



The Road to the Ronald Reagan Presidency

★ The 40th President ★

★ Certificate of Authenticity ★



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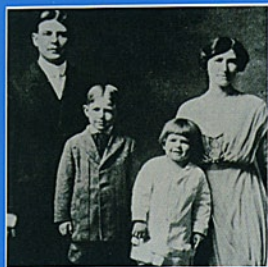
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★ Commemorative Edition ★

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Ronald (with "Dutch" haircut) Neil, and Parents Jack and Nelle Reagan. Family Christmas card circa 1916-17. *



Ronald and Nancy Reagan cutting their wedding cake at the Holden's house in Toluca Lake, California. 1952. *



President Reagan working at his Oval Office desk. January 26, 1982. *

"There are no such things as limits to growth, because there are no limits on the human capacity for inte

The 40th President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born on February 6, 1911 to parents, Nelle and John Reagan in Tampico, Illinois. Ronald, who went by the nickname "Dutch" as a boy grew up with three other siblings—Jack, Nelle, and Neil. As a child, Reagan's family frequently moved to where his father could get work as a shoe salesman. After moving to Chicago, Galesburg, and back to Tampico, the Reagan family settled in Dixon, Illinois, where his father took on a partnership with the Fashion Boot Shop in 1920; Regan was nine years old. Reagan entered Dixon High School in 1924 at age thirteen and participated in football, basketball, track, school plays, and served as student body president. During the summers, Reagan worked as a lifeguard at Lowell Park for seven years during which he saved seventy-seven lives.¹ In 1928, Reagan left Dixon to attend Eureka College, where he majored in Economics, served as class president, and increased his interest in drama.

¹ Reagan, Ronald. Courtesy of Simon and Schuster. "Ronald Reagan: School Years." Reagan Presidential Library. N.pag. Online. Internet. 30 June 2003. Available: <http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/ref/mobase.htm>

Graduating with a BA in Economics and Sociology in 1932, Reagan received a temporary sports broadcasting job with WOC, a small radio station in Davenport, Iowa. In 1933, he moved to Des Moines with a permanent job as a chief sports announcer before he enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1935 for three years. Reagan gained a promotion to 2nd Lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps before a screen test in 1937 gained him a Hollywood acting career that led to 53 films. Reagan met his first wife, Jane Wyman, making the movie "Brother Rat," whom he married on January 24, 1940. In 1941 Regan gained a daughter, Maureen and a year later served active duty in the army during WWII. In 1945, at the end of the war, he took an honorable discharge with the rank of Captain. He gained a son, Michael that same year. After 9 years of marriage, Reagan and Wyman divorced in 1949. Soon after his divorce, Reagan served as president of the Screen Actors Guild and fostered an interest in politics. He campaigned in the 1950's for

* Courtesy of Ronald Reagan Library
**AP/Wide World Photos



President Reagan addresses U.S. troops at Camp Liberty Bell, the DMZ, South Korea. 13, November 1983.*

ligence, imagination, and wonder." -Ronald Reagan

Democrat Helen Douglas for Senate and Democrat Dwight Eisenhower for president. Regan met his next future wife, actress Nancy Davis, while serving as the president for the Screen Actors Guild. Nancy and Ronald married on March 4, 1952 and had two children, Patricia Ann and Ronald Prescott.

In 1952 Reagan began a career as a spokesperson for the General Electric Company, and hosted the General Electric Theater from 1954-1962. During his years serving as a spokesperson, he heard complaints from people around the country about the growing government. With this experience, Reagan began changing some of his political philosophies. A previous Democrat, Reagan officially changed his party affiliation to Republican in 1962, after campaigning for Republican Richard Nixon for president in 1960. Reagan officially arrived into politics in 1964 when he composed a television address designed to revive Senator Barry Goldwater's campaign for presidency. After his speech, a group of



President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev in Red Square during the Moscow Summit, May 31, 1988*

