



NEWS RELEASE
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REAGAN REPRESENTED THE BEST OF AMERICA

I remember his strong handshake and the way he looked me in the eye. Meeting Ronald Reagan in person was an honor. Growing up in Governor Reagan's California and then in President Reagan's America was a privilege. That is why I am proud to have introduced Assembly Bill 2358 in 2012 to authorize the erection of a memorial statue of President Reagan in the rotunda of the State Capitol building. It is a tribute to the spirit of Californians that my bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and was enthusiastically signed by the man who followed Reagan as Governor of California, Governor Jerry Brown.

President Reagan was the only California Governor ever elected President of the United States. To me, he was the greatest President of the 20th Century. Reagan won the Cold War and brought down the Berlin Wall. He brought America back from the malaise of the late 1970's and restored both our pride and our economy. Always the optimist, his vision of America as a "shining city on a hill" resonated with Americans. He touched our hearts with his warmth and humor and certainly earned the title of the "Great Communicator".

On Monday I will be in the Capitol with former Reagan Secretary of State George Schultz, representatives of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, my former colleagues in the State Legislature and various other dignitaries for the formal unveiling of the statue at 11 AM. We will all pay tribute to a great American, and I will offer a silent prayer of thanks to the exemplary man who has meant so much to me personally.