

NEBRASKANS SUPPORT A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, next week there will likely be a debate in the other body over amending the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced budget. The Nebraskans I represent overwhelmingly support this measure. In my view, a balanced budget amendment is vital to Nebraska's working families, carrying on admirably under the weight of a massive national debt, endless deficits, and big government.

As you may recall, in the first month of the new Congress the House of Representatives passed a balanced budget amendment by a vote of 300 to 132, putting in place the centerpiece of the Republican agenda. Attempts to amend the Constitution to require a balanced budget date back to the 1700's. President Ronald Reagan pushed throughout his tenure for such a measure but was unable to pass it through the Democratic-dominated House and the Senate.

I pledged to work hard for a balanced budget amendment and did as I said I would do by voting in favor of it. I made a promise to the people of Nebraska and I delivered. The balanced budget amendment will change the way our government works, forcing Washington to balance its books.

Enforcing a balanced budget on Washington is not about numbers it is about people. It is about parents with kids in Elkhorn High, lying awake at night desperate to figure out a way to put them through college. It is about a newlywed wife, dreaming of the curtains she would love to put in a new home in Omaha—then finding herself in tears because she knows she will never move in. It is about an idealistic Creighton University student giving up on studying, looking to a bottle or worse because he cannot figure out where he is going to find a job even if he gets straight A's. It is about my grandmother, in her 80's and still teaching school, worried about her security so as never to be a burden, even though she never could be to those of us who love her.

You know these people. You are worried about them, like I am. They live in Scottsbluff and Sarpy County, Plattsmouth and Papillion, South Omaha—and the South Bronx. They deserve a better future. And we can give it to them.

The deficits we are running today have crippled wage and job growth for America's families. According to the nonpartisan concord coalition, the average American family would be making at least \$15,000 a year more if we were not carrying the terrible burden of the Federal debt. For the hard working families I know in Nebraska, \$15,000 would make a huge difference.

Some say we should just balanced the budget, without putting in place any enforcement mechanism. Those people have not seen how Washington works. The have not seen Presidents willing to break promises for pure politics. They have not seen the first balanced budget in a generation, which we helped craft and pass, vetoed and misrepresented to get a leg up in the election. During

the budget stand-off, I worked hard to put together meetings between moderate Democrats and House Republican freshman to find common ground on the budget. As I encouraged each side to work together, it occurred to me that we were not the problem. The problem was that at the highest levels, no one would be forced to step onto the common ground we had found. For years now, Presidents and Congress have been unable to take that step because each could blame the other for the ultimate failure of the process.

Let us stop Washington's budget merry-go-round. It is high time we put some backbone in our institutions to give them the courage to face the tough choices we have laid out for the Nation. Our colleagues in the other body should pass the balanced budget amendment as we have in the House—for our families, and for our future.

TRIBUTE TO POLICE LT. ART BLAKEY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an article that appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on May 24, 1996, commemorating the heroic actions of Police Lt. Art Blakey in the performance of his duty to serve and protect the people of St. Paul.

Lieutenant Blakey should serve as a reminder to all of us the dedication and sacrifice our police officers make everyday on the job. These men and women who so valiantly serve our constituents deserve our full support and admiration.

I hope my colleagues will enjoy the following article:

NEIGHBORS HONOR HERO WOUNDED IN SHOOTOUT

(By Pat Burson)

Community leaders, law enforcement officers, neighbors and friends called Lt. Art Blakey a hero during a ceremony in his honor Thursday night in the heart of his Summit-University neighborhood in St. Paul.

It's not just that the off-duty sheriff's deputy was willing to put his life on the line after three masked men barged into a St. Paul VFW post and one began firing shots into the crowd.

It's also the simple things Blakey does every day.

"He's a husband and a father and a grandfather and a long-time contributing member to our community," said Nathaniel Khaliq, president of the St. Paul NAACP, which helped organized the tribute. "And in these days of black men being portrayed as being the source of many of society's problems and with many people saying we don't have an adequate number of role models, I think Art Blakey is certainly one we can hold high for others to see."

Blakey was wounded in the club shootout, hit in the lower torso by the gunman's bullet. He just returned to work this week.

The shooting happened April 13, his 24th wedding anniversary.

He had walked the block from his home to the VFW post and was ordering juice at the back of the room when the masked men entered.

When one began shooting, Blakey identified himself and ordered the man to drop the

weapon. Instead the gunman pulled the trigger, and a bullet pierced the deputy's lower torso. Blakey returned fire, hitting the man twice in the stomach.

Three suspects have been charged in connection with the incident.