Republican contributors suggested that Reagan run against Democrat Edmund G. (Pat) Brown for Governor of California. After initial hesitation, Reagan announced his intention to seek the Republican nomination for governor January 4, 1966. Reagan gained the Republican nomination over five other candidates with 64.7% of the votes. In his campaign for Governor, Reagan endorsed trimming state funding, spoke out against tax increases, campus radicals and welfare cheaters. Reagan won the governorship by a margin of nearly one million votes—the largest plurality in U.S. history. During his eight years as governor, he focused on three major goals—taxes and government spending, welfare reform, and higher education. Near the end of his second gubernatorial term in 1974, although urged to run for a third term, Reagan decided to run against incumbent Republican President, Gerald R. Ford for the 1976 Republican nomination for President of the United States. Reagan fell 60 delegate votes short of defeating President Ford for the Republican



The Reagan's leaving the U.S.S.R. after the Moscow Summit. 1988.*



Former U.S. President Reagan, left, with Poland's President Waleśa in front of a piece of the Berlin Wall, March 23, 1991. **



Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, left, and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at Reagan's Rancho del Cielo, May 2, 1992. **

nomination for President. However, with the defeat of President Ford by Jimmy Carter in 1976 presidential election, Reagan began his campaign for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination. Reagan ran a close race against George H. Bush, who dropped out when it appeared that Reagan could favorably gain the presidential nomination. Reagan then requested Bush to be his running mate as Vice President, and Bush accepted. Reagan focused his campaign around President Carter's "failed" economic policies and Carter focused on Reagan as being "trigger happy," likely to get the United States into war. The Reagan platform called for "a new consensus with all those across the land who share a community of values embodied in these words: family, work, neighborhood, peace, and freedom."² Reagan won the presidency with 51% of the popular vote and 91% of the electoral vote; and took office as the 40th President of the United States on January 20, 1981.³ Reagan and Bush gained re-nomination in 1984 at the

2."The Reagan Presidency." Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. N.pag. Online. Internet. 30 June 2004. Available: www.reagan.utexas.edu/ref/rpres.htm

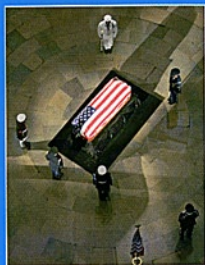
Republican convention in Dallas; and won the presidency with 59% of the popular vote and 98% of the electoral vote.

While in office, Reagan faced an economic recession that followed with an increased federal deficit, the Iran Contra Scandal and the 1987 stock market crash. Despite these issues, he made progress implementing economic, domestic and foreign policies. To overcome the economy's high inflation, unemployment, and interest rates and balance the budget, Reagan cut personal and corporate taxes by 25% across the board, cut social programs, and advocated the deregulation of certain industries. He overhauled the income tax code in 1986 with the Tax Reform law that eliminated many deductions and exempted millions of people with low incomes. Following his tax cuts, the economy revived—the rate of inflation fell below 5% and the unemployment rate dropped, yet it did not escape a federal deficit and national debt increase. On the domestic front, Reagan appointed the first

3.On March 30, 1981, John Hinckley shot Reagan in a failed assassination attempt. Surviving, Reagan joked that he "forgot to duck."



President and Mrs. Reagan at Rancho Del Cielo. August 17, 1983. *



Casket of former President Ronald Reagan, lies in the Rotunda of the US Capital in Washington, DC, June 9, 2004. **

woman to the Supreme Court, accomplished immigration reform and Medicare expansion. In the area of foreign policy, Regan strove to prevent communist expansion and end the Cold War. To stifle the growth of communism, he invaded Grenada to prevent Cuban domination, provided aid to El Salvador in the government's fight against communist guerillas, provided the safe removal of pro-U.S. dictators in Haiti and the Philippines when they were in danger from being overthrown, provided military and financial support of the Contras against the communist Nicaraguan government, supported rebels fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan, and urged Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall.⁴ In effort to end the Cold War, Reagan proposed a 35% increase in military spending as a means to improve relations with the Soviet Union from a stance of strength, and in doing so also negotiated a treaty with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that promised to eliminate an entire class of intermediate-range nuclear

