



Margaret Thatcher

26th June 2004

Dearest Nancy,

Your dignity and fortitude at Ronnie's funeral were an example to us all. I know how strenuous those days must have been and the heartache you were feeling, but anyone watching could not have ceased to be filled with pride and admiration for the way in which you bore it all. No matter how long you have to prepare for the terrible day, when it comes, the pain is no easier, but you will have drawn great strength from your family and from knowing that Ronnie's long journey was at an end.

I am sure that you will also have been sustained by the outpouring of love and affection towards Ronnie and you. History will view him as one of America's greatest Presidents and millions of people around the world have him to thank for the freedom they and their children enjoy today. All the arrangements made for the funeral so perfectly reflected the man he was and you paid me a particular honour in inviting me to be with you both in Washington and California.

You will have been inundated by well-wishers – most being ordinary men and women who simply want you to know how much Ronnie meant to them – and I hope that this will bring you and your family comfort in realising how much joy and goodness he brought to so many lives. What a marvellous legacy!

With all kind thoughts

Yours ever

Margaret

Mrs Nancy Reagan