express particular gratitude toward Mark Hunt, Director of the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential Library, for his enthusiastic support of our project, and to Dr. Morton C. Blackwell, President, Leadership Institute, for background materials he provided.

Michael Reagan and Dinesh D’Souza, authors of their books reviewed in these pages, are to be commended for their peculiar insights into the man who won the Cold War without firing a shot. Be sure to visit the Michael Reagan Information Interchange at http://www.reagan.com.

Kristen Short, Conference Director for Young America’s Foundation, deserves a special thank you for her very kind and generous support. Literally within days of approaching her for assistance she provided three photos and graciously loaned a video of Reagan paying tribute to YAF.

Janet Parshall deserves a special thank you for graciously granting a half-hour interview. Jennifer Grossman carefully crafted her words of tribute and e-mailed them literally within minutes of my request. Timely responses from other individuals came within just hours and days of our requests.

Gary Bauer provided the longest tribute at 521 words while Anita Blair had the shortest, a four-worder fitting for a bumper sticker (she also contributed a second longer quote). Marvin Olasky had the most humorous. Kevin Tang, an attorney for Liberty Counsel, with headquarters in Orlando, Florida, submitted an article for publication.

As Editor of BrotherWatch, I am delighted with each of these contributions while recognizing they are not a tribute to BrotherWatch but rather a reflection of the high esteem and love for Ronald Reagan. Thank you, again, one and all.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you Ronald Wilson Reagan, a true American original and hero.

Reagan Remembered

Ashcroft, e-mail, 9/30/97; Bauer, letter, 9/4/97; Berthoud, e-mail, 9/17/97; Blair, telephone interview, 11/19/97; Cheney, e-mail, 10/9/97; D’Souza, e-mail, 9/24/97; Feulner, e-mail, 8/19/97; Fitzpatrick, e-mail, 12/1/97; Grossman, e-mail, 8/4/97; Horowitz, e-mail, 8/26/97; LaHaye, e-mail, 11/26/97; Messing, e-mail, 9/29/97; Olasky, e-mail, 8/20/97; Parshall, telephone interview, 8/4/97; Reagan, telephone, 12/4/97; Rubin, e-mail, 8/15/97; Schlafly, e-mail, 8/28/97; Tang, letter, 10/15/97; Tyrrell, e-mail, 8/28/97; Weyrich, e-mail, 8/27/97; Whitehead, e-mail, 9/3/97.

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Photo on page 4 used by permission of Michael Reagan. Photos on pages 1, 22 and 23 were courtesy of Young America’s Foundation. Photos on pages 3, 11, 18 and 26 were retrieved from www.townhall.com/townhall/hall_of_fame/.
“General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”