



OP-ED

Office of Congressman Ed Schrock

Virginia's Second Congressional District

The Principled Leader Who Changed The World By Congressman Ed Schrock (R-VA)

Ronald Wilson Reagan is a man none of us will soon forget. In the annals of American and world history, Ronald Reagan will be recognized and remembered with the great leaders of our past like Winston Churchill, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

As a principled leader, he challenged political leaders in our nation, in both parties, to go beyond the status quo, to think beyond the realms of the possible, to reach new heights in public discourse by doing more than debate the problems ailing the American people, and to actually find a solution.

He actively worked to enact new policies that brought our nation out of the malaise of the 1970's.

He fought communism and tyranny, bringing freedom to more people in the world than has ever been achieved in history.

His principle of, "Peace through strength," not only led our nation to become the preeminent superpower in the world, but it also brought the Soviet empire down to its knees, ending the Cold War once and for all.

When was the last time we have seen a world leader stand boldly on the doorsteps of an enemy and challenge him to "Tear down this wall"? President Reagan knew what had to be done and he did it. Why? Because it was the right thing to do.

I think most Americans will remember Ronald Reagan for the inspiration he gave us all. He helped us to believe in ourselves again. After our failed efforts in Vietnam and the protests and marches against our actions there, after Watergate, after economic malaise, and after the Iran Hostage Crisis, America was in a state of despair with very little hope in the future.

But President Reagan helped us to believe we could be better, and became better. He showed us America could be strong and win the Cold War, and we became strong and won it. He promised us he would invest in the American people to turn the economy around. He made that investment and dividends are still paying off today.

President Reagan optimistically led the way. The nation followed and we are better off because of it.

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In spite of all that President Reagan did for our nation, the one thing that speaks volumes about his character and the man that he was, was the way he loved Nancy. He was not embarrassed about his love for her, rather he demonstrated it at every opportunity.

President Reagan was committed to his family, to his nation and to the world. He was dedicated to his integrity, principles and the belief that America could become that shining city on a hill.

Today, we say goodbye to this great man, leader, President and husband. We miss President Reagan. May God bless him and his family.

(462 Words)