



Michael K. Deaver

A Different Drummer
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Foreword
By NANCY REAGAN

Unless you follow politics closely, you probably don't know too much about Michael Deaver or how important he was to Ronnie as governor of California, president of the United States, and as a friend. I think every president can point to one particular aide who knows him so well that he becomes indispensable. Mike was that man for Ronald Reagan, and there are few people better suited to write about him.

Since Ronnie left elective office, there have been many books, both pro and con, about his public life. Some have delved with limited success into a discussion of Reagan the individual. I've always said that, with Ronnie, what you see is what you get. He is not a complicated man, and those who know him well won't disagree. Most tend either to overcomplicate him, or they err on the other side, wrongly

labeling him as aloof, indifferent, or disengaged. Of course, none of these characterizations rings true.

Much of what has been written was written out of frustration brought about by the writers' inability to get at the man behind the politics, the presidency, and the public persona. They know the public Ronald Reagan; they do not know the private man. This is not surprising, because when you come right down to it, there are only a handful of people who could write about the private Ronald Reagan.

Without demeaning the other close relationships Ronnie has had over the years, undoubtedly one of the most qualified people to write about him in this regard is our friend Mike Deaver. Mike has been part of our lives since 1967 when he joined the governor's staff in Sacramento. He always occupied a unique role in Ronnie's life. He was never an official policy adviser and didn't serve as chief of staff, either in Washington or Sacramento. But he is the only one who was there from 1967 to 1987 with only the briefest of breaks, at Ronnie's side for all the good times, and of course, many of the tough times, too.

Mike and I have always shared a common interest. Our goal was simple: to help Ronnie be the best possible governor and president. What I came to love about Mike was that he was never the type to go on television and talk about his accomplishments. Never prone to self-promotion, he did his best work behind the scenes.

For more than twenty years, Mike spent more time with Ronnie than anybody outside his family. Often it was only Mike at Ronnie's side in the Oval Office, on the campaign planes, and in motorcades. It is many of these memories that he shares in *A Different Drummer*.