

I have a chart that shows all of those counties in America, shown in red, where they have lost more than 15 percent of their population. Largely, it shows in the center part of our country, the farm belt, that people have moved out. Our farm belt is being depopulated.

A century ago we had the Homestead Act to persuade people to come out and begin farming. If you moved out there, the Federal Government gave you 160 acres of land. You were a homesteader; you farmed the land. And we populated the farm belt.

Now look at what has happened: The farm belt is being depopulated for a good number of reasons, the most important of which, in my judgment, is we have a farm program that does not work. The farm program says, "You're on your own. When market prices collapse, we're not going to provide decent support prices."

We need to reconnect with decent price supports. We need a Fair Price Plan for Family Farmers, and we need it soon. This Congress has a responsibility, in my judgment, between now and the July 4 recess, to address this urgent situation on America's family farms and to say to family farmers, "You matter, the products you produce make a difference, they have value, and this country stands behind what you represent in our country."

We need to do a number of things. We need to pass a better Farm Bill, as I said, a Fair Price Plan. We need meat labeling that will help our ranchers. Let people know what they are eating and where it came from. We need price reporting. Let's see fair prices and full price reporting on livestock prices. Let's break up some of the monopolies that exist in the slaughterhouses. Eighty-seven percent of America's fat steers go to four slaughterhouses to be slaughtered. What that means is, you pass that monopoly pricing back on family farmers. They are the ones who are already losing money.

Isn't it interesting that every firm in this country who touches what a farmer produces, whether it is a steak or a bushel of wheat or a bushel of corn, is making money. The railroads are making record profits hauling it. The cereal manufacturers are making record profits crisping and puffing it, putting it into a box and selling it as cereal. The folks that slaughter the beef, the pork, the poultry, and the sheep are making record profits. It is the farmer who rises to do the chores, to plant the ground, to harvest the crops, who is going broke because they are told their commodities have no value.

That is a bankrupt approach for this economy. The economy, if it rewards hard work and the production of things people in this world need, will do well. But we decided that the all-star economic producers in America, the American family farmers, don't matter and we passed a farm bill that says, you're on your own; you deal with the marketplace and we don't care what the

marketplace looks like. The farm bill is stacked against you, it favors monopolistic businesses, it presses its heavy boot upon you and you can't do anything about it. That is tough luck because it says we don't need you anymore, we don't need family farmers, all we need are giant agribusinesses. If that is the position that is taken in this country, this country will have taken a giant step backwards.

So I am saying that in the coming 2 or 3 months we must recognize the urgency of the situation on the family farm. Farmer after farmer after farmer in State after State are going broke, through no fault of their own. This young boy, who could not bear to attend the auction sale at his own farm, because it broke his heart not to be able to farm that land that his dad and his granddad and great-granddad farmed, this boy ought to hear from this Congress that we stand ready to help, that we care about preserving families on America's farms, that the decentralization of food production, a network of family farms dotting this country's prairies, strengthens America, that producing food that a hungry world needs is something that is an asset in this country, not a liability.

So I hope in the next 2 to 3 months those who care about family farmers will join those of us who come from the farm belt to pass aggressive, good, strong legislation dealing with concentration, monopolies, price reporting, meat labeling, and a decent price support—all of those issues and more—that will finally say to family farmers, you have a decent opportunity to make a living on America's family farms.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. But before I do, I thank my colleague from Maine for waiting patiently.

Ms. COLLINS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 765 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, April 9, 1999, the Federal debt stood at

\$5,661,252,699,346.90 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-one billion, two hundred fifty-two million, six hundred ninety-nine thousand, three hundred forty-six dollars and ninety cents).

One year ago, April 9, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,542,953,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-two billion, nine hundred fifty-three million).

Fifteen years ago, April 9, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,486,873,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-six billion, eight hundred seventy-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 9, 1974, the Federal debt stood at \$472,761,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-two billion, seven hundred sixty-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,188,491,699,346.90 (Five trillion, one hundred eighty-eight billion, four hundred ninety-one million, six hundred ninety-nine thousand, three hundred forty-six dollars and ninety cents) during the past 25 years.

