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RONALD REAGAN CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT SIGNED

JUNE 2, 2009

(Washington, D.C.) –In a historic moment at the White House today, Mrs. Ronald Reagan stood next to President Barack Obama as he signed the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission Act, which will honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ronald Wilson Reagan. The 11-member Commission will plan, develop and carry out activities which pay tribute to our nation’s fortieth president.

“I was delighted to be back at the White House today and even more delighted to be part of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission bill signing ceremony with President Obama,” said former first lady Nancy Reagan. “I am grateful to him, Congressman Gallegly, Senator Kyl and the tremendous bipartisan effort on Capitol Hill for this legislation becoming law. I look forward to working closely with the Commission and the Reagan Foundation to honor Ronnie in 2011 for his 100th birthday.”

The bill, sponsored by Congressman Elton Gallegly, was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in March of 2009, followed by the U.S. Senate passing by unanimous consent on May 19, 2009. Centennial commissions have previously been formed for Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Harry S. Truman.

“In keeping with President Reagan’s belief of reaching across the aisle, it is a fitting tribute to have the leadership in both the House and the Senate work together to pass a bill that honors President Reagan in this way,” said Frederick J. Ryan, Jr., chairman of the board of trustees of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation. “We’re looking forward to holding events across this nation that celebrates yet another extraordinary milestone in Ronald Reagan’s life.”

Activities surrounding the centennial will include nationwide celebrations, educational programming and a complete renovation of the galleries within the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. As the legislation included no federal funding, all centennial activities and events will come through private fundraising efforts, spearheaded by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation.

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation 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. Located in Simi Valley, California the Library houses over 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 40,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It now also serves as the final resting place of America's 40th President.

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