

my savings. Perhaps I lived too long, but still I want to live.

Last year my total income from social security was \$6,984, but I managed to keep my home and pay my bills with that. The only other income I had was less than \$100 from renting some land. This year my monthly income from social security per month is \$582. My checkbook total is now around \$1500.

The cost of the nursing home is about \$92 per day much of which goes to medical costs, not for expensive paid help. If anything, there needs to be more money for paid help.

I have been given two options to pay—either sell my home and give up any hope of ever returning or get Public Aid Assistance. In the hope of returning home, I applied for Public Aid. Since my total income is \$582 month, out of that I must pay, to keep my home, electricity and gas \$74, water and sewer \$25, trash pick up \$15, house insurance (\$367 per year) or \$32 per month. I also have paid and want to continue to pay \$103 per month for a medicare supplement.

That leaves \$334 out of my social security to pay the nursing home. And you know what is worse of all, I am made to feel like a failure because I cannot pay out of pocket \$36,000 to \$40,000 a year for a nursing home. And there are thousands, maybe millions of me throughout this country.

Once we could borrow money on just our good names. Now our homes have become the price of our aged care. Soon I fear there will be a "For Sale" sign in my front yard and the inexpensive treasures of my life will be divided or discarded.

I take no comfort in that I am just one of many of this nation's older citizens who once put a strap around our waist, put our hands to the plow and took this great agricultural nation from a horsepowered economy to the richest most plentiful nation in the world who can put a man on the moon at will.

Must we, the elderly, who helped build this country, have to live to see ourselves stripped of our most prized possessions, our homes, our dignity, our freedom and our pride?

I know that you and Congress are about to embark on a debate on Social Security and Medicare and other issues that affect those of us who still survive though in our 90's. I hope these debates will go beyond just economics and statistics and look into the faces of those of us who make up this population. We are more than statistics. We all have a story to tell. Once we were all children. Most of us have children and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Once you wrote in a letter to my granddaughter Shirley Roney "I have worked throughout my life to empower people who historically have been excluded from political, economic and educational opportunities. I remain committed to achieving that goal."

In that particular letter you were speaking of racial relations. I believe you when you say you have done these things. I hope that in the remaining two years of your presidency, you will be able to finish what you have started in the areas of empowering all people who have been excluded from the opportunities for which our sons fought to guarantee to all Americans.

God Bless,

VANEETA ALLEN.●

CELLULAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SAFETY WEEK

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, in recent years the advent of the wireless phone began an extraordinary advance in the cellular telecommunications in-

dustry. As a result the cellular phone has become an accessory and a necessity in the modern technological world we currently live in. It has revolutionized communication, and has helped individuals to constantly stay connected. Today, there are over an estimated 200 million wireless phone users around the world. The wireless telephone gives individuals the powerful ability to communicate—almost anywhere, anytime.

With the ability of having a cellular phone comes responsibility. As National Wireless Safety Week comes to a conclusion, we must recognize the dangers of having and using cellular telephones, especially when driving. We must also recognize the benefits of having these phones in situations where they are desperately needed. Today, there are over 98,000 emergency calls made daily by people using wireless phones—saving lives, preventing crimes and assisting in emergency situations. Furthermore, according to a recent government study, decreasing notification time when accidents occurs saves lives—a wireless phone is a tool to reduce such a time.

The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) is the international organization of the wireless communications industry for wireless carriers and manufactures. It is also the coordinator of Wireless Safety Week, and promotes using phones to summon assistance in emergency situations to save lives. It also promotes the concept that when driving a car, safety is one's first priority. The CTIA has six simple rules to driving safely while using a wireless phone, including:

Safe driving is one's first responsibility. Always buckle up; keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.

Make sure that one's phone is positioned where is easy to see and easy to reach. Be familiar with the operation of one's phone so that one is comfortable using it on the road.

Use the speed dialing feature to program in frequently called numbers. Then one is able to make a call by touching only one or two buttons. Most phones will store up to 99 numbers.

When dialing manually without using the speed dialing feature first, dial only when stopped. If one cannot stop, or pull over, dial a few digits, then survey traffic before completing the call.

Never take notes while driving. Pull off the road to a safe spot to jot something down.

Be a wireless Samaritan. Dialing 9-1-1 is a free call for wireless subscribers, use it to report crimes in progress or other potentially life-threatening emergencies, accidents, or drunk driving.

