

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1438  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/15/04**

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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June 8, 2004

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND  
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RONALD WILSON REAGAN, 40TH PRESIDENT  
3 OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

4 Whereas, Ronald Wilson Reagan, our 40th President, died on June 5, 2004, at  
5 the age of 93 years; and

6 Whereas, we remember him as a man of charm, wit, and endless  
7 self-confidence, embodying the optimism of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the eloquence  
8 of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and the inflexible will of Theodore Roosevelt. Especially  
9 do we remember his recovery for us all of the virtues of middle America and the values  
10 of our founding fathers; his reminding us in his first inaugural address that the states  
11 created our union not vice-versa; and his thrust toward devolution of power to the states.  
12 We remember, too, his trenchant assertion that "Government is not the solution –  
13 Government is the problem;" and

14 Whereas, we remember that in our own State in March 1976, when his  
15 political career seemed hopeless after five successive primary defeats, he broke that  
16 string of defeats, revived his campaign, and laid the foundation for his presidency in  
17 1981; and

18 Whereas, we remember the steadfastness of his opposition to "the Evil  
19 Empire" of the Soviet Union even though many in his own party and the opposing party  
20 as well as the media urged accommodation, urged that "we go along to get along."  
21 Indeed, we remember the consternation of old Europe when he and Prime Minister  
22 Margaret Thatcher pressed forward with a zeal to rearm the forces of freedom. We  
23 remember especially that day in 1987 at Brandenburg Gate when he challenged Mikhail  
24 Gorbachev, "If you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern  
25 Europe, if you seek liberalization, come to this Gate ... open this Gate ... tear down this  
26 wall;" and

27 Whereas, his determination, his spirited belief in the ultimate strength and  
28 victory of freedom over oppression resulted in large part in the collapse of the Soviet  
29 Empire and the liberation of more than 158,000,000 souls among the captive nations of  
30 Eastern Europe; and

1           Whereas, his eloquence in the espousal of limited government, individual  
2 self-reliance, and the lowering of our tax burden was accompanied by boundless good  
3 humor, self-effacing wit, and a warmth that embraced all of his fellow citizens in all  
4 walks of life and all political persuasions; and

5           Whereas, after two terms, when he left office, he left with the affection of our  
6 entire nation, and left us finally a legacy of personal courage as he met the ultimate  
7 adversary with these poignant words, "I now begin the journey that will lead me into the  
8 sunset of life ... [but] I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn  
9 ahead;" Now, therefore,

10 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

11           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly mourns the passing of President  
12 Ronald Reagan, a great American and a towering spirit who led us and the free world  
13 through a time of peril to ultimate victory over, perhaps historically, our most dangerous  
14 enemy.

15           **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
16 Resolution to the family of President Ronald Reagan and the Legislature and Governor  
17 of his home state of California.

18           **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.