

GEORGE BUSH

June 6, 2004

Dear Friends,

This week America lost a cherished son and the world lost a great leader. A man of strong moral character and great humility, his leadership made the world a better place. Ronald Wilson Reagan epitomized what America stands for – freedom, democracy, and national pride.

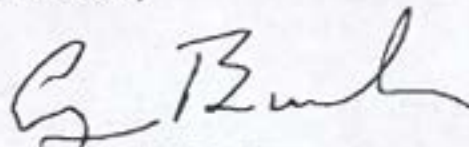
He would not want us to mourn his loss, but to celebrate the spirit of optimism that he held so dear. Ronald Reagan made us believe in ourselves and in our country once again. He did all this in a wonderfully kind and thoughtful way. He was a truly decent man.

As we pause to remember this great and wonderful man, think about how he would want each one of us to carry on America's work. As he said, "Freedom is not something to be secured in any one moment of time. We must struggle to preserve it every day. And freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

It is fitting that he rests now at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, his Shining City on the Hill.

May God bless America and the Reagan family as well.

All the best,



George H. W. Bush