In a recent national poll, it was found that over 60 percent of wireless phone users have called for help in cases of car trouble, medical emergency, or to report a drunk driving crime. Close to 90 percent of wireless phone users polled said safety and secu-

rity were the best reasons for owning a wireless phone.

Mr. President. The bottom line is that individuals need to assume responsibility while behind the wheel of a car. No telephone call is important enough to risk the safety of the driver, passengers, and others on the road. Cellular phones can be a distraction while one is driving a car. I urge drivers to use common sense when driving, and ask that drivers continue to act as good Samaritans. I also want to recognize the efforts of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, and congratulate them for a successful Wireless Safety Week.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB CLARKE

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Bob Clarke, who has served for nearly 15 years as President of Vermont Technical College in Randolph. Under Bob's leadership, VTC has seen its annual budget quadruple, its annual donations have increased twelve-fold, and VTC's standing in the community has grown immensely.

Bob brought to VTC a new perspective for technical education. He has established unique relationships between VTC and the high-tech community. Currently, Vermont Technical College is providing training to employees of companies such as IBM, BF Goodrich Aerospace, and Bell Atlantic. In addition, Bob has listened to the concerns of small businesses in the state. When Vermont faced a shortage of trained auto mechanics, he established a training program in automotive technology. His willingness to listen to the needs of the business community has resulted in increased opportunities for VTC students and alumni alike, and VTC has created a qualified pool of applicants to meet the growing needs of Vermont's high-tech industry.

Over the years, I have worked closely with Bob and VTC on issues including education, workforce retraining and business development. I have been most impressed with Bob's innovation in addressing the evolving needs of the business community. His work is truly inspiring and the results have been felt across the state. Bob has truly raised the bar for technical colleges around the country.

An article recently appeared in the Vermont Sunday Magazine which details Bob's accomplishments during his tenure as President of Vermont Technical College. I ask that this article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From Vermont Sunday Magazine, May 23, 1999]

CUTTING-EDGE CLARKE

(By Jack Crowl)

Bob Clarke doesn't exactly fit the central-casting image of a New England college president. He doesn't have an Ivy League degree; in fact he doesn't have a traditional academic Ph. D. at all. Neither does he have a particularly deferential air toward the life

of the mind, nor the aversion to cozy relationships with businesses that many academic leaders fear might skew their priorities and jeopardize their independence.

Instead, the president of Vermont Technical College is best known for his impish grin, the twang in his speech—he's from the Eastern Shore of Maryland—a love of fast cars, and a passion for hard work and getting things done. Pass him on the street unknowingly and you'd likely say, "That guy must be a salesman."

Which he is. Largely by selling himself and his institution to a bevy of businesses, Clarke has transformed that small and sleepy two-year, engineering-technology school into a statewide dynamo with substantial influence in the highest circles of industry, education, and government.

In his nearly 15 years as head of VTC, Clarke has seen its annual budget grow from about \$5 million to more than \$21 million, plus more than \$13 million in new or renovated buildings and facilities. Additionally, the college has spent more than \$750,000 a year over the past decade on new equipment and for several years has boasted of a totally "wired" campus for the information age.

Gifts and grants that once amounted to a paltry \$25,000 a year now total \$3 million annually. And the endowment fund, which didn't even exist when Clarke arrived in 1984, now amounts to about \$3.6 million. VTC employs nearly 500 people and offers two-year associate degrees in 18 different technical areas, plus two recently added bachelor's degrees.

But Clarke's contributions to Vermont are more significant than simply the upgrading of a single institution, important as that may be. In the process of selling VTC, he's also been selling the concept of higher education to more and more people. He's played a big role in changing the tenor of public discussion about the importance of higher education and helped move the debate from the theoretical realm of ideas to the practical world of jobs and profits.

At meetings large and small throughout the state, Clarke continually chants his twin mantras about the importance of technology in our modern society and the crucial role that higher education plays in a healthy economy because of that. "We have to have higher education as the centerpiece of our economic development plans or we're going to be in trouble when the next recession hits," he says.

Clarke was a member of Vermont's Higher Education Financing Commission, which last winter urged substantial increases in state funds for colleges and students, and whose recommendations have been taken seriously by the governor and legislature. He brought Massachusetts economist Paul Harrington, an adherent of using occupational-education programs to help boost the economy, to the attention of the panel. Harrington's ideas were important in its deliberations.

