employer-sponsored health coverage if available. The option to buy in to Medicaid would be used as a supplement to existing private insurance or as stand alone coverage if employer-based coverage were not an option.

In addition to creating Medicaid buy-in options for families, the Family Opportunity Act proposes the establishment of Family to Family Health Information Centers. These Centers, staffed by both parents and professionals would be available to help families identify and access appropriate health care for their children with special needs, as well as answer questions on filling out the necessary paperwork to establish health care coverage.

The Family Opportunity Act promises to promote early intervention, ensures medically necessary services, offers support, and will help restore family stability. I applaud my colleagues for proposing this important legislation, but even more important, I give a standing ovation to the dedicated families who give so greatly of themselves to care for their children.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE
Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, June 15, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,644,906,868,488.81 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-four billion, six hundred and sixty-eight thousand, four hundred eighty-eight dollars and eighty-nine cents).

Five years ago, June 16, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$3,579,987,718,133.89 (Five trillion, five hundred seventy-nine billion, seven hundred eighteen thousand, one hundred and thirty-three dollars and seventy-eight cents).

Ten years ago, June 16, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$1,493,073,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred ninety-three billion, three hundred and sixty-eight thousand, one hundred and thirty-three dollars and eighty-nine cents).

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORS FOR AN ARKANSAS STUDENT
Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute and to recognize a fellow Arkansan, Blake Rutherford, for his accomplishments at Middlebury College in Vermont. Blake is a native of Little Rock, attended Little Rock Central High School, and will be graduating from Middlebury College with a degree in Political Science in August 2000. This fine young man is the first student ever chosen at Middlebury College to give the Student Commencement address. He most deserved honor for Blake Rutherford and I whole heartily congratulate him on his achievements. I ask that the text of his speech be included following my remarks.

BLAKE RUTHERFORD’S COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

Today, we are fortunate to experience one of the great accomplishments in life. Like thousands throughout America, we are gathered at the beginning of a new millennium, a unique time in our nation and in our world. But unlike thousands we have come together in a very special place nestled between the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains—a place where we worked hard, played hard, made lifelong friends, and have spent some of the best years of our lives. Paraphrasing the legendary Bob Hope, Middlebury: Thanks for the memories.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Class of 2000—individually and collectively—for your achievements. I also want to thank the Board of Trustees, the administration, faculty, and staff for providing us the very best. And I especially want to thank our parents and families for paying for it.

At our centennial celebration one hundred years ago, the Middlebury Register characterized it as the “day of days for the undergraduate.” Today, a century later, is most certainly our day of days and one that we will celebrate and remember forever with great pride, for as Emerson noted, “The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it.”

Middlebury College began in 1800 under the direction of President Jeremiah Atwater as a small building with only seven students. As we see almost 200 hundred years later, more than 2000 students larger, under the direction of President John McCardell, much has changed.

Built for only \$8,000, Painter Hall, constructed between 1814 and 1816, is currently the oldest building. Although it stands the same today, the environment and the atmosphere around it do not.

Admittance into Middlebury in 1815 used to consist of a formal exam in Latin, Greek and arithmetic. Remembering back four years ago, I could only wish the process was as simple.

But today, thanks to the efforts of many, Middlebury is blessed with a stronger, more diverse student body than it has ever had.

We have seen the number of applicants to Middlebury grow steadily over the past four years.

We have seen the number of minorities on campus grow over the past four years.

Most importantly, we have seen Middlebury’s reputation grow and spread all over the United States and to dozens of countries across the world.

Our accomplishment and our experiences have taught us a lot about ourselves and about Middlebury College. As we strive to be a more diverse environment, we find ourselves struggling to come to terms with many difficult questions and issues. In answering these, let us turn to the lessons taught to us by three prominent Middlebury graduates.

Roswell Field graduated from Middlebury College in 1822. Upon his departure from the College he observed: “I am most famous for arguing to the Supreme Court on behalf of a slave named Dred Scott. Al-
our families, our friends, and those close and important to us very proud as well. So let us always remember this day, May 21, 2000 as our day of days—our historic day. And very soon will all embark on separate journeys and begin a new and exciting chapter in our lives.

In doing so, let us not forget the famous words of Tennyson who wrote, ‘That which we are, we are equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate, but strong in will, to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.’

And for the class of 2000, the world now awaits and the best is yet to be.

Good Luck and Congratulations.

TRIBUTE TO EZRA KOCH

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, ever since the days of the Oregon Trail, my state has been blessed with citizens dedicated to the spirit of ‘neighbor helping neighbor’ and I wish to strengthen the Oregon tradition of today.’’

less fortunate, and that continues ing what we have with those that are all take to heart. ‘‘Even though we life. And his words are ones we should the values he has lived throughout his School District, Rotary International, tions and causes that have benefitted the national project created Lake Sakakawea on the Fort Berthold Reservation, the bridge became necessary to connect the west and the east sides of the Reservation.

Mr. President, Senator CAMPBELL, chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, shares my concerns that the Four Bears Bridge was not included in the bill as requested by the Administration. The reason that this bridge is necessary is because the federal government created a lake bisecting the Reservation. Now there’s a situation on Fort Berthold where emergency vehicles, school buses, police and general local traffic are forced to cross a bridge that is only 22 feet wide. This kind of a bridge was never intended to replace the bridge originally constructed in 1934 on another part of the reservation, was erected at its current site by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1952 during construction of the Garrison Dam. Because of the Garrison Dam project created a permanent flood in the form of Lake Sakakawea on the Fort Berthold Reservation, the bridge became necessary to connect the west and the east sides of the Reservation.

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TRIBUTE TO THE SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the most suc cessful college baseball regular season in history. This year, the Savannah State University, SSU, Tigers set a new National Collegiate Athletic Association record for the most consecutive wins—an incredible 46. Led by their coach, Jamie Rigdon, a former Savannah State graduate, the Tigers played with all their heart despite the know ledge that they would not be able to participate in NCAA Regional Playoffs because they are in the process of mov ing from NCAA Division II to Division I.

The historic season began with twelve straight victories over their fel low Division II rivals. In February, the Tigers defeated Florida A&M in what would become the first of many Division I opponents to meet their match in Savannah State. As the season wore on, the Tigers kept playing hard each and every day and, on March 19 they were rewarded for their efforts with an amazing 34th consecutive victory, thereby breaking the NCAA record. However, Savannah State’s celebration was cut short when it learned that a Division III school in Ohio reported that it won 40 consecutive games the season before but had failed to notify the NCAA’s official record keepers. While the media and officials debated which team held the record, the Tigers kept winning. In the end, the Savannah State University baseball team had won an astonishing 46 consecutive game, shattering every record in the