

time period, total U.S. exports have increased from 500 million bushels to 1.3 billion bushels.

Thanks in part to the work of the North Dakota Wheat Commission, U.S. hard red spring and durum wheat are exported to more than 80 countries around the world. These exports account for 50 percent of hard red spring wheat and one-third of durum wheat. The North Dakota Wheat Commission's customer base includes markets across the globe, including Asia, Latin America and Europe.

While our wheat output and exports have increased, one thing has remained the same: My State's wheat producers have a solid reputation around the world for having a premium product. This is, in part, thanks to the hard work of the North Dakota Wheat Commission.

In closing, I again want to recognize the North Dakota Wheat Commission for a successful first 50 years and wish them continued success in the future.●

COMMENDING ERIC YANG

● Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the achievements of Eric Yang, a 13-year-old seventh grade student at Griffin Middle School in The Colony, TX. Eric recently competed in and won the 2009 National Geographic Bee, held here in Washington, DC. Out of a field of 55 contestants, one from each of the 50 States and territories, Eric won the competition in the third finals tie-breaker. Out of nine students, Eric was the only one who missed no questions. This has only occurred five times in the competition's 21-year history. In recognition of his success, Eric will receive a college scholarship worth \$25,000, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society, and a trip to the Galápagos Islands with the moderator of the National Geographic Bee and host of "Jeopardy!," Alex Trebek. To achieve this honor, Eric won a nationwide contest comprised of nearly 5 million students in the fourth through eighth grades who had participated in the local geographic bees held in the 50 States and five territories.

The winning question was: "Timis County shares its name with a tributary of the Danube and is located in the western part of which European country?" The answer, "Romania," was given correctly by Eric Yang after two other tie-breaker questions. Eric is the first Texan to be named champion in the competition's 21-year history. According to Eric's mother, the main reason for his success has been his curiosity, saying that it "is a major part of Eric. He reads everything from history books to cookbooks to learn about other places and cultures." Eric's desire to learn is also evident in his scholastic record. At age 13, Eric scored a 2200 on the SATs out of a possible score of 2400.

Young Texans, such as Eric Yang, prove that persistence and a curious mind are the keys to unlocking oppor-

tunities for success. I congratulate Eric on this important accomplishment and encourage him as he continues his quest for knowledge.●

COMMENDING JOE AND CHRISTINE TOWNSEND

● Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I recognize the distinguished service of two Texans, as they approach retirement from Texas A&M in January 2010. For over 30 years, Dr. Joe D. Townsend and Dr. Christine Townsend, often referred to as "Dr. Joe and Dr. Chris" by their students, have served the students of Texas as instructors, mentors, and friends. By recognizing and cultivating the untapped potential within students, they have inspired countless youth to be men and women of character, vision, and dedication.

Dr. Joe began serving students over 40 years ago as a vocational agriculture teacher in Aubrey, TX. Since that time, he has positively impacted the lives of thousands of students through many different roles. At Texas A&M University, Dr. Joe served as a professor, associate dean for student development in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and most recently, associate vice president for student affairs. His office was known as refuge for students in need of wisdom and advice, and many relied on his support and encouragement to make the difficult transition from high school to college.

Dr. Chris' career in higher education began three decades ago at Illinois State University. At Texas A&M, Dr. Chris has served as a professor, department head, undergraduate coordinator, and undergraduate adviser in the department of agricultural leadership, education, and development. She has a gift for recognizing the unique needs of students and never failed to commit her time, energy, and resources to meeting their needs. Dr. Chris' love for teaching students has made a lasting impact on her department and her departure will leave a void that will be difficult to fill, and a legacy that will be easy to remember.

Their years of selfless service and unwavering devotion to the improvement of students' lives have earned the respect of countless Texans. I thank them for their commitment to excellence and send my best wishes for the years ahead.●

REMEMBERING JACK EBERSPACHER

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a good friend and great Nebraskan, Jack Eberspacher, who passed away on July 5, 2009, at the tender age of 55 after a short but courageous battle with cancer. Jack was a very special friend to all who knew him, dedicating his professional life to the advancement and betterment of the agricultural industry and the agribusiness community.

A native of Seward, NE, Jack received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. After several years working in various agribusiness positions throughout the United States, Jack was named the chief executive officer of the National Grain Sorghum Producers Association, headquartered in Lubbock, TX. He is credited with growing that association by 300 percent and with developing balanced association programs on policy, plant science and utilization, and for placing the association on the national legislative and regulatory scene.

