

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HUMANITARIAN AID  
IN CENTRAL AMERICA

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to offer a personal tribute to the countless Americans who personify the finest traditions of charity by giving much-needed humanitarian supplies to the storm-ravaged people of Central America.

We are a generous people. For centuries, we have responded to human needs, to end suffering and to help those who were afflicted by the wrath of nature.

I have just returned from Central America, where the devastation of Hurricane Mitch is still felt by millions, many of whom are children. In communities throughout this neighboring region, storm victims continue to lack basic food, shelter, clothing and medical care. Damage to roads and bridges hampers the ability to move goods to market, and to transport emergency supplies.

As a repeat visitor to Central America since Hurricane Mitch, I can personally attest to the widespread human suffering caused by this fierce storm. But I have also witnessed the outpouring of humanitarian assistance from the United States and its impact in Central America.

By any measure, the myriad acts of kindness by the American people to our neighbors in need have been inspirational to all those who deplore the hunger of a child or the suffering of the sick. The list of examples of the humanitarian response to Hurricane Mitch is indeed lengthy, but I would like to cite a few examples.

As we paused last fall to celebrate Thanksgiving, a young Floridian named Abhishek Gupta read news accounts of the poor and needy at home and abroad. This high school student, along with other young people, raised thousands of dollars for charities in Florida and to help the victims of Hurricane Mitch in Central America.

During the period between Christmas and New Year's Abhishek joined a medical mission to Honduras and Nicaragua, taking food, clothing and medical supplies.

Meanwhile, for years the American Nicaraguan Foundation has helped distribute donations in Nicaragua through local outlets, including Catholic relief groups. In response to Hurricane Mitch, the foundation purchased and received food and medicine for victims.

With transport help from the U.S. military, these supplies were part of the immediate response in November to hurricane devastation.

Rebuilding the hard-hit communities of Central America will be a long-term process, and much work remains to be done. But as we re-commit ourselves this year to continue to help victims of last year's hurricane, we should applaud the multitudes of kind-hearted and dedicated people who have given

time and resources to assist our neighbors. •

## EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a group of young Indiana students who have shown great educative achievement. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the winners of the 1998-99 Eighth Grade Youth Essay Contest which I sponsored in association with the Indiana Farm Bureau and Bank One of Indiana. These students have displayed strong writing abilities and have proven themselves to be outstanding young Hoosier scholars. I submit their names for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because they demonstrate the capabilities of today's students and are fine representatives of our Nation.

This year, Hoosier students wrote on the theme, "Hoosier Farmers—Global Impact." Considering the importance of our expanding global market-place, students were asked to select a country or region of the world that buys products from Hoosier farmers and then creatively describe the value of this relationship to both trading partners. I would like to submit for the RECORD the winning essays of Wyatt James Roth of Pulaski County and Jennifer Tarr of Orange County. As state winners of the Youth Essay Contest, these two outstanding students are being recognized on Friday, March 19, 1999 during a visit to our Nation's Capitol.

The essays are as follows:

## CORN'S TICKET TO THAILAND

(By Jennifer Tarr, Orange County)

This little kernel of Indiana's corn is going places. It will travel halfway around the world to the Southeast Asian country of Thailand. Come along with me . . .

## FIRST STOP: INDIANA FIELD

I grew up in a field in Indiana. Less government subsidies make farmers rely more on international trade for income. Indiana farms had \$5.39 billion in sales receipts for all commodities ranking it 14th in U.S. sales. Indiana had 3.2% of all U.S. exports ranking it 9th. That's why I'm on my trip.

## SECOND STOP: GRAIN BIN

Corn prices are only \$1.80 per bushel. With 9.7 billion bushels harvested in 1997, about 1.4 billion bushels are being stored in these bins. We're here partly because exports are down due to the strong American dollar and declining values of foreign currency. In Thailand, the baht is off 58%. U.S. economic sanctions also hurt exports because it takes trade away from Indiana farmers.

## THIRD STOP: GRAIN BARGE

I'm on my way! Part of Thailand's trade was cut back due to trade with Russia who is exporting crops for the first time since the Soviet breakup. This takes income from Indiana farmers.

## FOURTH STOP: THAILAND TABLE

I'm at this table as supper, but my friends may be used for everything from food to gasoline. Farmers here will use us to feed poultry, their main farm product. Because 96% of the world lives outside of the U.S., we need to export Indiana goods to those markets to prosper. Trade with other countries is critical to being competitive in today's world.

It's been a wonderful trip! Everyone gained something. Thailand gained with food that

they couldn't have grown and Indiana farmers gained with income in an unsteady market.

