

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, "International Market Baskets Begin on Hoosier Farms." Considering the importance of our expanding global economy, students were asked to imagine themselves shopping in an exotic marketplace, anywhere in the world, and then describe what Hoosier agricultural products they might find there. I would like to submit for the RECORD the winning essays of Clayton Owsley of Washington County and Emily Ripperger of Franklin County. As state winners of the Youth Essay Contest, these two outstanding students are being recognized on Friday, February 4, 2000 during a visit to our Nation's Capitol.

The essays are as follows:

INTERNATIONAL MARKET BASKETS BEGIN ON
HOOSIER FARMS

(By Clayton Owsley, Washington County)

Our ship arrived on the Island of Aruba early this morning. Our family had been sailing on the Caribbean all night.

Our first stop was to shop in the town of Oranjestad. As we browsed in the marketplace, we saw Aruban art and merchants selling fresh fish off their boats.

While we were in the marketplace we picked up some items to take back to the condominium. I forgot to pack my toothpaste, so I purchased a tube of Crest (peppermint flavored). As I was paying for it, I realized the peppermint used in it could have originated in Indiana. Indiana is the 4th leading peppermint exporter in the United States.

My dad loves popcorn, so he bought some microwave popcorn to fix in the room. I told dad this popcorn might have come from Indiana, since Indiana is the number one popcorn exporter in the United States.

Before we left to go back to our room we ate lunch at a restaurant by the marketplace. The special of the day was roast duckling, which is another export of Indiana. We tried to find many items on the menu that could have originated in Indiana. The vegetable oil and dressings may have come from Indiana soybeans. The soy sauce used to marinate the duckling could also have come from Indiana soybeans.

Dad reminded us that the ketchup on the table could also have come from diced tomatoes grown in Indiana. He informed us that 55% of Aruban imports come from the United States. So it is possible these things could have originated in Indiana.

We realized that there is a little bit of Indiana all over the world.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET BASKETS BEGIN ON
HOOSIER FARMS

(By Emily Ripperger, Franklin County)

Have you ever wondered where Hoosier crops are sent after they are harvested? When I took my first trip to Europe, I found the answers to this question.

It began a few years ago, when I visited London, England, and was amazed at what I

found. After visiting famous landmarks, I arrived at Portobello Market, which is on the west side of the city. When I got there, I was in awe at the sights and the sounds of this new place. People were walking down the crowded roads, talking in different languages, and there were more booths than imaginable. As I pushed my way through the crowds, I found myself gazing at crates filled with almost every kind of foreign fruit or vegetable that you could think of. Then, something caught my eye. There were boxes of soybeans, corn, tomatoes and other familiar things. Immediately, I recognized this as something from my home state, Indiana. This really came to me as a shock, because being in a foreign country, I had the impression that I would only be seeing foreign objects. I spoke to the merchant, and he told me that although some of these crops were grown locally, most of them, even the peppermint and spearmint, were grown on Indiana farms. This information sparked my interest, so I did some extensive research. It turns out that Native Americans who lived mostly around the Ohio Valley, and the Great Lakes brought many of these crops grown in Indiana, there. When I returned home, I thought about Hoosier farms and the workers who help keep them running, in a new way.

Going to Europe made me realize the importance of Indiana farms and crops, and how they are useful, not only in the United States, but all around the world.

1999-2000 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

District 1: Wyatt Reidelbach (Pulaski County), Emily Ann Lawrence (Starke County)

District 2: Drew Englehart (Noble County), Alyxandra Schlotter (Noble County)

District 3: Kent Kohlhaugen (Jasper County), Laura Lachmund (White County)

District 4: Brad Rogers (Howard County), Jenell Hierholzer (Miami County)

District 5: Matthew Fry (Putnam County), Tarrah Bernhardt (Hendricks County)

District 6: David Baird (Wayne County), Cassie Bird (Hamilton County)

District 7: Shawna Asher (Knox County)

District 8: Jonathan Brookbank (Union County), Emily Ripperger (Franklin County)

District 9: Drew Baker (Posey County), Amy Moore (Posey County)

District 10: Clayton Owsley (Washington County), Paige Roberts (Washington County)

