

Ballou: "The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them so long. And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years when, God willing, we might still have lived and loved together, and seen our sons grown up to honorable manhood."

On sacrifice:

Clinton: "The decision not to be a resister and the related subsequent decisions were the most difficult of my life. I decided to accept the draft in spite of my beliefs for one reason: To maintain my political viability within the system."

Ballou: "Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break, and yet my love of country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly on with all these chains to the battle field."

On agony:

Clinton: "At that time, after we had made our agreement and you had sent my 1-D deferment to my draft board, the anguish and loss of my self-regard and self-confidence really set in. I hardly slept for weeks and kept going by eating compulsively and reading until exhaustion brought sleep. Finally, on September 12, I stayed up all night writing a letter to the chairman of my draft board."

Ballou: "I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine Providence, but something whispers to me—perhaps it is the wafted prayer of my little Edgar—that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed. If I do not, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name, Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have oftentimes been! How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness."

When you compare the two, it is astonishing that so many commentators found Clinton's mawkish letter "thoughtful" and "tormented." And I often wonder how Ballou—who went into battle with teenagers—would have reacted to Clinton's excuse that he was just a 23-year old "boy" at the time.

But more to the point. Whereas Ballou's definition of success is raising "honorable" men, Clinton's is a career in politics. Whereas Ballou found the call of his country to be more powerful than even his "deathless" love for his wife, Clinton found the call of his country couldn't match the love he had for * * * himself.

Clearly there is more than just a century that separates these two men.

CAMP CLARK, WASHINGTON,

July 14, 1861.

MY VERY DEAR SARAH: The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days—perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write again, I feel impelled to write a few lines that may fall under your eye when I shall be no more.

I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in, the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how strongly American Civilization now leans on the triumph of the Government, and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us though the blood and sufferings of the Revolution. I am willing—perfectly willing—to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this Government, and to pay that debt. . . .

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me with might cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love for Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly on with all these chains to the battlefield.

The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and you that I have enjoyed them so long. And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when God willing, we might still have lived and loved together, and seen our sons grown up to honorable manhood around us. I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine providence, but something whispers to me—perhaps it is the wafted prayer of my little Edgar, that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed. If I do not, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name. Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have often time been! How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness. . . .

But, O Sarah! If the dead can come back to this earth and the unseen around those they loved, I shall always be near you; in the gladdest days and in the darkest nights . . . always, always, and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath, as the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by. Sarah, do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for thee, for we shall meet again.

BROOKLYN CHINESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it pleases me to congratulate one of the leading multi-service organizations in the 12th Congressional District, the Brooklyn Chinese American Association [BCA] on its eighth anniversary. The Brooklyn Chinese American Association serves the vibrant Asian American community in Brooklyn through a multitude of programs including a senior citizens center, and confidential police information hot line, adult literacy and citizenship programs, employment and skills training programs, leadership training and academic tutoring for youth as well as an Asian Youth Orchestra. The Brooklyn Chinese American Association serves more than 400 clients daily in these and other programs such as through case management services and a program for the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled. These services are an invaluable contribution to the Asian American community of Sunset part, Brooklyn and to New York City as a whole.

Through Brooklyn Chinese American Association's efforts, Chinese American's of Brooklyn have been able to access the information and resources needed to succeed in their new homes. Simultaneously, the tremendous talents, enterprise, and energy that immigrants have always brought to America, especially to our cities, has been untapped for all to enjoy.

In the 8 years that the Brooklyn Chinese American Association has developed from a one person service project in the corner of a surrounding Asian American community of Brooklyn has revitalized Eight Avenue, opening up more than 50 new businesses. All along the way, Brooklyn Chinese American Association has been there growing with and serving the needs of this dynamic community.

A year ago, Brooklyn Chinese American Association celebrated the grand opening of its

community service center which houses its day care center, computer for employment skills training, classrooms for English as a second language [ESL] and citizenship classes as well as space for social services provision. Through this and other centers which are readily accessible, the Brooklyn Chinese American Association is able to accommodate the educational, employment training and social service needs of the Chinese American community in a culturally competent manner.

In closing, I'd like to say that as a country of immigrants, the United States has always welcomed and encouraged immigrants to fulfill their hopes and dreams as active and contributing members of our society. Hard work and enterprise by our Nation's immigrants should be applauded and it is in that spirit, Mr. Speaker, that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Brooklyn Chinese American Association and wish it much success as it works to empower the Asian American community of Brooklyn and of New York City.

A COMMITMENT TO ALL AMERICANS

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice the concerns of my constituents of El Paso, TX. I voted today for the current continuing resolution to avert a third Government shutdown. I also concur that the shutdown would have had disastrous ramifications, most of all for our Social Security beneficiaries, veterans, Federal employees and our students.

The ongoing chaotic budgetary clashes have paralyzed parts of the Government and alienated many Americans. Partial shutdowns that started in mid-November and December closed many Federal operations for 27 days and cost taxpayers \$1.4 billion. My constituents should not have to suffer nefarious consequences because of Republican ineptness at passing necessary appropriations bills. Many El Pasoans were furloughed and received truncated paychecks. My constituents are fed up with Republican maneuvers and several Federal employees publicly protested against NEWT GINGRICH and the Republicans' extreme agenda. These hard working citizens should not be treated as pawns by the Republican majority in order to score political points.

I voted for the measure to restore funding for many social, health and educational programs which many citizens depend on. I do, however, have grave concerns regarding the Republicans' decision to curb education funding for programs such as safe and drug free schools and bilingual education.

I am proud to represent El Paso, TX, whose 600,000 citizens and residents have successfully integrated bilingualism and biculturalism into their education system, health care facilities, and economy. Bilingual education programs are essential in my district and many others throughout the country to integrate new immigrants and their children into our society successfully. Because much of the rhetoric surrounding the subject of immigrants has become increasingly harsh, these programs are easy targets for budget cuts. However, any decrease in funding for bilingual and immigrant education would be very poorly advised.