

our laws. I trust she will remain true to her word, and I look forward to working with her.

NATIONAL DAIRY FARMERS FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today and join my colleague Senator RICK SANTORUM of Pennsylvania to reintroduce legislation to provide much needed assistance to our Nation's dairy producers who continue to face the lowest milk prices in over two decades.

Due to the failures of the Federal order reform process and the lack of a meaningful dairy price safety net, this legislation is an appropriate and necessary response to the ongoing regional milk pricing inequities and the dairy income crisis affecting all producers. In the past, the divisive and controversial dairy compact system has hindered Congress's efforts to achieve a fair and equitable national dairy policy. I am pleased to join with Senator SANTORUM and reintroduce this legislation to create a regionally equitable plan that will provide a safety net for small and medium size producers regardless of location.

The National Dairy Farmers Fairness Act of 2001 has two major goals: (1) To create a dairy policy that is equitable for farmers in all regions of the country; (2) provide stability for dairy producers in the prices they receive for their milk. To accomplish these goals, this legislation creates a price safety net for farmers by providing supplemental income payments when milk prices are low. A "sliding-scale" payment is made based upon the previous year's price for the national average for Class III milk. In essence, the payment rate to farmers is highest when the national Class III average is the lowest. To participate in this program, a farmer must have produced milk for commercial sale in the previous year. Payments under the program are also capped for the first 26,000 hundred-weight of production. Again, all dairy producers would be eligible to participate under this scenario.

The fiscal year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations bill provided \$667 million in emergency direct payments to dairy producers for losses incurred this year. While this action was absolutely necessary to respond to the dairy market loss crisis, it is time that an on-going program providing supplemental income payments to farmers when milk prices decline be established.

This important legislation represents a bipartisan and national approach in providing predictability and price stability in this otherwise volatile industry. Again, I am pleased to join with Senator SANTORUM in introducing the National Dairy Farmers Fairness Act and look forward to working with him in passing this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO COAST GUARD HELICOPTER AIRCREW

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I stand here today to pay tribute to four great Americans—Lieutenant Commander Brian Moore, Lieutenant Troy Beshears, Petty Officer First Class Mike Bouch and Petty Officer First Class John Green, all serving in the United States Coast Guard.

Last July, these four extraordinary Guardsmen were conducting a night flight over the Gulf of Mexico when they heard a distress call from the oil rig "Ocean Crusader." Immediately flying to the rig, they arrived to find it engulfed in flames from a natural gas fire. Placing themselves in imminent danger, they landed on the rig to rescue the crew of 51. To expedite the rescue, Petty Officer Green left the helicopter to coordinate rescue efforts while his crew mates began the difficult task of ferrying the rig workers to another platform in groups of four. As the helicopter began its first evacuation flight, Petty Officer Green began lowering rig workers to a rig supply boat in groups of four using a crane and gondola.

After rescuing 12 workers, in three dangerous trips, the helicopter crew was forced to leave the scene to refuel while Petty Officer Green remained behind to keep lowering people to the supply boat and safety. He lowered 36 workers that way before another Coast Guard rescue helicopter arrived on the scene and landed to pick up the four men who remained on the platform. When told the helicopter could only take three safely, Petty Officer Green courageously volunteered to stay behind. Alone on that platform as the helicopter took the workers to safety, in the distance he could see his own aircraft returning when the rig erupted with fire raging from the waterline hundreds of feet in the air.

Committed to rescuing their crew mate, Lieutenant Commander Moore decided to try and rescue Petty Officer Green. With Petty Officer Bouchard hanging out of their aircraft trying to spot the landing platform in the smoke, he flew the helicopter into the middle of the inferno the Ocean Crusader had become, setting down amidst the flames to pick up Petty Officer Green.

Today people say we live in a world without heroes, one in which cynicism and selfishness rule the day. I am proud to say this is not the case in our United States Coast Guard. Guardsmen and Guardswomen like Lieutenant Commander Moore, Lieutenant Beshears, Petty Officer Bouch and Petty Officer Green put their lives on the line every day so that others may live. In this case, 51 men owe their lives to these four heroes who lived up to the Coast Guard's motto of "Semper Paratus—Always Prepared." On behalf of those 51 men, their families, the state of Louisiana and Americans everywhere, I am proud to stand here today and say "Thank you—job well done!" to these extraordinary heroes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NORM BISHOP

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated member of the U.S. Forest Service as he concludes his 39-plus years of service to his country. We are proud to have had this man serve on the Medora Ranger District in Dickinson, ND for the past 35 years.

Mr. Norman G. Bishop deserves this honor. North Dakotans are grateful for his contributions to the wise and sustainable use of our national grasslands.

Norm Bishop's personal and professional career accomplishments are as diverse as they are noteworthy. His loyal service and sacrifices for nearly four decades, working in the communities of western North Dakota, are a testament to all who use and appreciate our public lands.

In 1962, Norm moved to Dickinson, ND where he was an Airman, First Class at the Dickinson Radar Installation. His very first night in Dickinson, Norm met Karen Ridl, who he married a year later. After the Air Base closed in Dickinson, Norm began his Forest Service career.

During the oil crisis of the mid-1970s, Norm was instrumental in developing what is now the largest, most productive oil and gas program in the entire National Forest System. In fact, Norm became the first person in the entire Forest Service to be certified as an "Oil and Gas Resource Specialist." For more than 20 years, Norm worked tirelessly to insure that oil development on the grasslands was accomplished in a manner that was sensitive to the needs of natural resources. My staff and I had the privilege of working with Norm Bishop on the Kinley Plateau/Bullion Butte Minerals exchange. Norm's professionalism and knowledge were instrumental in making that exchange a tremendous success.