4. The Berlin Wall separating Western from Eastern Germany opened November 9, 1989.

5. "Timeline of Reagan's Life: The American Experience." Pbs.org. N.Pag. Online. Internet. 18 June 2004. Available: pbs.org/wgbh/amex/Reagan/timeline/index_4.html

missiles. Amongst the obstacles faced during his administration, the Reagan administration oversaw the restoration of economic prosperity and the nation enjoyed the longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity in U.S. history, lasting 93 months.⁵

After leaving office, Reagan retired and made his home in the Bel Air district of Los Angeles, California. He spent the rest of his years giving speeches, writing his memoirs and spending time between his home in Bel Air and his ranch, Rancho del Cielo, near Santa Barbara, California. Although retired, he continued to serve as his party's statesman, endorsing his former vice president and successor, George Bush at the 1992 Republican convention. In 1994, Reagan announced in a handwritten letter to the public that he had Alzheimer's.⁶ Despite the somber news, Regan focused on his gratitude, "In closing, let me thank you, the American people, for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve as your President." ³ In 1995, the Reagan's established the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute with the Alzheimer's Association. Shortly thereafter, Reagan began to disengage from the public, although he continued going to his Century City office until 1999. Nancy ensured that he was treated for his illness in his home, where he remained until his passing on June 5, 2004. Reagan's family requested a full state funeral, the first presidential state funeral held at the Washington National Cathedral in three decades.⁷

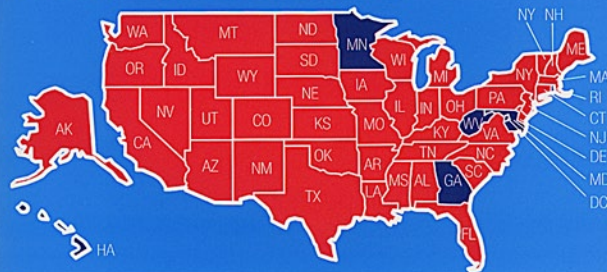
Ronald Wilson Reagan served two terms as the 40th President of the United States, serving as president from January 20, 1981 to January 20, 1989.

5. "Timeline of Reagan's Life: The American Experience." Pbs.org. N.Pag. Online. Internet. 18 June 2004. Available: pbs.org/wgbh/amex/Reagan/timeline/index_4.html

6. A progressive, irreversible neurobiological disorder that causes a gradual loss of brain cells, resulting in declining memory and mental abilities, eventually leading to dementia. Source: Alzheimer's Association online

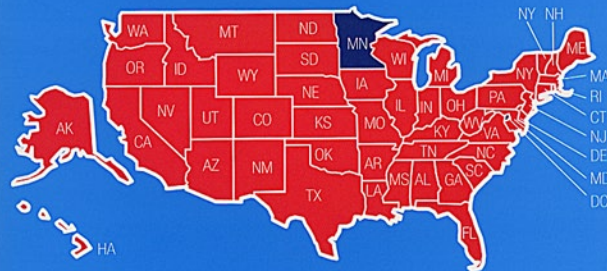
7. The Washington National Cathedral has been the site of 3 presidential funerals—Wilson, Eisenhower and Reagan. A private ceremony for the family was held on Monday June 7, 2004 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, and the national funeral service was held Friday, June 11, 2004 at the Washington National Cathedral.

The Presidential Election 1980



(R) Reagan state victories: 489 - 90.9%	43,904,153 popular votes (50.7%)	Electoral votes total: 538
(D) Carter state victories: 49 - 9.1%	35,483,833 popular votes (41%)	Popular vote total: 86,515,221
(I) Anderson state victories: 0 - 0%	5,720,060 popular votes (6.7%)	

The Presidential Election 1984



(R) Reagan state victories: 525 - 97.6%	54,455,075 popular votes (58.8%)	Electoral votes total: 538
(D) Mondale state victories: 13 - 2.4%	37,577,185 popular votes (40.5%)	Popular vote total: 92,625,842

