

schools and the State of California, the La Puente Valley ROP will celebrate 25 years of dedicated service to the community on July 1, 1996.

In July 1994, La Puente Valley ROP became a three-district Regional Occupational Program featuring Bassett, Hacienda-La Puente, and Rowland Unified School Districts. Under the dynamic leadership of Superintendent Patricia Frank and Board of Trustee Members Anita Perez, Al Cobos, Mary Jo Maxwell, Toni Giaffaglione, Norman Hsu, and Pete Samphere; and an outstanding instructional staff, the La Puente Valley ROP has made major gains toward implementing the goals as stated in its mission statement:

The La Puente Valley Regional Occupational Program is committed to developing and providing quality occupational training programs that lead to a successful school-to-work transition or advanced technical training. These programs shall meet the diverse needs of all eligible students.

Over the past 25 years, more than 145,000 high school juniors and seniors, and adults from the community have taken advantage of the opportunities to participate in hundreds of courses. The La Puente Valley ROP offers: business and management, graphic arts, industrial technology, electronics, health occupations, personal services, food services/restaurant occupations and agriculture. Through the interest-aptitude-ability testing, career counseling, and job placement assistance, hundreds of the participating students have made the successful school-to-work transition.

The benefits to prospective employers are prescreened, there are no fees, applicants are prescreened, and potential employees are trained to meet a company's needs. The partnership built between industry, education, and the community is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have such a successful program serving my constituents. It is with pride that I rise and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the La Puente Valley Regional Occupational Program for 25 years of distinguished service to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ADM. JEREMY BOORDA

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, Harold Kramer, a retired member of the U.S. Navy and a constituent of mine residing in Lake Bluff, IL, wrote this impassioned tribute to the late Admiral Boorda. I would like to take this opportunity to share his words with the country.

THE MEANING OF VALOR

Many of us older Americans, including myself, have had the privilege of serving in the United States Navy in World War II and after . . . in my own case, as an enlisted man. It was, during my enlistment at the age of 17 in 1944, and still is a disciplined and dedicated organization which is one of the bulwarks of our way of democratic life. But in the last few years, a series of unfortunate events of which we are all aware—at an aviator's party, in Okinawa, at Annapolis and elsewhere has forced us to take stock of our shortcomings and re-dedicate ourselves to the re-establishment of the highest degree of understanding of others and morality in our

treatment of others who differ from ourselves.

Admiral Boorda, whose untimely death we are here to mourn, was a dedicated man who enlisted in the United States Navy 40 years ago and—make no mistake about this—served the Navy and his country with great distinction throughout that exceptionally long service career. Because of the shortcomings of individuals—including officers in training at the Naval Academy plus harassment by both officers (at Tailhook) and enlisted men—Admiral Boorda had to address himself primarily to correcting problems of ethics and the need for basic decency in treatment of others in the Navy. And these are the same problems which haunt us in our civilian lives. Because of his concentration on apologizing for and correcting the wrongs of others in the Navy, he was sensitive in the extreme to his apparent own shortcoming in the technical violation of what entitled the wearing of the Navy "V" for valor.

Admiral Mike Boorda did serve with valor throughout his career and abroad his assigned tour of duty on a destroyer squadron during the Vietnam War. Although it happened that he was not fired upon, he was always willing to place himself in harms way in serving his country. The Webster Dictionary defines "Valor" as strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness and personal bravery. Every one of us can and must be aware that our Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mike Boorda displayed these qualities and intended the wearing of the "V" medals to simply signify his having served during the period of the Vietnam War in the war theater. He earned them by his commitment to serve wherever needed in a war theater! He earned them by his 40 years of service to his country! He earned them by his always very special concern for the Navy enlisted men and women! Because Mike Boorda never forgot that he had advanced through the enlisted ranks, and he always sought the welfare of the enlisted man and woman.

We can mourn Admiral Boorda's untimely death in a number of ways. First, we can make our feeling known to the segments of the media such as Newsweek by canceling subscriptions when they put headlines above decency. We can constantly make a great effort toward understanding those with whom we serve—especially those who are different than ourselves. We can show the same kind of decency toward others that distinguished Admiral Boorda's life. And we can strive mightily to never allow the physically strong to take advantage of the physically weaker: to know in our hearts that real strength is strength of character! We can strive to give unstintingly of our selves in the service of God, our country and humanity! And in doing these things we can honor Admiral Boorda, our still outstanding United States Navy, and ourselves!

Admiral Mike Boorda actually gave his life for his country because he felt that was the only way, under the circumstances of more bad publicity for the Navy, to maintain the integrity of the service he loved. He gave his life for his country just as truly as if he had been under fire! While deeply saddened by his sacrifice of himself, we can honor his memory and his work by knowing that we cannot, we will not allow the wrongs of the past toward our fellows to be our guideline for the future. We can start by shaking the hand of the person next to us, taking some of his or her burden upon our own shoulders with a smile, and making the lives of those around us bright and better!

BALANCING THE BUDGET IS CRUCIAL TO OUR FUTURE

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the time has come to decide whether Congress should amend the United States Constitution to require an annual balanced budget. The Nebraskans I represent overwhelmingly support such a measure because they know, like me, that balancing the budget is crucial to their families' well-being and future prosperity.

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, thus taking the initial steps of the Republican journey in honoring its Contract With America. Although the balanced budget amendment overwhelmingly passed the House, it was defeated in the Senate when six Democrats who previously had voted in favor of the amendment switched their vote to defeat it. This week, the Senate will again revisit the balanced budget amendment and again attempt to do what is right: begin fixing a system that broke long ago.

According to the House Budget Committee, next year Americans will pay as much interest on the \$5 trillion national debt as we will pay for our national defense. That statistic alone illustrates the inadequate way Washington has been doing business. The policies and practices of poor decisionmaking and poor leadership have cost the American families dearly, placing a price tag on our current defeat of over \$15,000 per year for each family. Now the time has come to change course, and focus on a new horizon for our families, and for each other.

The balanced budget amendment will force the Government to play by the rules which we, as members of society, have come to expect in our ordinary affairs. Shareholders in corporations wouldn't allow it. The members of your professional organization wouldn't tolerate it. And certainly, you wouldn't plan your family's financial future based on it. Yet for the past 200 years we have let the Government make decisions without accountability; accountability which undoubtedly would not go unanswered by the corporation, by your professional organization, or by the members of your family. The time has come to require Congress to be accountable for the decisions it's making regarding the financial future of our Nation, and our Nation's children.

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 does business, forcing Washington do behave responsibly by requiring Congress to balance its books.

In a week representing the end of an era here on Capitol Hill, I defer to words of Senate Majority Leader ROBERT DOLE made last month regarding his 20-year battle for a constitutional amendment to balance the budget:

Perhaps no policy is more important to the economic future of Americans and the future of our children and the future of our nation than a balanced budget amendment. I know the President urged and probably persuaded

at least six Democrats to vote "no," but it's not often we get a second chance to do the right thing.

The time has come to move forward and redirect our policies and practices to responsible

spending and reasonable growth. Now is the time to confront the spending dragon on Capitol Hill, and slay the demon like never before. The time has come to show the American

people that we are not afraid to accept the responsibility of balancing the budget and restoring fiscal sanity to this country's government. Now is the time. Now more than ever.