

Written for submission to the OMAHA WORLD HERALD:

As a former Nebraskan, who is currently a faculty member at the University of California, Santa Barbara, I had the privilege of writing a piece about Bob Kerrey when he was a candidate for the United States Senate three years ago. I attested that he was a stellar instructor when he served as guest professor on our campus in 1987. I also affirmed that I was thoroughly convinced that, once elected, he would bring distinction to his work in the Senate.

The stakes this time are even higher. Without question, the race will require enormous energy and unswerving dedication. But I write now, as I did before, out of a confident spirit.

Bob Kerrey is well qualified. He has a clear mind and a good heart. He learns quickly and he learns well. He is a compassionate human being who is also uncommonly disciplined on behalf of conviction and virtue. He will help Americans rediscover our sense of purpose and well-being in ways that are positive, constructive and mutually-supportive. He will know how to balance the nation's domestic and foreign agendas. And he will assist our children to recapture something compelling to believe in.

I have always been proud to be a Nebraskan. The way of life it fosters is thoroughly trustworthy. Thus, I am immensely proud at this moment -- proud and excited -- for I am certain that Bob Kerrey will address the current challenge with extraordinary courage and manifest wisdom.

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Walter H. Capps, a graduate of Benson High School in Omaha, and a former paper carrier of the OMAHA WORLD HERALD, co-taught a University of California course on "The Impact of the Vietnam War" with Senator Kerrey in Santa Barbara in 1987.