Ronald Reagan: While in Office

1981 American hostages in Iran released • Survived assassination attempt • Signed tax cut bill (ERTA) • Senate approved AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia • First veto initiated **1982** Economic recession • Enterprise Zone Initiative • Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving • Joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. Strategic Arms Reduction Talks • Grace Commission • Middle East initiative "Fresh Start" • Tax Equity & Fiscal Responsibility Act (ERTA) • Missing Children Act & Victim and Witness Act • 1st commercial operations mission of the Space Shuttle • U.S. sanctions of Soviet pipe line lifted • 5 cents gas tax **1983** U. S. Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) • Nuclear Waste Policy Act • Crop Swap Program • Native American Policy • Social Security Amendments • Excellence in Education Campaign • Commission on Central America • Captive Nations Week designated • Organized Crime Commission created • U.S.-Mexico border Environment Agreement • Job Training Partnership Program launched • U.S. Embassy in Beirut bombed • Invasion of Grenada • Air strike on Syrian installations in Lebanon • Operation Staunch • First Pershing II missiles deployed in West Germany • U.S.S. R. break off International Nuclear Forces (INF) talks in Geneva • Martin Luther King, Jr. Day made a national holiday **1984** Reagan re-elected • Nuclear agreement with China finalized • Deficit Reduction Bill • Minimum Drinking Age Bill • Marines withdrawn from Beirut • Syria freed captured US Navy Pilot, Lieut. Goodman • US and Vatican exchange diplomats after 116 year hiatus • Soviet Union boycotted the 23rd Summer Olympics in Los Angeles • 2nd Boland Amendment **1985** Youth Employment Opportunity Wage Initiative • Summer Jobs for Youth Program • U.S. Arms Reduction proposal • Economic sanctions levied against South Africa • Senate votes to approve MX missiles • Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act • 39 TWA hostages freed • Reagan undergoes surgery for colon cancer **1986** Economic sanctions & U.S. air strikes imposed on Libya's capital • Space Shuttle Challenger explosion • Challenger Disaster Commission formed • Tax Reform Bill • Democrats won control of Senate • Anti-terrorism law • Iran-Contra scandal erupted **1987** Stock market plunged 508 points with value of stocks down 22.6% on the Dow Jones (Black Monday) • "Up From Dependency" welfare initiative •

Economic sanctions against Poland lifted • Privatization of CONRAIL • USS Stark bombed by Iraq • GI Continuation Act • Tariffs lifted from Japan • Economic Bill of Rights launched • Central American Peace Initiative • Alan Greenspan sworn in as Chairman of the Federal Reserve • INF Treaty (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) signed with Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev • Nuclear Risk Reduction Center Treaty (NRRCT) • Berlin Wall speech **1988** Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement • U.S. forces deployed to Honduras • U.S. air strike against Iranian oil platforms • Senate approved INF Treaty • Signed Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act • HIV Action plan • Vetoes National Defense Authorization Act • Japanese-American Internment Compensation Bill • Disaster Assistance Act • Trade & Competitiveness Act • Fair Housing Act Amendments • Family Support Act • Department of Veteran Affairs Act • Anti-Drug Abuse Act • Dropped ban on conducting talks with PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) **1989** Reagan administration ended January 20

Key Establishments

Tax Reform Law passed • Rate of inflation dropped below 5% • 39 billion in budget cuts • Median family income increased 11%¹ • Martin Luther King Holiday created • 1st woman appointed to the Supreme Court • Negotiated the first arms control agreement in history to reduce nuclear weapons

Ronald Reagan: Personal Trivia

Presidential Number: 40th **Years President:** 1981-1989 **Terms:** 2 **Party Affiliation:** Republican **State Represented:** California **First Lady:** Nancy Davis Reagan **Vice President:** George H. Bush **Birthday:** February 6, 1911 **Birth Name:** Ronald Wilson Reagan **Birthplace:** Tampico, Illinois **Hometown:** Dixon, Illinois **Parents:** Nelle Wilson and John Edward Reagan **Nickname(s):** Dutch; "The Great Communicator"; "The Gipper" **Activities:**

Watching and playing football; acting in school plays **Jobs as a teen:** Built and

