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READ MY PINS:
THE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT COLLECTION
AT THE REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
APRIL 3 – JUNE 25, 2017

(SIMI VALLEY, Calif.) – The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum is pleased to host *Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection* within the Library’s Air Force One Pavilion. *Read My Pins* presents a remarkable range of more than 200 pins and brooches from the personal collection of Madeleine Albright. The majority of these pieces were collected and worn during Albright’s service as US Ambassador to the United Nations (1993–1997) and as the first female Secretary of State (1997–2001), under President Bill Clinton. The assortment is eclectic, international, and representative of nearly a century of jewelry design. Yet the jewelry’s true interest lies not in their materials or monetary value but in the roles they played during her government service: Albright used her pins as silent yet visually outspoken codes to foreign officials and the press. Pins could be adopted for various reasons—a shining sun or a patriotic flag would reinforce a positive alliance with the United States, for example, while more difficult negotiations might bring out wasps or snakes.

“Whether he was working to create a bi-partisan Congress or to put an end to the Cold War, nothing was more important to President Reagan than face-to-face diplomacy,” said John Heubusch, executive director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. “It’s a rare opportunity to host this extraordinary exhibit showcasing the true diplomacy of this extraordinary public servant.”

Albright served the US government during a remarkable period in history, and many of the notable landmarks of her tenure can be decoded through the visual iconography of her pins. These pieces document and symbolize moments of political upheaval and also convey the patriotism of this Czechoslovakian-born diplomat. Whereas George H. W. Bush famously said “Read my lips” to convey a campaign promise,

Editor’s Note: Additional photos available upon request.

Albright encouraged, “Read my pins,” demonstrating that jewelry had become part of her personal diplomatic arsenal. These objects became delicate instruments with which she applied pressure during intense negotiations, and into which she invested humor as she represented the United States on the international stage.

The Reagan Library is located at 40 Presidential Drive in Simi Valley, California. Public hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The Museum is only closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. For Museum Admission fees or information, please visit www.reaganlibrary.com or call (800) 410.8354. Museum exhibit tickets may be pre-purchased at www.reaganlibrary.com/tickets.

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About The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the promotion of the legacy of Ronald Reagan and his timeless principles of individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy, and national pride. It sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Presidential Learning Center and The Air Force One Pavilion, all in Simi Valley, California, as well as education and public affairs programs in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses 63 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It now also serves as the final resting place of President and Mrs. Reagan.

www.reaganfoundation.org