

I applaud the dedication and hard work of Mr. Forrester who has found new and creative ways to serve the needs of his students and I am proud to recognize his contributions and his persistence in carrying out his vision. By creating so many new options for children, Mr. Forrester is giving back to local schools and setting a wonderful example for those around him.●

WOODBIDGE HIGH STUDENTS SELECTED AS FINALISTS IN CIVICS PROGRAM

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate 15 students and their teacher, Ms. Barbara Hudson, from Woodbridge High School in Bridgeville, DE, for their outstanding achievement in qualifying as finalists of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program.

This program is administered by the Center for Civic Education which provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. These materials assist students in obtaining a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government.

Next, "We the People" conducts a 3-day competition which tests a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. A mock Congressional committee hearing is conducted in which the students testify and then respond to questions on Constitutional issues before a panel of judges.

This demanding competition takes hard work and diligence to reach the national finals, which are being held in Washington, D.C. from May 6 to May 8, 2000. I am pleased to congratulate those students from Woodbridge High School who will be participating in the final stage of this competition: Jennifer Blackwell, Steve Breeding, Jarelle Bruso, John Conner, Rachel Dawson, Shawnita Dorman, Chelsea Ferrell, Adam Hickman, Jerome Holder, Nick LaRusso, Kat Leiter, Jennifer Sheets, Latoya Thompson, Robert Tribbett, and Jessica Umstetter. Together with the help of their teacher, Ms. Hudson, they successfully learned and applied a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy. Their knowledge will be tested yet again during the national finals, where they will compete with more than 1,200 students from throughout the United States.

It is exciting to see these young people from Delaware and so many other students from across the Nation expressing interest in our country's Government. Programs such as "We the People" help to inspire new generations of leaders. These students from Woodbridge High School are shining examples of the promise bright young people offer the future of this country.

It is my honor to recognize these students who represent excellence in Delaware scholastics, and I am sure that my fellow Delawareans join me in wishing these young "Constitutional experts" the best of luck during the upcoming competition.●

A TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I proudly rise today in recognition of National Science and Technology Week. Since 1985, the National Science Foundation has used this opportunity to celebrate and bring awareness to the scientific and technological wonders that encompass our lives.

American spirit and determination have created advancements our society could not have imagined a mere 50 years ago. As the world embraces the new information age, our quality of life has been the benefactor. Telecommunications and the Internet have brought billions of people together, while biotechnology research gives hope to solving many of our world's medical mysteries. Environmental technology allows increased sustainability of our precious natural resources and space sciences open up new and exciting worlds.

Science, education, and community organizations all over the U.S. are participating in National Science and Technology Week. Clearly, promoting the awareness of science and technology to the public benefits everyone. In particular, piquing the interest of children has been proven to instill a lifetime of learning. The importance of a strong scientific education is indisputable, for the skills we learn as children prove invaluable on a daily basis in adult life. Here in Congress, the legislative process utilizes scientific reasoning methods to pinpoint problems, research solutions, experiment, and choose the best course of action.

I am proud of my efforts during the 106th Congress to secure \$5 million in funding for improvements to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and National Park Services operations in the new Science Museum of Minnesota. Our state-of-the-art museum allows all Minnesotans the opportunity to experience wonders of science ranging from a face-to-face encounter with a polar bear to navigating a virtual towboat down the Mississippi River. I encourage all our citizens to plan a visit soon.

As National Science and Technology Week activities are conducted across the country, it is my hope that all Americans reflect on the significance of science and technology in our society. In science, as in all of life, the only barriers we cannot overcome are those we do not attempt. Please join me this week in celebrating our achievements and potential.●

THE LAST CLASS IN BUTTE

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, in a recent article in the New York Times, Nicholas Kristof, a reporter, posed the question why this country should care about the fate of family-based agriculture in this country.

Many people are asking that question today. For part of the answer, I suggest they read a short essay by Elizabeth Haugen, a high school senior in Butte, North Dakota, a town of 129 people in the central portion of my state.

Elizabeth has grown up on a family farm. As her grandmother put it, she "helps with the cows, drives truck, cleans granaries, and maintains an A+ grade average." She sings in the State Choir and competes in statewide speech contests.

Elizabeth is a member of the last graduating class in Butte Public School—one of two seniors. After she leaves the school will close. The school will not close because it has failed. It has been a success, and Butte too has been a success. For generations, the school, and the town, have produced the kind of traditional community values that we hear so much about in this Chamber and that this Nation desperately needs.

The Butte Public School will close because family farms are failing, and family-based agriculture is the economic base of Butte—as it is for thousands of small communities like it across America.

This is not rural romanticism of Jeffersonian nostalgia. It is real. If we want the kind of traditional values in this country that people here in Washington preach so much about, then we have got to show some concern for the kinds of economic arrangements that promote those values—including the family farm.

Family based agriculture is not failing in this country because it is unproductive or inefficient. It is failing because it cannot survive in a marketplace in which big grain companies, food processors and the rest are permitted to stomp on family farmers with impunity. It cannot survive when the federal government favors these corporate interests at every turn.

To begin to understand why we need to act, I commend this essay by Elizabeth Haugen to my colleagues. "The little town of Butte, North Dakota is the positive evidence that the small, trustworthy, and simple lifestyle still exists," she writes. How would we replace those values, once they are lost?

I include for the RECORD a copy of the essay.

The essay follows:

THE LITTLE WORLD ALL BY ITSELF

(By Elizabeth Haugen)

We live in a world of advanced technology, increasing violence, and the rush of people running through their lives in an attempt to conquer their busy schedules. What has happened to the silence? The beautiful grazing land? The simple pleasures of life? It once was all people knew. Let's dig deep. This lifestyle has been preserved somewhere.