Some traditional academic types are somewhat dismissive of Clarke in private, calling him a "showboat" or an "empire builder." But he has big fans in business and government, and he has converted some of his harshest critics over the years. "If a college president's job is to promote the institution and raise money, then by God, he does the job well," says Russ Mills, a longtime VTC faculty member and former president of the state-college faculty union. "He does a good job of making the college indispensable to the business community," he adds.

And Clarke's boss, Chancellor Charles Bunting of the state-college system, calls the VTC president "an outstanding model of leadership."

Robert G. Clarke was born in Lewes, Del. (best known in the mid-Atlantic area as the

terminus of a ferry line across Delaware Bay from Cape May, N.J.), but his family soon moved further south on the Eastern Shore to the tiny Maryland town of Snow Hill. After high school, he spent two years at nearby Salisbury State College, where he met his future wife.

He then joined the Air Force, where he spent seven years, picking up along the way a bachelor's degree in occupational education from Southern Illinois University and a master's degree in the same field from Central Washington State College.

In 1978, Clarke joined the faculty of Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, Penn., where in six years, he rose to Dean of Business, Engineering and Technology while also earning a doctorate in Higher Education Administration and Supervision at Lehigh University.

In 1984, VTC was in the doldrums. Its enrollment was declining. No new buildings had been built in 12 years. It had no endowment and few private gifts. The Vermont State College trustees tapped the 33-year-old Clarke, giving him the charge to rescue the college and lead it to new heights. The rest, as they say, is history.

Last fall, the state Chamber of Commerce honored Clarke as the 1998 Vermont Citizen of the Year and the accolades flew fast and furiously. Vermont's entire congressional delegation, state and college officials, and businesspeople of all stripes joined in paeans to Clarke's hard work, vision, and leadership. He was called, in no particular order, "A man who fixes things;" "A man in a hurry;" and "Not just a man with a plan, but a man who gets things done."

Said Gov. Howard Dean, who presented the award: "Bob Clarke was talking about workplace investments and public-private partnerships before anybody else knew what they were." And, he added, "What I know best about (him) is his ubiquity. I've never been to any meeting about education and jobs, in my 7½ years as governor, that he or someone who works for him wasn't either at the meeting or was next on the appointment list."

In his acceptance speech, Clarke noted that it was relatively rare for both an educator and a non-native-Vermonter to receive the coveted award, and that he was awed to be mentioned in the company of the other honorees—most of them governors, statesmen, or captains of industry. He unsurprisingly reviewed his college's accomplishments and thanked his colleagues. But he ended on a different, bolder note. "Much still needs to be done," he said. "Consider that:

"Vermont ranks 49th among the states in per capita support of higher education.

"Unlike most states, Vermont's two-year colleges receive no local support.

"Vermont has no post-secondary vocational education system.

"There is a tremendous state need for workforce education and training.

"There is a shortage of skilled Vermonters to fill high-paying jobs."

At the end of the banquet, the Chamber of Commerce's chair, Millie Merrill, announced that the organization's board that day had unanimously and strongly endorsed the concept of additional funds for higher education. When Clarke arrived the next morning at a meeting of the Higher Education Financing Commission, the assembled college presidents and state legislators gave him a standing ovation.

The chief feather in Clarke's off-campus cap is the IBM Educational Consortium, under which VTC, in partnership with the University of Vermont and the other state colleges, manages all employee education and training for the state's largest private

employer. The consortium has 22 full-time employees on-site at IBM. Gov. Dean lauds it as "a model program, not only for the state but for the whole country."

Landing the IBM contract was a major coup for Clarke and VTC. The big computer manufacturer has for many years taken great pride in running its own training department, and it took some serious horse-trading and a trial period before IBM officials agreed to turn over all their training to the consortium.

In many other places, a small two-year college would be expected to be only a junior partner in such an arrangement, not the organizer. But, says Clarke, with obvious pride: "We do education and training. We're good at it. Often businesses are not. That's why I job out my campus food service and bookstore operations to outside experts."

That's not, of course, VTC's only business-training contract. Clarke has developed a slew of them, and he's been willing and able to make special arrangements for companies with different needs whenever traditional training programs seem unlikely to work. Two examples:

He's delivering a program that leads to a two-year degree in engineering technology on the premises of BF Goodrich Aerospace in Vergennes. In that partnership, Goodrich executives are working with the VTC faculty to develop the curriculum, and faculty members travel across the state to teach the courses.