## HOOSIER FARMERS—GLOBAL IMPACT

(By Wyatt James Roth, Pulaski County)

"Good morning, class," exclaimed social studies teacher, Mr. Beach. "Today's lesson should prove both interesting and educational for you. We have with us today, Mr. Toshitomo Kobiyashi, from Japan. He and I will be talking to you about agricultural products that we sell to Japan and how they help not only his country, but ours as well. First of all, let me explain that when we sell products to Japan or any other country, the process of a product leaving our country and going to another place is called exportation. Indiana farmers depend on the export of their farm products such as corn, soybeans, and wheat, along with beef and pork, for their livelihood."

"Yes, Mr. Beach, and we in Japan are very thankful for these products. My people used to rely on rice as a major source of food. This is still there, but we have also developed other tastes, one of which is the taste for red meat. We buy breeding stock from Indiana farmers, which is the reason I am in Indiana. I was sent here to buy hogs for breeding so that we can supply our people with pork."

"Mr. Kobiyashi, why doesn't your country raise all of these products in Japan so that you don't have to buy them from us?"

"Good question, young man! Japan is too small and too heavily populated to grow everything in its own country. That is why we depend on the United States so much for these products."

"Yes, class," added Mr. Beach, "Indiana farmers and Japanese consumers both benefit from our agricultural trade. Our farmers sell their products for cash and Japan buys them for consumption. This is called supply and demand."

"Ah, yes, Mr. Beach. It is a good trade. Thank you for having me and thanks to the Indiana farmers for the products that they grow. As we say in Japanese, Sianara!"

## 1998-99 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

District 1: Wyatt Roth, Katie Jaskowiak.  
District 2: Peter Rummel, Sarah Showalter.  
District 3: Brian Blume, Ashley Sizemore.  
District 4: Kurt Biehl, Ashley Height.  
District 5: Cody Porter, Annie Morgan.  
District 6: Drew Relssaus, Katherine Delph.  
District 7: Anjelica Dortch.  
District 8: Nicholas Reding, Katie Kugele.  
District 9: Joey Smith, Jennifer Tarr.  
District 10: Josh Robinson, Karla Roberts.

## COUNTIES REPRESENTED

Allen: Rashon Thomas.  
Cass: Brian Blume, Allison Henry.  
Decatur: Nicholas Reding.  
Dubois: Roger Lueken, Laura Begle.  
Elkhart: Peter Rummel.  
Franklin: Zachary Grubbs, Katie Kugele.  
Hamilton: Drew Reissaus, Lisa Denning.  
Howard: Matt Bell.  
Jasper: Ryan Anderson, Ashley Sizemore.  
Jay: Davis Bowen, Joanna Knipp.  
Lake: Danny Pace.  
Lawrence: Wendy McDonald.  
Madison: Aaron Justison, Carey Justison.  
Marion: Christopher Patton, Katherine Delph.  
Monroe: Anjelica Dortch.  
Newton: Brian Tatum, Kassie Koselke.  
Noble: Joshua Butler, Sarah Showalter.  
Ohio: Karla Roberts.  
Orange: Jennifer Tarr.  
Pulaski: Wyatt Roth, Julie Sehstedt.  
Starke: Karl Hall, Amy Pflugshaupt.

St. Joseph: Joshua Lichtenbarger, Katie Jaskowiak.

Vermillion: Cody Porter, Annie Morgan.

Wabash: Kurt Biehl, Ashley Height.

Warrick: Joey Smith, Maggie Springstun.

Washington: Josh Robinson, Jennifer Goering.

Wayne: James McGuire, Victoria Rommer.●

#### EDUCATION-FLEXIBILITY ACT

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I was pleased to join 97 of my colleagues to vote in favor of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act, or Ed-Flex, last week. This bill expands the current federal Ed-Flex pilot program to all states and allows them to waive certain federal education requirements for local schools, so long as schools are accountable for making education improvements, and does so without altering federal requirements concerning health, safety and civil rights. It is my hope that Ed-Flex can help increase student achievement by serving as a catalyst for innovative school reform at the state and local levels.

Mr. President, while I am pleased the Senate passed the underlying Ed-Flex bill, I am disappointed that the bill includes amendments that would force local schools to choose between smaller classes and students with special needs. These amendments could undermine the important class size reduction program agreed to on a bipartisan basis last year. I was also deeply disappointed with the defeat of the Kennedy/Murray class size amendment, which would have built on the down payment of 30,000 teachers agreed to last year and finished the job by authorizing class size funding for the next six years.