#### TRIBUTE TO KYLE MANGINI

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to an extraordinary young man from Blandford, Massachusetts. Kyle Mangini is a 13-year-old Boy Scout who, while on vacation with his family, saved his 16-year-old cousin, Santiago Garcia, from drowning.

Santiago was swimming and suddenly began to drown, sinking to the bottom of the pool. Kyle saw his cousin and immediately realized that he was in great danger. He leaped into the pool and pulled his older, much larger cousin out of the water.

Kyle's quick reaction saved precious seconds and probably saved Santiago's life. Santiago was successfully resuscitated by an emergency medical technician. It was Kyle's lifesaving training as a Boy Scout that prepared him for the emergency. Had it not been for Kyle's brave and timely rescue, his cousin Santiago could have suffered serious brain damage or death.

Kyle Mangini is a credit to the Boy Scouts and a true profile in courage for the State of Massachusetts. It is an honor to pay tribute to him today, and I ask unanimous consent that an article on his action be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Country Journal, Apr. 1, 1999]

QUICK-THINKING BLANDFORD BOY SCOUT SAVES COUSIN'S LIFE  
(By Mary Kronholm)

Not every vacation is an adventure, nor is every vacation fraught with life-threatening incidents. But vacations are supposed to have happy endings.

Kyle Mangini was enjoying the last day of his Christmas vacation with his father, Dan Mangini, on Nevis, an island in the West Indies. His cousin, Santiago Garcia from Manchester, Conn. was with him.

The boys had become accustomed to visiting the beach and pool at the next door resort, Nesbit Plantation, and went for a final

swim. As usual, the boys tested themselves to see how long they could hold their breath under water. Kyle, 13 years old, told Santiago he was going to get his towel and suggested a breather. When Kyle returned from the family spot on the beach, about five yards away, he saw that Santiago was still at the game, and underwater.

A poolside bystander made the observation to Kyle that his friend was now pretending to be an underwater crab.

As Kyle watched, Santiago turned over, still at the bottom of the pool, in five feet of water. "His arm was twitching and his mouth was open," said Kyle, who realized at that moment that something was terribly wrong.

"I jumped in, swam to the bottom, put my arm under his and pulled him to the top," he said.

As Kyle brought Santiago to the side of the pool, bystanders helped pull him out. Someone went to call for an ambulance, while others asked if anyone knew CPR. While Kyle does know how to administer CPR, an Emergency Medical Technician was staying at the resort, and stepped in to help.

According to Dan, the wait for the ambulance was about a half-an-hour. "The ambulance went to the wrong place and had to be redirected," he said.

"As the EMT performed CPR, Santiago was convulsing, and it was necessary, to hold his body down," said Dan. Kyle said that initially there was no pulse, but as soon as the CPR started, Santiago began breathing again. It was several hours later, accompanied by much medication, that the boy's body relaxed, and it was several more hours before anyone knew what shape Santiago was in.

"No one knows just exactly how long Santiago was under water," said Dan, who said the doctors at the Nevis Hospital were most concerned about possible brain damage.

"We went to visit him that evening, but the next morning, he had no recollection of our visit," said Dan.

On successive visits to the hospital, Kyle asked questions of Santiago, assuring, from his answers, that all was well.

Santiago was in the hospital for five days. His aunt, Maria, Kyle's stepmother, stayed with him throughout the days to help with feeding and necessary exercises, essential to restore lung capacity and breathing.

Kyle said that a doctor at the hospital told him that if he had gone to get help instead of pulling Santiago out himself, the boy would not have survived, as his lungs would have been completely filled with water.

As it was, according to Dan, it was almost 24 hours before anyone knew what the prognosis was going to be. Santiago has since been seen by his own physician and a neurologist, and been given a clean bill of health.

Mary Mangini, Kyle's mother, is proud of her son because just as Kyle was so quick to react to the situation, he is quite a bit lighter than his cousin.

Santiago, at 16 years old, weighs 180 pounds, and is about five feet 9 inches. "He's very big," said Kyle, who weighs 85 pounds and measures five feet tall.

