

June 7, 2004

Congressman Akin's Statement on the Death of President Ronald Reagan

"Today our country unites in grief and gratitude, grief for the passing of one of the greatest Americans in our history and gratitude for his wonderful life and heroic service. Ronald Reagan's moral courage, commitment to deeply held convictions and unswerving faith in the principles of our nation's founding helped transform the world.

"At a time when accommodation to communism was the accepted wisdom of the governing elites, President Reagan spoke not of détente but of communism's evil and ultimate demise. At a time when many Americans were beginning to doubt our future, he reminded us that, in his words, 'we have every right to dream heroic dreams.' And at a time when the government in Washington seemed inert, gigantic and increasingly dominant, President Reagan reduced taxes, began to limit regulations and demonstrated that the real genius of America is not on the banks of the Potomac but in the homes and families, cities and towns, and places of worship and employment that compose the heart of the nation.

"The passing of this great man is a time of sadness, and our prayers go out to his beloved wife Nancy, his children and their children. But it is also a time of remembering not only a man but what he represented: The ongoing confidence that 'one nation, under God' must always pursue the 'freedom and justice for all' he so nobly pursued all his life."