On Thursday night, Blakey sat in St. Peter Claver Catholic Church with his wife, Carolyn, and family members as about 125 well-wishers—including state officials and local politicians, law enforcement officers, local block club members and community leaders—showered him with plaques, flowers, citations and words of praise, gratitude and support.

Blakey was the first recipient of the Chief's Award for Valor from St. Paul Police Chief William Finney.

When Blakey's turn came, he thanked a litany of supporters saying he was "just overwhelmed."

And a little unnerved by all the fuss.

"I just don't feel like I need to be patted on the back," Blakey said later. "Twenty-seven years ago, I took the oath to serve and protect. I continue to feel that way."

Khaliq, St. Paul NAACP president, said people are quick to honor those who die in action, but often forget to show their gratitude when the heroes survive. "We did this so he can see the appreciation of the community for what he did," said Khaliq, "and the community can see there are Art Blakeys among us that deserve the title of hero."

THE STANLEY FAMILY IS HONORED

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friends, constituents, and a great Dallas family for being honored by the Dallas Division of State of Israel Bonds on Thursday evening, May 30, 1996. The Stanley family is being recognized for their dedicated accomplishments which exemplify Jewish consciousness through "Midor Lador"—"from generation to generation" embodying Jerusalem, the spiritual heart and soul of the Jewish people. They will be presented with the Jerusalem 3000 Peter Max Award.

Renee Stanley along with her late husband Paul, encouraged in their children an awareness of commitment to the local community as well as to the State of Israel. Many organizations benefit from the Stanley family efforts, including Temple Emanu-El, the Jewish Community Center, AIPAC, the American Jewish Congress, Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, Dallas Center for Holocaust Studies and National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Family Service, ADL, Simon Wiesenthal Center & Bet Hashoah Museum of Tolerance, National Holocaust Center in Washington, B'nai B'rith Kivtznich National Jewish Museum, and World Jewish Congress.

I wish to extend my congratulations to Renee, Rich, David, Marc, and Wendy, and Roger Stanley who have all worked to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens in our community and in the world. Keep up the great work.

BROWARD COUNTY LIBRARY
SYSTEM

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a south Florida institution which has recently received the highest honor in its field. The American Libraries Association and the Library Journal have named the Broward County Library System, the "1996 National Library of the Year."

The Broward County Library System has consistently provided the residents of south Florida with excellent service, valuable resources, and vital information. The library system has become a fixture within the community, and the community support is extraordinary. The library draws more attendance than all the Florida sports teams combined. The Miami Herald, proclaimed the library to be "one of the Broward County commission's most important achievements." Support such as this illustrates the Broward County Library's successful pursuit of excellence and innovative approaches to library service.

In our growing age of technology and telecommunications, the Broward County Library System has provided state of the art resources which are in high demand. The library volunteered to pilot the FreeNet system to enhance access in providing the south Florida community with electronic mail, a public forum to exchange ideas, and internet service to research data bases. During its expansion in service and information, the library system has proven its commitment to develop a service that will meet the technological standards of the 21st century.

Through its program of service and dedication, the Broward County Library System has kept the taxpayer in high regard. For example, the library system formed a partnership with Broward Community College in order to consolidate financial resources for operational and construction services. This partnership has saved taxpayers \$17 million—which is the total cost of building and operating two libraries. Both the public and private sectors have enabled the Broward County Library System to provide essential service, as well as a commitment to education.

The Broward County Library System has provided educational standards that have been adopted and practiced by educators. The library has teamed up with local schools, colleges, and universities in providing its coveted resources for all age groups.

Mr. Speaker, throughout this country there are many individuals who are dedicated to strengthening our community spirit, one such individual is Mr. Samuel Morrison, director of the libraries division of Broward County. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Sam Morrison and the staff of the Broward County Library System on the receipt of the 1996 National Library of the Year Award.

REMARKS OF BENJAMIN MEED AT
THE NATIONAL DAYS OF RE-
MEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, Members of Congress, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and hundreds of survivors of the Holocaust and their friends gathered here in the Capitol Rotunda for the National Days of Remembrance commemoration. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council was established by Congress to preserve the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. I commend the Council and the members of the Days of Remembrance Committee, chaired by my good friend, Benjamin Meed, for their vigilant and genuine adherence to their extraordinarily important task.

One of the first acts of the Council was to establish the annual Days of Remembrance commemoration to mirror similar observances held in Israel and throughout our Nation and elsewhere in the world. This year, the commemoration centered on the 50th anniversary of the Nuremberg trials. The observance was a reminder of the difficult process of first coping and then healing that all survivors and their families and loved ones had to endure.

