

Parents who know their children's teachers and turn off the television and help with the homework and teach their kids right from wrong, those kinds of parents can make all the difference. I know; I had one. I'm telling you, we have got to stop pointing our fingers at these kids who have no future and reach our hands out to them. Our country needs it, we need it, and they deserve it.

So I say to you tonight, let's give our children a future. Let us take away their guns and give them books. Let us overcome their despair and replace it with hope. Let us, by our example, teach them to obey the law, respect our neighbors, and cherish our values. Let us weave these sturdy threads into a new American community that can once more stand strong against the forces of despair and evil because everybody has a chance to walk into a better tomorrow.

Oh, there will be naysayers who fear that we won't be equal to the challenges of this time. But they misread our history, our heritage. Even today's headlines, all those things tell us we can and we will overcome any challenge.

When the earth shook and fires raged in California, when I saw the Mississippi deluge the

farmlands of the Midwest in a 500-year flood, when the century's bitterest cold swept from North Dakota to Newport News, it seemed as though the world itself was coming apart at the seams. But the American people, they just came together. They rose to the occasion, neighbor helping neighbor, strangers risking life and limb to save total strangers, showing the better angels of our nature.

Let us not reserve the better angels only for natural disasters, leaving our deepest and most profound problems to petty political fighting. Let us instead be true to our spirit, facing facts, coming together, bringing hope, and moving forward.

Tonight, my fellow Americans, we are summoned to answer a question as old as the Republic itself: What is the state of our Union? It is growing stronger, but it must be stronger still. With your help and God's help, it will be.

Thank you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 p.m. in the House Chamber of the Capitol.

## Nomination for Commandant of the United States Coast Guard *January 25, 1994*

The President announced his intention today to nominate Rear Admiral Robert E. Kramek, USCG, to be the 20th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation.

"Admiral Kramek has served his country proudly for 33 years and has distinguished himself through his performance in a number of challenging assignments," said the President. "He has consistently demonstrated the strong

leadership ability the Coast Guard needs to remain the vital service that it always has been. I am confident that he will perform up to the high standards set by his predecessor, Admiral Bill Kime."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

## Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Bulgaria *January 26, 1994*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

On June 3, 1993, I determined and reported to the Congress that Bulgaria is in full compliance with the freedom of emigration criteria

of sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974. This determination allowed for the continuation of most-favored nation (MFN) status and certain U.S. Government financial programs