



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN JEB HENSARLING

5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

423 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-3484 • Fax (202) 226-4888 • www.house.gov/hensarling

Remembering the Legacy of Ronald Reagan

by Congressman Jeb Hensarling

June 8, 2004

This week we mourn the loss of one of our Nation's greatest heroes, Ronald Reagan. From the time that he took the oath of office until he left the White House, few American Presidents ever enjoyed the popularity, support and love that Ronald Reagan engendered. He developed a special bond with the American people, and one can see from the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support across our great Nation, that special bond still endures today.

More than any other person, President Reagan is responsible for winning the Cold War. He engaged his Communist adversaries in a battle of ideas and achieved victory by winning the war for the hearts and minds of people.

One 65-year-old Czech who lived under the Soviet regime said, "For us, he was a symbol of the United States' genuine determination to bring communism to an end." A Romanian man simply said, "It is due to him that we are free."

America was fortunate to have Ronald Reagan. At a time when our country needed a hero, Ronald Reagan was able to rekindle the American spirit. He inspired us with his powerful words and unwavering optimism. He had a steadfast belief in the goodness of America and nothing ever blurred his vision of our country as a "shining city on a hill."

President Reagan believed in the American dream. He believed in the power of free men and free markets. He championed less government, lower taxes and lifting regulation. His policies ushered in a new age of entrepreneurship and innovation, and led to one of the greatest economic expansions in our Nation's history.

We believed in President Reagan because he believed in us. He always saw the best in us, and he never stopped believing in the decency and ingenuity of the American people. He believed deeply in the strength of democracy and never lost hope of America realizing its "rendezvous with destiny."

Let us remember his words, the way he wished to be remembered: "Whatever else history may say about me when I am 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."