I invite my colleagues to read Benjamin Meed's excellent welcoming remarks. Ben Meed is the most prominent and effective force for keeping the lessons and the memories of the Holocaust alive in the United States. We are extremely fortunate that this highly competent individual has committed his life to this important task, and in particular to organizing the annual National Days of Remembrance commemoration. I ask that Ben Meed's remarks be inserted into the RECORD.

WELCOMING REMARKS BY BENJAMIN MEED,
CHAIRMAN, DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

Members of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished Members of Congress, Honorable members of the Holocaust Memorial Council, Fellow Survivors, Dear Friends,

When Congress created the United States Holocaust Memorial Council in 1980, there were only a few Yom Hashoah observances held in communities of Holocaust survivors living in this country. You, the Members of Congress, entrusted us, the members of the Council, with the responsibility of teaching American citizens about the Holocaust. We have complied with your mandate by building the Holocaust Memorial Museum, which most of you have visited, and by leading the nation in annual civic commemorations, known as the Days of Remembrance. I am privileged to tell you that now, during this week of Holocaust Remembrance, more than a million people from all the states of our great Union will come together in Memory. We are joined by Governors, Mayors and community leaders as well as professors, teachers and schoolchildren.

Earlier today, the entire nation of Israel stopped and stood silent in Remembrance. We are together in dedication to Memory and aspiration for Peace.

Over the past fifteen years that we have gathered to commemorate in this Rotunda, we have observed an anniversary—the fiftieth year of a milestone event: the Night of Broken Glass, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the encounter between American soldiers and Holocaust survivors.

This year we confront the anniversary of the aftermath of the Holocaust: what hap-

pened as we survivors attempted to rebuild our lives. This was not an easy thing to do. It was years before we could ask a policeman for directions. Why? Because he was wearing a uniform. For a long time, it took courage just to answer a knock on the front door.

It is true that we looked to the future in hope, but the shadows of the past remained. And so we dedicated our lives to Remembrance—remembrance of all those for whom the future had been destroyed by the Shoah.

Rebuilding because a central concern for the world—rebuilding a Europe devastated by war; rebuilding the shattered image of humanity in a world of Auschwitz, Belzec and Treblinka. America understood the necessity of encouraging the European nations to work together for economic recovery. Thus the Marshall Plan was implemented, and the groundwork for the Europe of today was laid.

The Allied leaders also realize that to build a sound future, there had to be an accounting for crimes so great as to be unparalleled in recorded history.

Nuremberg, the city where Nazi party pag-eants had been held, the place where the Nuremberg Laws were promulgated and the German legal system became an accomplice to mass murder, was chosen as the site for the first, joint International Military Tribunal.

In its charter, three forms of crimes were specified. Two of them were ancient, but one was unprecedented. Crimes against the peace and war crimes were familiar terms to all of us, but Crimes Against Humanity was a new category. It described mass murder and extermination, enslavement and deportation based on racial, religious, or political affiliation.

Through the proceedings of the Nuremberg Trials, we came to know the perpetrators. Documents that the killers had so carefully created were gathered and studied. In the defense testimony of accused doctors, judges and industrial leaders as well as military generals, Einsatzgruppen commanders, and concentration camp commandants, the world learned "how the crimes were committed." We also learned that tens of thousands of ordinary Germans from all walks of life had willingly participated in the annihilation process. Ironically, those on trial pled not guilty to the charges, they did not claim innocence. Rather, they attempted to shift the burden of responsibility to those of higher rank.

Was justice achieved? Certainly not! For what meaning can justice have in a world of Mydanek, Chelmo and Sobibor? What punishment is appropriate for the crimes?

Still, the attempt to speak of justice was important. It was a way of setting limits, of saying there are crimes so evil and so enormous that civilizations itself is on trial. For such crimes, there must be punishment.

For many years at hundreds of commemorations around the world, we have pleaded Zuchor—Remember—Remember the children of Teresienstadt. Remember the fighters of Warsaw. Remember the poets of Vilna. Remember all of our lost loved ones.

Today, let us not forget the killers. Let us not forget their evil and their infamy. Let us not forget them because they express what happens to the power of government and the majesty of legal systems that become detached from moral values and humane goals. The same powers that heal and help can also humiliate and decimate. There is a difference; there must be a difference; and you and I must make sure that we make a difference.

With these words, here in this great Hall of democracy, let us recommit ourselves to the principals of justice and liberty for all—and to Remembrance—now and forever.