



can do more for them than mandate the television V-chip.

We need conservatives who share Ronald Reagan's large vision for our society; who, as Reagan might say, can see beyond the front row. These conservatives—the real conservatives—have solid support from the American people. These conservatives have the moral obligation to continue, not betray, Ronald Reagan's timeless principles and vision.

David Beasley, a Republican, is the governor of South Carolina.

— James C. Miller III —

Conservatives should recall that Ronald Reagan's effectiveness stemmed from four things:

His single-minded adherence to a basic set of principles. He was willing to compromise on outcomes, but not on principles.

His communications skills, including the technique of teaching through parables. In cabinet meetings and in other settings, Reagan would make a point by telling some anecdote from his experience as head of the Screen Actors' Guild or as governor of California. The press made fun of him for repeating these stories, but he did so because his pupils often didn't get it the first time.

His refusal to take himself too seriously and his sense of humor. As he prepared to return to the private sector in 1989, he actually looked forward to giving up power. And who among those who observed him closely can forget his endless jokes and self-effacing quips?

His constancy in public and private. What you saw is what you got. I never heard him say anything in private that contradicted his public statements.

James C. Miller III, counselor for Citizens for a Sound Economy, was the director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Reagan.

— Rep. Dick Armey —

Ronald Reagan believed in freedom and responsibility—two ideas that are simple and yet powerful enough to change the world. That was the source of his strength; it must also be the source of ours.

He began after four decades of Keynesian confusion. Reagan ended the stagflation that had baffled four of his predecessors by applying generous doses of freedom to the economy. Tax cuts. Sound money. Free trade. Deregulation. What happened? America's been growing with stable prices ever since. Except for a brief pause during the reign of budget chief Dick Darman (whose tax hike is the exception that proves the rule) our economy has been steadily expanding at more than 3 percent a year since 1982, adding \$2.3 trillion to our annual production. Without Ronald Reagan's freedom cure, we would today be as sclerotic as France or Sweden. Instead, our economy is the vibrant and dynamic envy of all the world (including our formerly smug friends in Japan). There is still no end in sight to the Reagan boom.

But liberty does not mean license, and Reagan knew that freedom requires a strong sense of personal responsibility. Ronald Reagan championed our nation's spiritual rebirth since that heyday of drugs and promiscuity known as the 1970s. We see this rebirth in the evangelical movement, rising volunteerism, new concern about values and character, and the near-consensus that Dan Quayle was absolutely right

about Murphy Brown's fling with single motherhood. We are made in the image of God, and we have higher ends than to pursue money or pleasure or prestige for their own sake.

On the day he was inaugurated nearly 20 years ago, even Ronald Reagan would hardly dare imagine the world of boundless hope and opportunity these ideas would soon create. The rise of free markets and global trade means that hundreds of millions of people are now working together for their common betterment. Personal computers, digital technology, the World Wide Web—all are expanding the field of human creativity. There is a continuing American-led renaissance in science and the humanities. Certainly we face new ethical challenges—from smut on cable to Dolly the duplicate sheep—but the enduring strength of Ronald Reagan's own movement ensures we will be equal to them. Slouching to Gomorrah? Nonsense. There has never been a better time to be alive.

Dick Armey, a Republican from Texas, is the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

— Rep. David McIntosh —

When I think of Ronald Reagan and his legacy, the first word that comes to mind is freedom. Every word and every action of Reagan's presidency was dedicated to the protection of free people and free markets, both at home and abroad. While some political dealmakers today talk of tax cuts and smaller government as campaign promises, they do not always have Reagan's fundamental conviction about these policies. As a result, they are pale imitators of his leadership.

Reagan believed self-government was built on the rock-solid principle of freedom; with that belief, he overcame liberal opposition—the same opposition that conservatives in Congress face today. Reagan knew the American people cherished freedom as much as he did. This enabled him to win the political debate on his terms. Similarly, modern politicians must realize that they will succeed only by sharing Reagan's faith in the American people and in the soundness of conservative principles.

“Reagan's genius came from his ability to relate his deeply-felt principles to the everyday concerns of ordinary people.”

—Rep. David McIntosh

In 1980, when Reagan was elected to office, America was in a state of fiscal and cultural malaise. Family paychecks were shrinking due to a combination of high taxes, high inflation, and high interest rates. Middle Eastern terrorists held Americans hostage and hard-line communists ruled the Soviet Union. Worst of all, the sovereignty of the American family was being usurped by the cumulative effect of New Deal and Great Society policies. Big Government had assumed control over the services Americans used to provide themselves and each other.

Despite this grim scenario, Reagan remained undaunted. He outlined exactly what he intended to accomplish and never, ever gave up the fight for lower taxes, smaller government, and a stronger national defense. He slashed marginal tax rates and economic growth soared. Per-capita disposable income increased nearly 20 percent between 1982 and 1990, giving American families their highest standard of living in decades. He stood firm against foreign dictators and America became a beacon of light on a tumultuous geopolitical landscape.

Liberals dismissed Reagan as an old B-movie actor playing the role of a president. They failed to grasp Reagan's genius in relating his deeply-felt principles to the real, everyday concerns of ordinary people. He could tap into their hopes and aspirations because his allegiance to the principle of freedom came straight from the heart, not from the latest public-opinion poll. Simply put, Americans believed Reagan cared because he did.

David McIntosh, a Republican, represents the 2nd district of Indiana in the House of Representatives. He was a White House aide for domestic affairs in the Reagan administration.

— Jeane Kirkpatrick —

During the presidential primary campaign of 1996 and through the general election, it was clear that many Republicans—candidates, staff, and commentators—had forgotten Ronald Reagan's 11th commandment: Thou shall not speak ill of another Republican. I believe Republicans' harsh, often malicious, attacks on Republican candidates did as much harm as Democrats.

Since the election, the Republican majority in the Congress sometimes seems more concerned with demonstrating that they can work with the White House than with legislating conservative principles. Ronald Reagan never preferred compromise to victory.

Jeane Kirkpatrick, the director of foreign policy and defense studies at the American Enterprise Institute, was President Reagan's ambassador to the United Nations.