It is with great honor for me to present these credentials of Norm Bishop to the Senate today. It is clear through all of his accomplishments that he has dedicated himself to furthering the benefits we enjoy on public lands. All of his actions reflect a true leader with a sense of purpose, commitment, and conscience.

As Norm departs from public service I ask my colleagues to join me in delivering an appreciative tribute from a grateful nation, and best wishes to he and Karen for a productive and rewarding retirement. •

TRIBUTE TO PC CONNECTION

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to PC Connection of Merrimack, New Hampshire, for being honored as "Business of the Year" by the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce. A major employer and important corporate leader in New Hampshire, PC Connection is a renowned worldwide business with a

strong commitment to public service within the Merrimack community.

For several years, under the guidance of Chief Executive Officer, Patricia Gallop, PC Connection has selflessly and steadfastly served the citizens of Merrimack. PC Connection provided volunteer leadership to generate civic awareness among area students. Contributions from the company enabled 2,000 young people to have a voice at the polls which ensured the success of the Kids Vote program.

The accomplishments of PC Connection are too numerous to list. They recently brought over 1,000 of their employees and visitors together for a family day of innovative computer activities and collected 2,500 computer components. The components will be refurbished and offered to non-profit agencies throughout New Hampshire.

PC Connection is a true community leader and a friend to the people of New Hampshire. The management and employees of the company are a great asset to the citizens of Merrimack. It is both an honor and a pleasure to represent them in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to compliment and honor the men and women of Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, MT. I recently visited the base to congratulate the personnel at Malmstrom for receiving an "excellent" rating during their Combat Capability Assessment.

After two weeks of evaluations for technical proficiency and mission effectiveness, the 341st Space Wing's operations, security, maintenance, communications personnel and equipment were given an "excellent" overall rating. A very high mark for this type of test.

Col. Thomas Deppe is the leader of Team Malmstrom. He was absolutely correct when he said, "It takes a championship team to accomplish our mission across 23,500 square miles of flight line on a daily basis, and we do it well." Indeed, they do it well. And they make Montanans and Americans extremely proud.

In addition, Col. James Robinson, who is the Combat Capability Assessment team Chief, said that the CCA is one of the "toughest tests a wing will ever experience." He also said that in the three years he has been administering the test, he has "never seen results this good."

The 20th Air Force Combat Capability Assessment Team discovered what we have known in Montana for years—that Malmstrom is "excellent." Mr. President, I can tell you from my recent visit to Malmstrom that those folks are very proud of this accomplishment, as they should be. I'm proud of them, too.

That is why today I want to recognize them in this great Senate Cham-

ber. And so I say congratulations to Col. Thomas Deppe and the 341st Space Wing, and to all the men and women who work so hard to make Malmstrom Air Force Base what it is—"excellent."●

RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW HUENERFAUTH

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an exemplary young man from the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Matthew Huenerfauth of Springfield, has been selected from among 200 applicants as a George J. Mitchell Scholar for 2001, and will have the opportunity to study in either Ireland or Northern Ireland in the fall. The recipients are those who have demonstrated intellectual distinction, leadership potential, and commitment to community service.

Matthew will graduate from the University of Delaware in May, 2001 with an Honors B.S. and an M.S. degree in Computer Science. During his tenure at Delaware, he has proven to be a tremendous asset to the college community outside the classroom as well. Using his computer knowledge to help others, Matthew developed a tutoring system for deaf students learning English. He spent the summer of 2000 as a Program Manager Intern at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington, and has completed extensive research in the field of artificial intelligence. Matthew was also president of a virtual literary magazine at Delaware, was a founding member of an a capella ensemble, and participated in the school's competitive computer programming team. While in Ireland, Matthew will study for an MSci degree in Computer Science at University College Dublin.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Matthew Huenerfauth as he heads across the globe to represent the United States in Ireland. I am confident that he will make us proud.●

TRIBUTE TO TIM BOUCHER

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Tim Boucher of Deerfield, New Hampshire, for being honored as "Business Person of the Year" by the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce.

A hard working and dedicated member of the Merrimack Chamber Board of Directors, Tim has been an enthusiastic volunteer and committee chairman. He has worked diligently for the Chamber Golf Tournament and other fund raising events, selflessly serving the citizens of Merrimack.

Tim is a New Hampshire College and New England Law School graduate who was admitted to the Bar in 1991 and specializes in real estate and probate law. He is an active outdoors man who enjoys skiing and camping. He resides in Deerfield, New Hampshire, with his wife, Wendy.

Tim Boucher has proven himself to be an outstanding citizen and volun-

teer in his community and is a role model to us all. It is an honor and a pleasure to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-553. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VISAS: Reissuance of O and P Nonimmigrant Visas" (RIN1400-AA96) received on January 30, 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-554. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report concerning pesticide registration Notice 2001-1; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-555. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report concerning pesticide registration Notice 2001-2; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-556. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report concerning pesticide registration Notice 2001-3; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-557. A communication from the Board of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Consumer Price Index computation error for the year 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-558. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-521, "Noise Control Temporary Amendment"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-559. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-531, "Closing of O Street, N.E., S.O. 98-124, and Closing of Public Alleys in Square 670, S.O. 90-235, Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-560. A communication from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interagency Guidelines Establishing Standards for Safeguarding Customer Information