

# Senator John Loudon Announces Plan to Name River Bridge for 40th President

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*Will File Bill Naming Proposed Mississippi River Crossing the 'Ronald Reagan Memorial Bridgeway'*

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ST. LOUIS – Senator John Loudon, R-Ballwin, today announced his intention to file legislation with the Missouri Senate naming the proposed new river crossing from St. Louis to Illinois for the nation’s universally respected and recently departed 40th president.

“President Ronald Reagan was a seeker of solutions and a builder of coalitions,” Loudon said. “He not only reached across the political aisle, he worked across the socio-economic spectrum to reach a consensus on issues important to Americans and to all the world’s people who embrace freedom and democracy. President Reagan was truly a builder of bridges and I believe the naming of an important river crossing in his honor to be a fitting and lasting tribute to a man who gave so much of himself to others.”

Loudon’s tribute stems from his role as a Missouri advisory committee member for the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project, a national coalition with a mission to name a public feature in every county of the United States after the popular and productive two-term president.

“President Reagan’s passing has accelerated interest in attaining this commemorating goal,” Loudon said. “As it is right now, at least 18 states have dedicated a park, structure or other civic property to Mr. Reagan and more are sure to follow in short order.”

A U.S. Navy aircraft carrier and the national airport in Washington, D.C., also bear the former president’s name; and efforts are underway to have his likeness appear on U.S. currency as well.

Loudon will soon pre-file his bridge naming legislation with the Secretary of the Senate, who will assign a bill number to the measure December 1. The bill will then begin making its way through the legislative process once the 2005 legislative session begins in early January. Loudon will also file legislation making President Reagan's birthday, February 6, an official day of remembrance for Missourians.

“I thought it appropriate to begin these initiatives early on as President Reagan was a man of quick and decisive action,” Loudon said. “He has left us in body, but his spirit of optimism and opportunity should remain with Americans throughout the ages. I’m merely making a few small gestures to help ensure he will be eternally remembered.”