¹ Between the first installation of the tax cut in 1982 and 1989, real median family income increased 13%. It included the year 1981, the rate of increase is at 11%. Information extracted from the Joint Economic Committee Studies, United

remodeled houses in and around Dixon; Lifeguard at Lowell Park **Education:** B.A. Economics & Sociology from Eureka College **Pre-Presidential Professions:** Radio announcer and commentator; actor; public speaker **Military Service:** Captain in Army **Pre-Presidential Offices:** Governor of California, 40th President of the United States of America **Occupation after Presidency:** Retired; wrote his memoirs **Religion:** Presbyterian **Hobbies:** Horseback riding, swimming **Favorite Candy:** Jelly beans **Children:** Maureen, Michael, Patricia, and Ronald Prescott **Pets:** Dog named Rex **Died:** June 5, 2004

Notable Facts

Oldest president in history-69 upon his inauguration and 77 when left office. **First president** who had been divorced. **Only president** to survive an assassination attempt **Only president** to be head of a labor union. **First president** to wear contact lenses. **Only president** to ever address the Japanese legislature. **First president** to address both houses of U.K. Parliament. **Longest lived president** in U.S. history to date

Interesting Facts

- Made over 50 movies as an actor
- Voted as a Democrat, supporting F. Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower for President, before joining the Republican party in 1962
- Conformed to the provisions of the 25th Amendment when he transferred all presidential powers to Vice President George Bush while he underwent surgery for cancer
- Secret code name was Rawhide
- Reagan enjoyed feeding the squirrels that lived outside the Oval Office
- First actor elected President
- Named Time Magazine's "Man of the Year" twice

(1 continued) States Congress: Income Growth During the 1980's (March 1996) and The Impact of the Welfare State (September 1996). Online. Internet. Available: www.house.gov/jec/middle/crunch3/crunch3.htm

Ronald Reagan: The Time Line

1911

Born in Tampico, Ill. February 6 to Nelle Wilson and John Edward ("Jack") Reagan.

1914

Moved to Galesburg.
Start of World War One.

1918

World War One ends.

1920

Settled in Dixon, Illinois, the place Reagan considers his hometown.

1922

Baptized at the Christian Church of Dixon, Illinois.

1926

Lifeguard at Lowell Park in

1927

Elected



Ronald Reagan with his older brother Neil (Moon) Reagan, circa 1912 *

1913

Moved to Chicago.

1919

Moved back to Tampico.



Ronald Reagan as a Lifeguard at Lowell Park, Illinois. 1927 *

1925

First job at 35 cents an hour building homes in and around Dixon, Illinois.

* Courtesy of Ronald Reagan Library
** AP/World Wide Photos

1929

Roosevelt elected president of United States.
Stock market crashed on Wall Street & the Great Depression of the 1930's begins.

1932

Graduated Eureka College with a BA in Economics and Sociology.
Cast first vote in a national election in support of Franklin D. Roosevelt for President.

1940

Married Jane Wyman, January 24.

1942

Reagan called to active
Assigned to the 1st Marine Division
and made over 400 trips to the front.

1943**1939**

World War II begins.

1935

Enlisted as a private in the Army Reserve.

Dixon.

graduated from Dixon High School
student body president.



Ronald Reagan on the Eureka
College Football Team, 1929 *

1937

Promoted 2nd Lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps of the Cavalry.
Discovered by Warner Brother's Agent in Los Angeles and offered a 7
year acting contract.
First Time Warner Bros. Picture, Love is on the Air.
Appointed to Screen Actors Guild's board of directors

1933

Moved to Des Moines, Iowa.
Chief Sports announcer for Chicago Cubs.



Ronald Reagan in the U.S. Army Air Corps
1940's *

1928

Graduated from Dixon High School: Student body president, football, basketball, track, school plays.
Attends Eureka College.

and remodeling

1941

Maureen born, January 4.

19

1950

Campaigned for Helen Gahagan Douglas for the Senate.

1952

Campaigned as a Democrat for Eisenhower. Accepted a job as spokesman for the General Electric Company. Reagan and Nancy Davis wed on March 4. Daughter Patricia born on October 21.

1958

Ronald Prescott born May 20.

1960

Campaigned for Republican Richard Nixon for President. Resigns as President of Screen Actors Guild.

1962

Officially changed his party registration to the Republican party.

1949

Reagan and Wyman divorced.

1948

Supported Harry Truman for President.