He's arranged for selected Bell Atlantic employees, who are scattered all over the state, to come to the VTC campus in central Vermont once a week to work toward a degree in telecommunications technology. The telephone company orchestrates the work schedules of student-employees to accommodate the program.

Clarke likes to point out that "90 per cent of Vermont companies have fewer than 20 employees. We need better training not linked to specific programs." So in 1992, the college took over the Vermont Small Business Development Center, which had been housed at the University of Vermont. Since then, it has served more than 7,000 clients, providing small Vermont companies with counseling, training, help in marketing and financial management, and assistance in finding money for startups or expansion. As part of its outreach program, the center maintains offices at five different sites around the state.

The center helps put on trade shows and seminars and works in conjunction with other colleges, state agencies, trade associations, and the federal Small Business Administration (which provides most of its operating funds).

It also maintains an environmental assistance program, which conducts workshops and confidential environmental assessments for businesses that Clarke maintains might be reluctant to deal directly with government agencies, which have the power to levy penalties for rules violations.

Vermont Interactive Television is another pioneering Clarke innovation. Headquartered on the VTC campus in Randolph, it coordinates 12 sites around the state, where businesses, government officials, educators, and non-profit organizations can conduct meetings, training, and hear and see what folks at the other sites are saying and doing, all without the costly statewide travel that can be onerous or even dangerous during winter.

VIT has been in operation for more than 10 years. It has a contract with the state for meetings and training, and it collects user fees for non-state-government meetings. Individual sites donate the use of their facilities. A 1996 study reported that the state government was saving some 55 percent on

meetings conducted over VIT instead of having employees travel around the state to one central location. Many committees of the state legislature conduct public hearings via interactive television, so they can collect input from citizens without forcing them to travel to Montpelier.

A more recent innovation is the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center, a joint venture among VTC, the state's Department of Economic Development, and a couple of units of the U.S. Department of Commerce. In three years, this center has worked with more than 500 Vermont manufacturers in projects involving a number of trade associations, colleges, and other non-profit organizations.

The center has been in the forefront of efforts to raise Vermonters' awareness about the potential problems of Y2K or the Millennium Bug, which could cause most computers to malfunction on Jan. 1, 2000, because they may not be able to recognize the date. VMEC is closely affiliated with the state's Y2K Council and it's working with manufacturers to identify and head off any computer problems that could occur.

Whenever his institution lacks the expertise to pull off a full-fledged training program on its own, Clarke develops partnerships with other post-secondary institutions. Too many exist to name here, but VTC currently has 18 such joint projects with the University of Vermont alone.

Meanwhile, back on the campus, Clarke encourages innovation, but he runs a tight ship. Too tight for some faculty members, who over the years have chafed at the directions he wants to take the school, the speed with which he likes to make changes, and his impatience with those who disagree with him.

Early in his tenure, one teacher who was vocally less than enthusiastic about Clarke's plans did not have his contract renewed, despite the strong support of the rest of the faculty, who felt he was an outstanding teacher. Incensed, the faculty called for Clarke's resignation by a two-to-one margin. Clarke refused to resign, and he was wholeheartedly backed by the state-college trustees. That ended the faculty rebellion, but left many teachers with a long-simmering dislike and distrust of the president.

Some faculty leaders now argue that Clarke has changed since that confrontation. They think he's a bit more fair-minded and can now consider others' points of view, even when he disagrees with them. "He's developed a delicate touch in personnel matters," says Russ Mills, the veteran faculty member, who thinks that, if confronted with the same situation again, Clarke would react differently today.

Nonetheless, there's no question that Clarke likes to be in control of what's happening on his campus. Even today, he boasts that he personally interviews all finalists for campus jobs.

A quick review of several campus innovations by Clarke and his academic colleagues offers some idea of the breadth of his interests and concerns:

Several years ago, the college took over the state's training programs for Licensed Practical Nurses. It continued to offer the standard one-year program at four sites throughout the state, but added a second year for students interested in becoming Registered Nurses. And it offers academic credit for its programs, so that nursing students who wish to get bachelor's degrees can transfer to a four-year institution.

In 1989, the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology was founded. Under that program, gifted Vermont high-school students can enroll at VTC and simultaneously complete their final year of high school and

their first year of college work. VTC is accredited as a private high school for that purpose. Students who complete that year's work can continue there or transfer to another college.

The college plays host every summer to a Women-in-Technology program. About 250 young women spend a week on campus, where they engage in classes, seminars and workshops with female scientists and engineers, as a way of providing role models and encouraging more young women to consider careers in science and technology.