My own State of Wisconsin has been a leader among the states trying to reduce class size in the early grades. Wisconsin's Student Achievement Guarantee in Education or SAGE class size reduction program, has proven conclusively that smaller classes make a difference in our children's education. SAGE officials want the Federal Government to be a partner in Wisconsin's effort to reduce class size. Federal funds are an important complement to Wisconsin's ongoing SAGE program and will ensure that SAGE continues to thrive. The rejection of the Kennedy/Murray amendment sends a discouraging message to schools in my State and across the nation that are just beginning to make decisions about how to implement the class size funds agreed to last year.

It is very unfortunate Mr. President that two critically important federal programs, funds for special education and to reduce class size, were pitted against each other during the Ed-Flex debate. I am fully committed to funding for special education, but not at the expense of funds to reduce class size. The promise of these critically important education funds affecting our nation's children should not fall victim to partisan maneuvers. Con-

gress should not be choosing one over the other—both special education and class size are national education priorities. American parents should know those in Congress who pit these programs against each other are the friend of neither.

Finally, Mr. President, while I understand that Ed-Flex is not a panacea for America's education problems, I do believe it will improve the federal, state and local partnership needed to ensure our children receive the best quality education possible. I am confident that the conference committee will protect the class size funds agreed to last year and that Congress will vote on an improved version of Ed-Flex in the near future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALFRED TESTA JR.

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Alfred Testa on his departure as the Director of Manchester Airport. Fred has been the Director of Manchester Airport since 1991. He has brought about tremendous and exciting change to the airport during his tenure and I am proud to have worked with him during his distinguished career.

Fred came to Manchester after serving as Deputy Director of T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island. He is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a B.A. in Political Science and earned his J.D. at Suffolk University Law School. He is an Accredited Airport Executive with the American Association of Airport Executives and is a regular lecturer on airport development, management and marketing.

Fred has been the driving force behind the substantial growth at Manchester Airport. When Fred began as Manchester Airport's Director, the airport handled approximately 700,000 passengers a year and there were six commercial airlines that serviced the airport. Today, there are eleven commercial airlines based there, and last year, the airport served almost 2 million travelers. Fred's efforts have played a key role in the City of Manchester's nationally recognized renaissance.

Fred has worked closely with each member of the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation - educating, advising, and encouraging us to undertake a number of vital federal initiatives at the airport. He has vigorously pursued support for the Residential Sound Insulation Program; the New Passenger Terminal; the New Armed Forces Reserve Center; the Manchester Airport Access Road; and the Runway, Taxiway, Parking, Roadway and Terminal Improvements and U.S. Customs Service's at the renovated Ammon Terminal. It has been my great privilege to work with Fred on these and other important airport projects which have fundamentally changed for the better air transportation services for New Hampshire. Fred deserves the highest admiration and praise for these significant accomplishments.

Fred leaves Manchester Airport to become the Director of Philadelphia International Airport. Aldermen and the Mayor of Manchester have expressed high praise for the work Fred did for the City of Manchester, and I strongly agree. His leadership and effective advocacy for safe and efficient airline transportation will be fondly remembered by all New Hampshire citizens.

Once again, I would like to commend Fred Testa on his service to Manchester Airport and the State of New Hampshire. His work was greatly beneficial to the City and the State, and I wish him well. It has been a pleasure to represent Fred Testa in the United States Senate, and I am proud to call him my friend.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. MARTIN SANTINI

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Martin Santini, an architect and planner who has literally helped New Jersey build and grow. His entrepreneurial spirit is to be commended as the firm he founded, Ecoplan, celebrates its 25th year in existence. Ecoplan is an award-winning architectural, planning, and design firm, whose clients include the State of New Jersey. His peers have recognized his talent, accomplishments, and contributions to the State as he has been elected as president of the New Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He is a registered architect in six States and licensed as a professional planner in the State of New Jersey.

After graduating with both Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Architecture, as well as an Urban Planning degree, Martin established his own firm in 1974. Ecoplan has been dedicated to providing quality design services and producing creative solutions that add lasting value to its client's projects. After 25 years of committed service, his firm has grown exponentially. Recently, Ecoplan was ranked as the 14th largest architectural firm in New Jersey by New Jersey Business Magazine. To date, Ecoplan has designed and built over 1,000 structures in the Tri-State region. As Ecoplan's president, Martin has been largely responsible for this success.

Martin and Ecoplan have served the State of New Jersey well. Ecoplan's clients include numerous municipalities, counties, boards of education, housing authorities, and police departments. They have served the public sector well by closely maintaining construction budgets and schedules, which are so important in Ecoplan has also served the private sector and various communities well, building schools, medical offices, YMCAs, condominiums, townhouses, apartments, single family homes, corporate headquarters, restaurants, commercial office buildings, warehouses, and a wide variety of additions, renovations, and interior design projects.