1945End of World War II.
Army discharged Captain Reagan.
Michael is born, March 18.
Regan resumes acting career.**1956**

Campaigned as a Democrat for Eisenhower.

1965

Reagan

1964Television address for Goldwater.
A group of California businessmen

Ronald Reagan and General Electric Theater.
1954-62 *

1967 Inaugurated as Governor of California.

1968 Tentative run for the Republican presidential nomination.
Made a motion that delegates nominate Richard Nixon as the Republican presidential candidate.

1974 Gubernatorial term ended, wrote a syndicated newspaper column
and provided commentaries on radio stations across the country.

1975 Announced candidacy for the Republican nomination
for president and lost the party's nomination.

1979 Announced his candidacy for President.
Chose George Bush as running mate.

1980 Elected President.
Incumbent.

1970 Won re-election for governor over
Jesse Unruh, the Speaker of the State.

1969 Sent in the National Guard to the University of California
campus in Berkeley in response to student unrest.

1966 Reagan defeated incumbent governor Edmund G. ("Pat") Brown for Governor.

autobiography, *Where's the Rest of Me?* published.

"A Time for Choosing," launched political career.
support candidacy for Governor of California.



President Reagan waves to crowd immediately before being shot in an
assassination attempt, Washington Hilton Hotel, March 30, 1981.*

January 12 1981- January 20 1989

dent and won the party's nomination.
ite.

the 40th President of the United States over the
ent, Jimmy Carter on November 4th.

1981 January 20, inaugurated into the office of the President of the United States.
Survived assassination attempt.

1985 Inaugurated for 2nd term as President of the United States on January, 21.

1986 Testified in the Oval Office on November 13:
denied his awareness about the Iran-Contra Affair.

1989 Farewell Address to the nation on January 11
Retired to California to write his memoirs
Addressed Fujisankai Communications Group in Os

1990 Videotaped Testimony, U
Addressed the Polish Pa

1991



President Reagan giving Acceptance Speech at the Republican National Convention, Dallas, Texas, August 23, 1984 *



President Reagan's last day saluting as he boards the helicopter at the US Capitol, January 20, 1989. *



U.S. President's from left to right: President George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon. At Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Ca., November 4, 1991. **

1984 Reagan and Bush re-nominated for presidential candidacy.

Served as the 40th President of the United States of America

1991 Dedicat
*Ronald

1. Money from U.S. arms sales to Iran was being used to fund guerrillas in Nicaragua as a means to influence the release of American hostages in Lebanon. National Security Advisors Robert McFarlane and John Poindexter, and National Security Council Aid Colonel Oliver North were indicted by a federal grand jury and convicted of lying to Congress.

Ronald Reagan: The Time Line

ra, Japan on Oct 28

S. District Court, Los Angeles (Iran-Contra trial of John Poindexter) on Feb. 16-17

ament, Royal Castle, Warsaw, Poland

2 Endorsed former vice president and successor, George Bush at the Republican Convention

1994

Eighty-third Birthday

Gave speech on June 6, the 50th Anniversary of D-day, Normandy, France

Attended Former U.S. President Richard Nixon's funeral

Announced that he had Alzheimer's disease to the public (November 4)

1998

Washington National Airport renamed Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

2004

Died at the age of 93 from Alzheimer's at his home in Bel Air, California



President Reagan speaks to the American National Convention in Houston endorse his former vice president, George Bush for president, 1992. **



President Reagan celebrates his 83rd birthday with his wife at a Republican Party dinner, Feb. 3, 1994. **



Nancy Reagan accepts the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of her husband, former President Reagan. At left: Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert. At right: President Bush, May 2004 **



President Ronald Reagan's funeral procession to the U.S. Capitol, June 9, 2004. **

on of The Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley on November 4

Reagan Day" Address, Joint Session of the California State Legislature, Sacramento

2 The Ronald Reagan Legacy Project (RRLP) announced that 25 of America's governors issued proclamations naming Feb. 6, 2004, "Ronald Reagan Day," honoring America's 40th President on his 93rd Birthday

2002

Ronald and Nancy Reagan awarded Congressional Gold Medal May 16