



For Immediate Release:

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*** * * MEDIA ADVISORY * * ***

STATUE OF RONALD REAGAN UNVEILED IN BERLIN
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL
OF THE BERLIN WALL

“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”



WHAT:

(Berlin, Germany) - In his speech at the Brandenburg Gate on June 12, 1987, President Reagan spoke with clarity, saying, “As I looked out a moment ago from the Reichstag, that embodiment of German unity, I noticed words crudely spray-painted upon the wall, perhaps by a young Berliner, ‘This wall will fall. Beliefs become reality.’ Yes, across Europe, this wall will fall. For it cannot withstand faith; it cannot withstand truth. The wall cannot withstand freedom.” And, just a few months after leaving the White House, President Reagan’s hopes became reality when, on November 9, 1991, the gate opened and the wall came down.

On November 8, 2019, to commemorate all that President Reagan did to bring peace and freedom to people around the world, the United States Embassy in Berlin, Germany unveiled a statue of Ronald Reagan on the Embassy’s rooftop terrace, overlooking the Brandenburg Gate and the exact spot President Reagan stood when he boldly declared, “General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

During the dedication, which commenced at 4:30 p.m. in Berlin, the statue was officially unveiled by United States Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, US Ambassador to Berlin Richard Grenell, and Frederick J. Ryan, Jr., chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute.

“This statue is a tribute to President Reagan, to his moral clarity and courage, and to his inspiring vision of a world without Soviet oppression. But the legacy of President Reagan’s leadership here in Berlin is bigger than one man. This statue honors people everywhere who stand against tyranny and bravely demand their freedom,” said Fred Ryan. “We are grateful to Ambassador Grenell for making this recognition possible, and for ensuring that, just yards from where a symbol of fear and despotism once stood, there will now be an enduring monument to faith, truth, and freedom.”

ABOUT THE STATUE:

Sculptor: Chas Fagan

Weight: 800 pounds

Height: 7’ tall, 30” wide and 22’ deep

Special Notes: President Reagan is carrying the speech cards that he used to deliver his June 12, 1987 famous admonition to General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union to “Tear Down This Wall”. Deftly positioned in a special chamber within those cards is a small piece of the Berlin Wall, which can be seen at close range from behind President Reagan’s right hand. Also of note are President Reagan’s cufflinks, a gift from his wife on the occasion of their wedding anniversary. The original cufflinks, which are displayed at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, depict a calendar of the month of March, with an amethyst marking the date of March 4, the date in which Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis were married in 1952. President Reagan considered them his “lucky” cufflinks and wore them on many of his important trips as President of the United States, including his trip to Berlin on June 12, 1987.

American artist Chas Fagan grew up in Belgium and in rural Pennsylvania, gathering inspiration from the rich landscape and history of his surroundings. He has previously created statues of President Reagan that are in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol, one at The Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, one in London, one in the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library (a duo statue with Mrs. Reagan), and a large bas relief in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. Chas has also done a number of other historical pieces, including one of Saint John Paul and one of President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush at the Bush (43) Library in Dallas, Texas.

THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION AND INSTITUTE:

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the sole nonprofit organization created by President Reagan charged with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy, and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion, and the Reagan Institute, which carries out the Foundation’s mission in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 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 and his first lady. www.reaganfoundation.org

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