Kyle attributes his ability to act quickly to his knowledge of lifesaving

acquired as part of his merit badge work while taking lifesaving at the Moses Boy Scout Camp in Russell.

"... and that's how I knew what to do," Kyle said.

Kyle's scout leader, David Olzewski, said that Kyle has been participating in the scouting program since he was Cub Scout age, about nine-years-old. "He's a good kid, and one of the oldest scouts in the troop," he said, adding that Kyle is the troop guide.

This is not Kyle's first successful rescue. A few years ago, he and neighbor John Mulligan came upon a Herrick Road neighbor, Harold Wyman, who had fallen in his icy walkway and was not able to get up. Kyle reacted in the same, quick, responsive manner, by sending John to the telephone and dialing 911, while he found blankets for Mr. Wyman, and comforted him until help arrived.

Kyle is an eighth grade student at Gateway Regional Middle School and next year will attend Pioneer Valley School of Performing Arts, in Hadley, a charter school. He plays the guitar and enjoys acting and was most recently seen as Will Scarlett in the middle school production of the musical, Robin Hood.

#### MILLENNIUM DIGITAL COMMERCE ACT—S. 761

Statements on the bill, S. 761, introduced on March 25, 1999, did not appear in the RECORD. The material follows:

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 761. A bill to regulate interstate commerce by electronic means by permitting and encouraging the continued expansion of electronic commerce through the operation of free market forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### MILLENNIUM DIGITAL COMMERCE ACT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Millennium Digital Commerce Act, a bill to promote the use of electronic authentication technologies and enhance the Internet's capacity to serve as a business tool. I am joined in introducing this bill by Senator JOHN MCCAIN, the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, Senator RON WYDEN, and Senator CONRAD BURNS. This legislation builds on the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, a bill I sponsored to promote the use of electronic signatures by the Federal Government, which was signed into law by the President as part of the Omnibus Appropriations Act.

The Internet has experienced almost exponential growth since its inception. Where once the Internet was a medium limited to the sharing of ideas between scientists and educators, it is now a tool which allows every person with a computer to access more information than is contained in any single library, communicate with friends for a fraction of the cost of phone service, or

purchase goods from retailers located all over the world. Electronic commerce is clearly booming. But in order to realize its full potential, we must enact Federal and State legislation to enable, enhance, and protect the next generation of Internet usage.

The Internet is poised to serve as an efficient new tool for companies to transact business as never before. The development of electronic signature technologies now allow organizations to enter into contractual arrangements without ever having to drive across town or fly thousands of miles to personally meet with a client or potential business partner. The Internet is prepared to go far beyond the ability to buy a book or order apparel on-line. It is ready to lead a revolution in the execution of business transactions which may involve thousands or millions of dollars in products or services; transactions so important they require that both parties enter into a legally binding contract.

This capability is provided by the development of secure electronic authentication methods and technologies. These technologies permit an individual to positively identify the person with whom they are transacting business and to ensure that information being shared by the parties has not been tampered with or modified without the knowledge of both parties. While such technologies are seeing limited use today, the growth of the application has out-paced government's ability to appropriately modify the legal framework governing the use of electronic signatures and other authentication methods.

Mr. President, the Millennium Digital Commerce Act is designed to promote the use of electronic signatures in business transactions and contracts. At present, the greatest barrier to such transactions is the lack of a consistent and predictable national framework of rules governing the use of electronic signatures. Over forty States have enacted electronic authentication laws, and no two laws are the same. This inconsistency deters businesses from fully utilizing electronic signature technologies for contracts and other business transactions. The differences in our State laws create uncertainty about the effectiveness or legality of an electronic contract signed with an electronic signature. Of course, certainty is the basis for commerce, and contracts provide that certainty. Parties enter into contracts understanding that they will be bound by the terms of the agreement. However, the fear is that a business located in a State with different electronic authentication rules may be able to escape contractual obligations agreed to through electronic signatures. This legal uncertainty limits the potential of electronic commerce, and, thus, our nation's economic growth.

The needs for uniformity in electronic authentication rules is not only recognized by the business community,