



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Ours is an extraordinary nation built by extraordinary individuals, and the annals of American history read as an epic saga of great men rising to the occasion and striving to form a more perfect union. Each generation faces its own set of unprecedented challenges, but cometh the hour, cometh the man. In times of trouble, we have always found among us someone willing to answer the call to service, bear the banner of our people, and ascend the highest peaks of human achievement. Few leaders have epitomized this notion as fully or as earnestly as President Ronald Wilson Reagan. He was a great leader and a great American, and he defined his era such that historians of all political persuasions refer to the 1980s as the “Age of Reagan” or, perhaps more fittingly, the “Reagan Revolution.”

A quintessential self-made man, President Reagan rose from humble beginnings and achieved the American Dream to which we all aspire. He was an airman during World War II and a prominent actor in the Golden Age of Hollywood, and the traits he cultivated in his formative years—ambition, resilience, wit, and charm—would underpin the entirety of his storied life. He initially resisted the political arena, but his desire to serve his fellow man eventually led him into increasingly powerful leadership roles. In the postwar years, he was elected president of the Screen Actors Guild and worked tirelessly in that capacity to suppress the influence of communism. Later, he campaigned fiercely for Barry Goldwater in 1964, and the famous “A Time for Choosing” speech he delivered on his behalf foreshadowed the rise of a political giant, as well as a seismic shift in the American electorate. In due time, his passion for service propelled him to the governorship of California and, ultimately, the presidency of the United States.

As an orator, President Reagan was without equal. He rightly earned the title “The Great Communicator” and came to define modern presidential rhetoric. From his soul-stirring remarks after the *Challenger* explosion to his exhortation at the Brandenburg Gate urging Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall,” his eloquent speeches loom large in our collective consciousness to this day. With strength and dignity, his was a larger-than-life presence—to the very end. In a letter announcing his Alzheimer’s diagnosis, he opened his heart to the nation and reaffirmed the belief that guided his entire life: that “there will always be a bright dawn ahead” for America.

This belief shaped his time as leader of the free world, and during his eight years in office, Reagan pursued a bold economic agenda, curbed government excess, promoted peace through strength, created opportunity for all, and prepared the nation for the new millennium. His landslide victory in 1984—in which he won more electoral votes than any candidate in history—stands as a testament to his success. Furthermore, Reagan’s presidency signaled deliverance from the malaise of Watergate, Vietnam, stagflation, and despair. He restored Americans’ faith in their nation and reminded America who she was. Namely, he revived the centuries-old conception of America as “a shining city on a hill,” a view first put to words by John Winthrop in a 1630 sermon on the Gospel of Matthew. Through this trope—which is perhaps the most prominent metanarrative in our history—Reagan invited Americans to view their country with the same hope and ambition that pilgrims in the New World felt long ago.

As we remember President Reagan on his 112th birthday, we honor a man who left America “more prosperous, more secure, and happier” than she had ever before been, and his legacy will no doubt stand secure throughout the ages. At this time, I encourage all Texans to recognize President Ronald Reagan’s incredible contributions to our nation and to learn more about this true American hero.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim February 6, 2023, to be

## **Ronald Reagan Day**



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature, this the  
13th day of January, 2023.

  
Governor of Texas