employer-sponsored health coverage if available. The option to buy in to Medicaid would be used as a supplement to existing private 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 16, 2000, the Federal debt stood at $5,644,906,680,000 (five trillion, six hundred forty-four billion, six hundred and sixty-eight thousand, one hundred and sixty-eight dollars and eighty-one cents).

Last year, June 16, 1999, the Federal debt stood at $5,579,687,718,133.89 (five trillion, five hundred seventy-nine billion, six hundred and eighty-seven million, one hundred and sixty-eight dollars and eighty-one cents). Five years ago, June 16, 1995, the Federal debt stood at $4,933,073,000,000 (four trillion, eight hundred ninety-three billion, three hundred and seventy-three million, one hundred and thirty-one dollars and eighty-nine cents).

Ten years ago, June 16, 1990, the Federal debt stood at $3,121,688,000,000 (three trillion, one hundred twenty-one billion, six hundred eighty-eight million).

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. 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. It is an honor that I wholeheartedly 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 gathering 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 Office of the Ad- ministration, 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 under-graduate.'' 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 wrote, ''The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it.''

Middlebury College began in 1800 under the direction of President Jeremiah Atwater in 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 $3,000, Painter Hall, constructed between 1814 and 1816, is currently the oldest building in America. 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 four- hour examination in Latin, Greek and arithmetic. Remem- bering 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 become a more diverse environment, we find ourselves struggling to come to terms with many difficult questions and issues. In an- swering 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 was most fa- mous for arguing to the Supreme Court on behalf of a slave named Dred Scott. Al-