The Vermont Automobile Dealers' Association, worried about a critical shortage of auto technicians who can deal with the technology of modern cars, built and equipped an automotive technology center on the VTC campus, so that the college could add a two-year degree program in automotive technology. It now also provides scholarships for auto tech students.

Clarke seems to be willing to talk with just about any interest group that could conceivably help his institution. He once struck a deal with the state to buy a farm adjacent to the campus where officials wanted to locate a veterans' cemetery. He agreed to manage the cemetery—and VTC still does—in order to get the remainder of the land for campus expansion.

Not all such proposals come to fruition, however. Clarke offered land to the Woodstock-based Vermont Institute of Natural Science when it was looking for a new home last year (it decided to move elsewhere) and he had serious negotiations with Gifford Hospital in Randolph (where he once served on the board) to establish a nursing home that didn't work out, either. It was during that time, when negotiations were also under way for an early-childhood education program, that one faculty wag observed at a VTC meeting: "Now we can have it all—cradle to grave, without leaving campus."

What's next on the agenda for Clarke? For starters, he says he's committed to staying in Vermont. He admits that when he first took the job, he viewed it as a stepping stone, but he says the people here have been so welcoming and unlike the flinty New Englander stereotype, that he and his wife Glenda have fallen in love with the state and plan to stay. The college provides housing on the campus for the president, so the Clarkes built a "weekend" home in Addison, near Lake Champlain.

On the college front, he's planning more relationships with businesses. He's working to develop one with IDX, the Burlington-based medical-software company, which recently announced an expansion. He hopes to provide a six-month program of technical training to liberal-arts graduates.

Clarke also wants to assist Vermont businesses to get into what he calls "e-commerce," selling their wares over the Internet. "We know the technology and we can help," he says. "Most businesses are barely scratching the surface."

And he wants to encourage the state to come up with a coordinated effort to deal with vocational-technical education.

He applauds the efforts of the Higher Education Financing Commission on which he sat, but feels the key to having its recommendations work is a multi-year commitment by the state. For example, he notes that the new Trust Fund just passed by the Legislature is about \$8 million to start and its use is limited to the earnings from the amount.

"It's an important first step," he says, "but one that will have marginal impact until it grows." For each of the state colleges, the fund will produce about \$20,000 a year for scholarships as it now stands. He's disappointed, however, that there are no

"workforce development" funds. Most states provide funds for training and re-training workers, but in Vermont the cost must be borne entirely by the companies.

Unless, of course, some clever entrepreneur somewhere—someone like Bob Clarke—can find the money and the backing to put a package together.●

HONORING COLORADO STATE SENATOR TILMAN BISHOP

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I'd like to take a moment to honor an individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty and an individual the western slope of Colorado will find difficult to replace.

Senator Tilman Bishop, a true Colorado native, represented Colorado's 7th District in the Colorado State Senate for 24 years and before that, 4 years in the Colorado House of Representatives. From 1993 to 1998 he also served as president pro tem of the senate. His years of service rank him 4th in the State's history for continuous years of service and he is the longest serving senator from the western slope of Colorado.

Senator Bishop has, for decades, selflessly given of himself and has always placed the needs of his constituents before his own. I had the honor of serving with Senator Bishop in the Colorado State Senate from 1983 to 1990 and have always valued his advice and counsel.

The numerous honors and distinction that Senator Bishop has earned during his years of outstanding service exemplify his dedication to the legislature and his constituents. Senator Bishop's wisdom and knowledge will be sorely missed.

Senator Bishop's tenure in the State legislature ended in 1998. There are too few people in elected office today who are prepared to serve in the selfless and diligent manner of Tilman Bishop. His constituents owe him a debt of gratitude and I wish him and his wife Pat the best in their well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO TONY BURNS OF FLORIDA

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a special milestone involving one of America's premier business and civic leaders, Mr. Anthony "Tony" Burns of Miami, Florida.

A quarter-century ago, Tony Burns began his career with Ryder System, Inc. in 1974, as the Director of Planning and Treasurer. Under his guidance, Ryder expanded to become the largest truck leasing and rental company in the world, and the largest public transit management company in the United States. Now serving as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tony celebrates his 25th anniversary with the firm on June 3, 1999.

While elevating Ryder's corporate status, Tony has helped lead the effort to make the workplace more family