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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 2011

**THREE NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED
TO RONALD REAGAN CENTENNIAL COMMISSION**
Senator Orrin Hatch, Congressmen Schock and Reyes Join Panel

(Washington, DC) – Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Congressman Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) and Congressman Aaron Schock (R-IL) have been named to the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission, Commission Chairman Frederick J. Ryan said today.

“It’s a pleasure to welcome the new Members of the Commission, and we look forward to working together throughout 2011 to create memorable and meaningful ways to mark President Reagan’s 100th year,” said Ryan. “I thank the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell, the Speaker of the House, Representative John Boehner, and the Minority Leader, Representative Nancy Pelosi, for designating these distinguished Americans to the Commission.”

Senator Hatch said, “President Ronald Reagan was a man who understood that ideas have consequences. From the time he entered public life, he never flagged in promoting the American Constitution and the liberty that it guarantees. When he became Governor of California in 1967, the political establishment optimistically supported big government. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, he witnessed that same establishment grow pessimistic about the future of American democracy and free markets. Yet through his dogged commitment to the idea that this nation is the ‘last, best hope of man on Earth,’ Ronald Reagan changed history. He was, and is, my hero, and as we celebrate the centennial of his birth, America will be reminded again of the debt we owe to this great man.”

Senator Hatch replaces Senator Robert Bennett (R-UT), who did not return to the Senate. Congressman Schock replaces Congressman William Foster (D-IL), who did not return to the House, and Congressman Reyes replaces Congressman Dennis Moore (R-KS) who retired.

Upon his appointment, Congressman Silvestre Reyes said, "President Reagan's unwavering optimism inspired Americans during very challenging periods in our nation's history. I commend President Obama for signing the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission into law, and I am honored that Leader Pelosi appointed me to serve as a Commissioner to help mark this historic occasion."

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Congressman Aaron Schock commented: "I am extremely honored to be appointed to the Reagan Centennial Commission. To serve on this commission is a remarkable opportunity to help promote and celebrate the life and legacy of Ronald Reagan as our 40th President. I have the unique privilege of representing in Congress Reagan's alma mater, Eureka College. As Reagan said in a 1982 commencement address at his alma mater, 'everything that has been good in my life began here.' As I have reflected on that quote, I think he shared that same belief about our nation as well."

The new members join the current Commissioners:

Kenneth L. Salazar, U.S. Secretary of Interior
Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator from California
James H. Webb, Jr., U.S. Senator from Virginia
Elton Gallegly, U.S. Representative from California
Frederick J. Ryan, President and COO, Allbritton Communications
Peggy Noonan, Columnist, *The Wall Street Journal*
Fred W. Smith, Chairman, Donald W. Reynolds Foundation
John F.W. Rogers, Managing Director, Goldman Sachs
David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States (ex officio)

The Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission was created by an act of Congress and signed in June 2009 by President Obama, with Mrs. Nancy Reagan at his side, at the White House. Since 1950, Congress has, on ten separate occasions, established a commission to develop plans to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of an American President or First Lady. The Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission is tasked with coordinating the federal government and Congressional recognition of the Centennial, and assisting the States with their efforts. As President Reagan would have wanted it, no Federal dollars were appropriated to fund the events of the Centennial.

For more information, contact Michele Woodward, Executive Director, Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission at 703/598-3100 or woodward.michele@gmail.com.