



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly were
3 deeply saddened to learn of the death of President Ronald
4 Reagan on June 5, 2004; and

5 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was born on February 6, 1911, in
6 Tampico, Illinois, the first American President born in
7 Illinois; as a youth, he worked as a lifeguard at Lowell Park
8 in Dixon, Illinois, and he graduated from Eureka College,
9 located in Eureka, Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was a man of humble beginnings,
11 working as a radio announcer, entertainer, union leader, and
12 corporate spokesman; and

13 WHEREAS, His marriage to actress Jayne Wyman gave him three
14 children: Maureen, Michael, and Christine, who was born four
15 months premature and died the day after her birth; and

16 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan later married Nancy Davis on March
17 4, 1952, his steadfast partner for the next 52 years, who
18 served her country with distinction as First Lady, who would
19 later make public appearances on behalf of her ailing husband,
20 and who became the primary caregiver for the aging President;
21 together, Ronald and Nancy had two children, Patti and Ronald;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was elected to two terms as Governor
24 of California and after two previous unsuccessful bids for the
25 Republican nomination, on November 4, 1980, Ronald Reagan was
26 elected President of the United States of America; on January
27 20, 1981, at the age of 69, Ronald Reagan was sworn in as the
28 country's 40th president, to quickly become known to the world
29 as the "Great Communicator"; and

1 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan has a distinguished record of public
2 service to the United States, the American people, and the
3 international community; and

4 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was twice elected by overwhelming
5 margins as President of the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan's leadership was instrumental in
7 extending freedom and democracy around the globe and uniting a
8 world divided by the Cold War; and

9 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was loved and admired by millions of
10 Americans and by countless others around the world; and

11 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan's eloquence united Americans in
12 times of triumph and tragedy; and

13 WHEREAS, President Reagan worked to restore the founding
14 principles of this country by upholding individual
15 responsibility and personal liberty; his actions and words sent
16 a strong message, both domestically and globally, that the
17 United States remained vigilant and that he, as President,
18 would use the country's strengths to the advantage of the
19 American people; and

20 WHEREAS, By rebuilding the U.S. military, the country
21 regained a formidable position from which America could better
22 fight the Cold War, standing against the Soviet Union, and
23 ultimately, bringing down the Iron Curtain once and for all;
24 his foreign policies further helped to bring about the collapse
25 of the Berlin Wall without bloodshed or loss of life, offering
26 the German people the support and fortitude of the American
27 principle of freedom; and

28 WHEREAS, After eight years in the Oval Office, in January
29 1989, President Reagan returned to his California ranch, and on

1 November 4, 1991, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in
2 Simi Valley, California was dedicated; and

3 WHEREAS, On November 5, 1994, President Reagan disclosed
4 that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, continuing
5 to show courage and fortitude by publicly facing the
6 debilitating disease of age; and

7 WHEREAS, On October 11, 2001, President Reagan became the
8 longest-lived president ever, besting the nation's second
9 President, John Adams, who had lived 91 years; and

10 WHEREAS, On July 12, 2003, the United States Navy
11 commissioned its newest aircraft carrier, the "USS Ronald
12 Reagan", the first carrier to be named for a living president;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, On June 5, 2004, the world was told its faithful
15 servant, President Ronald Reagan, had passed away at his home
16 in California; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
19 mourn the loss of President Ronald Reagan, while we honor and
20 celebrate his dedication and service to the People of the
21 United States of America and the world at large; and be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
24 presented to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, to the
25 Ronald Reagan Museum at Eureka College, and to the family of
26 President Reagan.