

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.