



EMBASSY OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Office of
the Ambassador*

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. JESSE MAREHALAU,
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES
FROM
THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**

June 9, 2004

President Ronald Reagan will live in history as a man dedicated to the freedom and liberty of his fellow men and women world-wide. He believed that all citizens deserve the opportunity to forge their own and their nations' own destinies as equal partners in the affairs of the world. For many, his ending of the great global "Cold War" will stand as his greatest foreign policy achievement. However, for those of us from smaller countries, we are eternally grateful that he was also attentive and sensitive to our needs.

Our country, The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), came into being by the combined work of the U.S. Congress and the actions of President Reagan and his administration. Without his active involvement, we may have never reached this point, where, after 18 years, we are a freer nation and working hard on the path that leads to economic prosperity.

We are, therefore, greatly saddened by the death of President Reagan, but are profoundly grateful for his life and what he meant to our small Pacific Island nation. He was our friend and we will miss him.