



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 2, 2020**

**STATEMENT BY FRED RYAN,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE  
RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION AND INSTITUTE  
ON THE DEATH OF LODWRICK COOK**

Simi Valley, California – The Reagan Foundation mourns the loss of Lodwick Cook, a long-time business leader in Louisiana’s oil and gas industry, who served on the Reagan Foundation’s Board beginning in 1989. Mr. Cook was one of the foundation’s first Chairmen, serving in the role from 1989 to 2000. He began his service as a Lifetime Emeritus Trustee from 2009 until his passing. While serving as the Foundation’s Board Chairman he officiated the opening of the Reagan Library, saying, “The library's more than simply a center for study and research. It will also be a living testimonial to a great President and a nation he led through two terms of office. As such, the library is really for every American, the tourists, the school kids, all the people. Their interests went to the heart of the Reagan's presidency and their curiosity and desire for knowledge will be served here too.”

Lod Cook dedicated his life to the service of others and was a true example of how we should all live our lives. He was a business icon and a great friend to the Reagans over the years. Former first lady Nancy Reagan cherished her time with him and truly loved dancing with him.

Mrs. Reagan once said, “You’ve been with us from the very beginning, and we’ve always known we could count on you...I truly don’t know what the Library – or Ronnie and I – would have done without you.”

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to the entire Cook family.

###

Contact: Melissa Giller  
[mgiller@reaganfoundation.org](mailto:mgiller@reaganfoundation.org)