

the region that could well result in changes to this proposal.

It is my hope and expectation that this funding will change what has been a decades-long, torturous, and expensive process into a success that will make the Pacific Northwest a role model for how to recover endangered species. I look forward to working with colleagues in the House and Senate to provide funds to support a successful Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 2, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,655,955,997,201.31, Five trillion, six hundred fifty-five billion, nine hundred fifty-five million, nine hundred ninety-seven thousand, two hundred one dollar and thirty-one cents.

One year ago, May 2, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,669,551,000,000, Five trillion, six hundred sixty-nine billion, six hundred fifty-one million.

Five years ago, May 2, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,100,093,000,000, Five trillion, one hundred billion, ninety-three million.

Ten years ago, May 2, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,438,851,000,000, Three trillion, four hundred thirty-eight billion, eight hundred fifty-one million.

Fifteen years ago, May 2, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,015,491,000,000, Two trillion, fifteen billion, four hundred ninety-one million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,640,464,997,201.31, Three trillion, six hundred forty billion, four hundred sixty-four million, nine hundred ninety-seven thousand, two hundred one dollar and thirty-one cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE QUEST PROGRAM

• Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, today, there is much focus on the problems in our schools but, I would like to bring to your attention the students and citizens in the great State of New Jersey who are doing something to make our schools a better place to learn and grow. The Quest Program is an amazing group of 11- and 12-year-olds who are positively affecting the student body and facilities at Dr. John Howard Jr. Unique School of Excellence in East Orange, NJ.

Noting the rise of suspensions and other discipline issues in their school, a group of 13 fourth and fifth graders gathered under the leadership of their teacher, Ms. Christine McAdams, and created the Quest Program. They developed this program to find ways to improve student behavior. Volun-

teering more than 400 hours toward the goal of bettering the student body, these young people established 14 enrichment programs through which students could positively direct their youthful energy and exuberance. These exceptional students even successfully bought property to expand their school playground by researching grant and funding opportunities in their community.

The Quest Program placed first in New Jersey in the junior division of the Community Problem Solving Component of the International Future Problem Solving Program. The Dr. John Howard Community Problem Solving Team will represent New Jersey at the International Competition in Athens, Georgia this June.

These 13 students are an excellent example of the creativity and dedication of which America's young people are capable. Joshua Baily, Sabre Burroughs, Teri Jones, Orion Khan, Kamiah Mitchell, Shantea Moore, Chetachi Odelugo, Cory Patterson, Rubi Ramirez, Katiria Torres, Reymond Torres, John Wilson, and Minette Wilson are a credit to their families, their school, and the State of New Jersey.

As a Senator who believes very strongly in the importance of education, I am exceptionally proud of these prodigious young people and their decision to spend their time and energy making their school a better place to learn. It is my hope that you will join me in wishing them good luck in June and in all of their future endeavors.●

SUPPORTING FARMER EDUCATION

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Farmland Industries for their leadership in educating farmers on the importance of international trade, through the program "Support Trade, for Farmers, For Farmland, For You." I also congratulate them for receiving the 2001 National Agri-Marketing Association's award for Best of Show.

I ask that the letter of congratulations I sent to Farmland Industries be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2001.

Mr. ROBERT HONSE,
President & CEO, Farmland Industries, Inc.,
Kansas City, MO.

I recently read that Farmland's trade education program, "Support Trade, For Farmers, For Farmland, For You" was selected to receive the 2001 National Agri-Marketing Association's award for Best of Show. Congratulations on this impressive achievement!

Farmland Industries clearly understands the important role of international trade to the agriculture industry. As the only working family farmer in the United States Senate and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, I also appreciate the importance

of international trade to America's farmers. International trade has a significant impact on my home state of Iowa, with agriculture exports contributing more than \$5 billion a year to Iowa's economy. Nationwide, approximately \$6 billion in agriculture products, such as grains, oilseed, cotton, meats, and vegetables are processed for export every day. These exports generate more than \$100 billion in total business activity, and sustain nearly a million American jobs.

Trade is vital to the United States economy generally, and to our farmers in particular, as agriculture makes an enormous and valuable contribution as our third largest export. Increased market opportunities in agricultural trade are of tremendous importance to American farmers and to our economy. That is why I applaud your efforts to inform and mobilize the farming community in support of open markets.

The "Support Trade" program sponsored by Farmland Industries, and the communications team led by Sherlyn Manson and David Eaheart, addressed a vitally important issue through a program that has informed and enlightened farmers at the grassroots level on the importance of international trade.

You are to be highly commended for your leadership. Too few companies appreciate the importance of trade education at the grassroots level. Farmland Industries is truly a leader whose example I hope others will emulate.

I look forward to working with you during this session of Congress as we address such important international trade issues as renewing Trade Promotion Authority for President Bush, continuing normal trade relations for the People's Republic of China, passing normal trade relations for Vietnam, and preparing for the launch of a new round of World Trade Organization negotiations this November.

Again, congratulations for your selection as the recipient of the 2001 National Agri-Marketing Association's Best of Show.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY.●

KRESSE INDUCTED INTO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, for the past 22 years, men's basketball at the College of Charleston has been charmed by the unique powers of head coach John Kresse. Last week, the native New Yorker earned a berth in Palmetto sports history when he was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame. Coach Kresse's remarkable statistics speak for themselves. He has compiled a 539-134 record with the Cougars for an .801 winning percentage that trails only Jerry Tarkanian and Roy Williams among active coaches. With a December 1999 victory over Tennessee Tech, he also became the second fastest coach in NCAA history to record 500 wins. That same year, the College of Charleston became the only team in Southern Conference history to post a 19-0 season. Under his leadership, the Cougars have earned four NCAA and two NIT tournament bids and have won 22 or more games in 17 of the last 21 seasons.

Coach Kresse arrived in Charleston in 1979 after successful stints as assistant