1999-2000 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

Cass: Jeff Plummer, Mollie Graybeal
Delaware: Jason Perkins, Amanda Pollard

Dubois: Dustin Schwartz
Fayette: Ashley Steele

Franklin: Zackary Reiser, Emily Ripperger
Hamilton: Ryan Kunkel, Cassie Bird

Hancock: Shelby Gues
Hendricks: Nathan Bayliss, Tarrah Bernhardt

Henry: Rebecca Robertson
Howard: Brad Rodgers

Jasper: Kent Kohlhaugen, Cristen Liersch
Jay: Danielle Look

Knox: Shawna Asher
Madison: Zamir Wolfe, Jessica Loveall

Marion: Mike James, Jessica Davis
Miami: Jenell Hierholzer

Newton: Curt Schriner, Lacy Padgett
Noble: Drew Englehart, Alyxandra Schlotter

Orange: Ryan Barwe, Kimberly Kee
Posey: Drew Baker, Amy Moore

Pulaski: Wyatt Reidelbach
Putnam: Matthew Fry

St. Joseph: Colin Ethier, Julie Vander Weide

Shelby: Amanda Denton
Starke: David Jensen, Emily Ann Lawrence
Union: Jonathan Brookbank
Vermillion: William Ealy, Alyssa Burch
Wabash: Greg Martin, Tiffany Livesay
Warrick: A.J. Wilks, Alyssa Davis
Washington: Clayton Owsley, Paige Roberts
Wayne: David Baird, Katy Baumer
White: Austin Waibel, Laura Lachmund

CELEBRATING ST. PAUL SCHOOL

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I rise to tell you about St. Paul School in my hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. In a country that can only be measured by the well-being of its least-advantaged citizenry, St. Paul has a special story that is too often left untold.

St. Paul Church and the adjoining school are landmarks on the Wilmington skyline, visible from Interstate 95 heading North through Wilmington. Surrounding it are remnants of a once heavily-populated Irish and German immigrant communities and now is in the heart of the Hispanic section of the city. It sits at the base of the West Side and since the 1800's, has been a safe haven for generations of children and families newly arriving to American shores and settling in our community.

St. Paul School was founded in 1874. Its 125 year history is clear—providing quality education to immigrant and minority children. Yet at St. Paul, there is a much deeper, much more powerful message. While St. Paul is a school of 235 kindergarten through eighth graders, 99% of whom are urban children of color from some of Wilmington's most distressed areas, its students are prepared well and consistently perform above the national indicators of student achievement.

There is no culture of poverty or sense of hopelessness in any child, in any classroom in this school. St. Paul's dispels the assumptions and myths about the innate inability of inner-city minority children from very precarious circumstances to succeed academically and socially in mainstream society. At St. Paul, parents are properly engaged, teachers are supremely dedicated and most important, children come ready to learn. This in a school where more than half the students enter with limited English-speaking ability, most of the families live on the margins of poverty and the teachers and administration work for pay well-below their parochial, public and private counterparts.

St. Paul is indeed a special place, but in my view, it is one of so many other stories we need to find out about, embrace and share with America. Furthermore, it is the reason that we must continue to invest in the education of our children. On February 9, 2000 in Wilmington, there will be a Commemorative Mass benefiting the Saint Paul School Scholarship Fund. It is a time

when St. Paul School will take center stage for many in our community. It makes perfect sense because every day, education and its importance takes center stage in the lives of St. Paul children.

Our community—both now and in future—will be better because of the efforts of schools like St. Paul around the country where truly no one child is left behind. We in Wilmington salute St. Paul School.●

RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN AND LAURA ERDEL

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a couple that has had a tremendous impact on my hometown of Mexico, Missouri; my good friends Stephen and Laura Erdel. Mr. President, these two have served the community in a variety of roles and on January 22 they were the recipients of the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce 1999 Community Service Award.

Steve has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Handishop, Inc. the Handi-Shop Endowment Fund, the Mexico Rotary Club, The Mexico Country Club, The Arthur Center Advisory Board, Mexico/Audrain County Community Development, Enterprise Development Corporation, Audrain Medical Center Charitable Foundation, the Advanced Technology Center Foundation, the Westminster College Board of Trustees, Missouri Military Academy, the Alan Woods Scholarship Foundation, the Roy Creasey Scholarship Foundation and the Ross D. Ferris Scholarship.

He has served as president of the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce and as vice president of Economic Development. He was also president of the following organizations: Handishop, Inc., Mexico Country Club, Arthur Center Advisory Board and as chairman of the Audrain Medical Center Charitable Foundation, the Advanced Technology Center Foundation and as their fundraising chairman. He is currently on the Westminster College Executive Committee.

Mr. President, Laura Erdel also has an outstanding record of community service. Laura served as a member of the Mexico Board of Education for 6½ years. In 1996 she was the first woman to be elected president of the school board. She was vice president of the board for four years and is certified by the Missouri School Board Association. For seven years she also served as a weekly volunteer at Eugene Field School.