In 1998, Jack accepted the position of chief executive officer of the National Association of Wheat Growers here in Washington, DC. Under his leadership, the organization experienced a financial turnaround, with Jack leading the group out of a negative budget in net earnings to a positive one in just over 2 years.

Jack was appointed president and chief executive officer of the Agricultural Retailers Association in 2001, where he remained until his passing. In this capacity, he increased the annual association dues revenue by more than 100 percent. In February 2002, he was the only commodity leader invited to address the National Governors' Conference, where he discussed the importance of the 2002 farm bill and the state of the agricultural economy.

Jack was also a political activist and volunteer; an active member of the Bennett Roundtable of the Farm Foundation of Chicago, Illinois; and a recipient of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity Brother of the Century Award.

I offer my most sincere condolences to Jack's wife Jinger and their family. Jack's passion for service, dynamic leadership, and unwavering dedication to the greater agribusiness community will remain a source of inspiration to all those who knew him.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THUNDER ROAD INTERNATIONAL SPEED-BOWL

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today I honor a renowned Vermont landmark and business, Thunder Road International SpeedBowl, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this season.

Thursday nights every summer, short track races take place on Thunder Road's uniquely configured quarter-mile paved track. Thunder Road has been recognized as one of the finest short tracks in the Nation. Built in 1959 on farm land in Barre, VT, by longtime network sports commentator Ken Squier and his partners, Thunder Road is an American institution of which Vermont is proud.

Thunder Road has offered inexpensive family entertainment for five decades. This revered race track has brought international racing stars to the Green Mountain State while also offering opportunities for Vermonters

to compete in front of passionate and knowledgeable fans.

After World War II, there were more than 22 short tracks in the State of Vermont. With only three tracks remaining, Thunder Road stands out as the largest spectator sports venue in the State.

Today, some drivers at Thunder Road can recall watching their grandfathers drive the same track. "Thunder Road is just about racing—there's no politics, no marketing—it's just racing and it's always been that way," said Steve Letarte, a Maine native and crew chief for NASCAR star Jeff Gordon.

Vermonters appreciate Thunder Road for its longtime contributions to its community. For 50 years, this short track has been an invaluable institution for the people of Vermont and throughout the Northeast.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHITE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize White, SD. The town of White will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Brookings County, White was founded as an agricultural town in 1884. Now, 125 years later, the town still relies on agriculture, but has also expanded into a destination for hunting, fishing, and outdoor adventures. White continues to be an excellent example of what makes South Dakota such a great place to live and do business. The town will celebrate this milestone during their annual "Pioneer Days" July 17 through 19 with a number of activities for residents and visitors to enjoy.

I would like to offer my congratulations to White on its 125th anniversary.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, 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, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2301. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Modification of the Yellowtail Flounder Landing Limit for the U.S./Canada Management" ((RIN0648-XP50) (Docket No. 080521698-9067-02)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2302. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2009 Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program" ((RIN0648-XP54) (Docket No. 080626787-8788-01)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2303. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Species; Determination of Endangered Status for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Salmon" (RIN0648-XJ93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2304. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Species; Designation of Critical Habitat for Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar) Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment" (RIN0648-AW77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2305. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, National Telecommunication and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program" (RIN0660-ZA29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2306. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Buprofezin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8421-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2307. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indoxacarb; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8424-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2308. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mandipropamid; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8422-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2309. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National De-

fense Stockpile Annual Materials Plan for Fiscal Year 2010 and for the Succeeding 4 Years"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2310. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the quarterly reporting of withdrawals or diversions of equipment from Reserve component units; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2311. A communication from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2008 Management Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2312. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2008 Management Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2313. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2008 Management Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2314. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2008-0020)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2315. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report entitled "2008 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2316. A communication from the Attorney of the Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Small Electric Motors" (RIN1904-AB71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2317. A communication from the Attorney of the Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Test Procedures for General Service Fluorescent Lamps, Incandescent Reflector Lamps, and General Service Incandescent Lamps" (RIN1904-AB72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2318. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "West Virginia Regulatory Program" ((WV-115-FOR)(Docket No. OSM-2009-0006)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 10, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2319. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties" ((RIN1028-AC61)(Docket No. OSM-2009-0004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 10, 2009; to the