Laura was co-founder of the A+ for Mexico Education, Inc. and president for two years. She has served as a board member of the Methodist Pre-school and on various committees of the Eugene Field PTO, Mexico Junior High School PTA, and Mexico High School PTA.

As a member of the White family, long-time publishers of the Mexico Ledger, Laura has supported the Audrain Historical Society as publicity chairman for five years, and was co-chairman of the Audrain County Fair in 1990. She is currently a member of the Presser Hall Restoration Society and has served on their board of directors. She has been a strong supporter of the YMCA as a board member and has worked on numerous fund drives.

Laura is a former member of the Mexico Women's Club, a past president of the Wednesday Club and served as president of P.E.O. Chapter MB from 1989 to 1991 and again in 1998-99. Furthermore, Laura was also the physician recruiter for Audrain Medical Center for ten years and has been a freelance reporter for the Mid-Missouri Business Journal.

Mr. President, it is people like this, who are willing to serve, that make our communities better places to live. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognition of Steve and Laura Erdel, who serve as an example to us all.●

A TRIBUTE TO U.S. ATTORNEY MICHAEL SKINNER

● Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I wish to note the departure from public life of one of our state's most gifted public servants. Michael Skinner, who has served for the past six years as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, the largest geographical district in my home state, left office on January 15 and has returned to the private practice of law in Lafayette.

It is no exaggeration to say that Michael Skinner will be remembered as the most effective and successful U.S. Attorney in the history of the Western District of Louisiana. From almost his first day in office, he set about to make it clear to the people of his district that the U.S. Attorney's office was their office, administering justice on their behalf and for their benefit. In short order, he threw open the doors of his office, demystified the work of the U.S. Attorney and instilled a renewed sense of confidence and enthusiasm for the administration of justice in the Western District of Louisiana. Judges, attorneys, citizens and scores of public officials from Lafayette to Lake Charles to Alexandria to Shreveport to Monroe agreed that Michael Skinner's appointment was a true breath of fresh air.

Mr. Skinner's record as U.S. Attorney is an impressive one. He successfully prosecuted scores of cases involving public corruption, violent crime, drugs, health care and other types of program fraud, environmental crime and civil rights violations. Some of his most successful cases included: Food stamp and Medicaid/Medicare indictments and convictions that uncovered millions in fraud; a child pornography

investigation that broke a child prostitution ring in South Louisiana; an environmental investigation that resulted in the cleanups of several south Louisiana toxic waste dumps; and the prosecution of literally hundreds of drug dealers who admitted or were convicted of selling drugs in Louisiana.

Mr. President, I am proud to have recommended Michael Skinner's nomination to President Clinton in 1993. In the years since his confirmation by this body, I have watched with a mixture of pride and admiration as he performed the duties of his office with a rare combination of skill, integrity, compassion and determination. Mike Skinner represents the best that our country has to offer in its public servants and I believe that he will serve as the model for every person who follows him in that office. I know that I speak for the citizens of Louisiana and for every member of this body in thanking him for a job well done and in wishing he and his family all the best in this new phase of their lives.●

IN MEMORY OF EMILY ANN JORDT

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of an extraordinary and courageous young lady. Emily Ann Jordt, daughter of Bill and Deb Jordt of Hinton, Iowa, passed away on March 15, 1999, after fighting cancer for three years. My heart is heavy for the Jordt family. No one would disagree that cancer is a devastating illness. However, when cancer touches the life of a child, it seems an especially harsh reality. I know from personal experience the difficulties that follow a cancer diagnosis. My wife, Barbara, is a breast cancer survivor and we believe early detection saved her life. I have long supported biomedical research, and Emily's story reminds all of us the importance of remaining vigilant in providing funding for cancer research. To quote Emily, "We can do this together." It is my hope that by sharing Emily's story with my colleagues in the Senate, Emily's memory may be truly honored.

EMILY'S STORY—A LIFE OF STRENGTH AND COURAGE

Emily was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, an aggressive childhood cancer, in 1996 when she was only nine years old. While this cancer is usually found in muscle tissue in an extremity, Emily's was in her jaw and neck. Emily was frightened. Her grandfather had died of lung cancer. Emily came to understand that there were many kinds of cancers, and that not everyone dies of this disease. Emily joined her family and doctors in what was to become a three-year fight for her life.

Emily had surgery to remove a tumor below her lower right jaw. Her best chance for remission was simultaneous radiation and chemotherapy treatment. Even though interruptions in the harsh protocol were needed for her body to recover, radiation was completed, and chemotherapy resumed.

After radiation Emily had difficulty with muscles of her tongue and throat. A feeding