

Dr. Tegnella has been a great asset to the DTRA and to the protection of our Nation. My wife Nancy and I wish Dr. Tegnella and his family the best in his retirement and subsequent return to our great State of New Mexico.●

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year is well underway. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute several dedicated public servants at the Iowa Department of Education, and to report on their successful involvement in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the Iowa Department of Education, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Federal funding has made a real difference for the 304 Iowa school districts that have received Harkin grants over the past decade. The grants have helped school districts from Waukon to Glenwood and from Keokuk to Rock Rapids build new schools, add new classrooms, renovate facilities and bring buildings up to fire codes.

The progress we have witnessed is due, in large part, to the hard work and leadership of the Iowa Department of Education. When this program began, the department did not have experience in administering a grant program of this kind, but key personnel stepped up to plate to create and implement the successful program we have today.

In the last 10 years, department staff have received, reviewed, processed and scored 1,370 grant applications which resulted in 820 grant awards and completion of 773 projects. The department processed thousands of payment requests for project costs, conducted more than 300 site visits to monitor the program and provided the professional administration that taxpayers deserve.

I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance of the Iowa Department of Education for their excellent work. In particular, I would like to recognize C. Milton Wilson, Leland Tack, Ann McCarthy and Ted Stilwill for their leadership in helping create

the program in 1998. They provided a strong foundation that was built on by their highly capable successors—Gary Schwartz, Janice Evans, Jeff Berger, Jim Addy and Judy Jeffrey.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the individuals who have served on the School Budget Review Committee—Cynthia Eisenhower, Michael Tramontina, Charlie Krogmeier, Clark Yeager, Wayne Drexler, Marilyn Perkins, Connie Cook, Su McCurdy, Don Hansen, and Jane Babcock—for their skilled oversight of the program and to the Iowa State Board of Education for their leadership and support.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals at the Iowa Department of Education. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in our state. I salute them and wish them well.●

CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON PAVILION OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I honor the board of directors and dedicated staff at the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science in Sioux Falls, SD, on their accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Since its creation in 1999, the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science has provided education and inspiration to those of all ages in the Sioux Falls region.

The Washington Pavilion has three main program areas, all designed to make art and science a part of everyday life. The Kirby Science Discovery Center introduces visitors to things like hands-on archeology, weather, and space shuttles. The Wells Fargo CineDome Theatre allows viewers to travel the universe or witness nature in vivid detail. Lastly, the Visual Arts Center brings art to all generations with its six galleries and changing exhibits.

I wish to congratulate the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science on reaching this milestone in their mission, and for their service to the community. Once again, I commend the individuals involved in this enterprise

and am pleased to see them publicly honored with accreditation by the American Association of Museums.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM D. WAGONER

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to commend William D. Wagoner of Royal Oak, MI, who last week retired from a long and distinguished career in public service. For the past 35 years, Dr. Wagoner dedicated his career to the public good, working to establish innovative and sustainable practices in urban planning, emergency management, and teaching the next generation of planners and emergency responders. His extraordinary career spanned the entire spectrum of government service, from the local level to the Federal level.

Dr. Wagoner began his career in service by teaching history and political science at a public high school in Clarkston, MI. He went on to earn his master's degree in urban planning and his doctorate in public administration.

For 18 productive years, he served as assistant city manager in Berkley, MI, a large suburb of Detroit, and for the past 16 years has been director of planning and community development for Livingston County, the fastest growing county in Michigan. Dr. Wagoner has written several books on urban planning and emergency response, and has served for decades as an instructor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

President Kennedy asked a generation of Americans to give of themselves for our country and for its future. Dr. Wagoner answered President Kennedy's call and has inspired countless others, who have worked with him or who have been his students, to do the same. I congratulate Dr. Wagoner for his remarkable public service, and I wish him a long and healthy and happy retirement. He has served America well.●

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY E. REED

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and recognize over 25 years of service by Stanley E. Reed to our great State of Arkansas. A third-generation cotton farmer from Marianna, AR, Stanley has served the Arkansas agriculture community with steady leadership for over 20 years as a member of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation board, including the last five as president. At the upcoming Farm Bureau State Convention on December 4, Stanley will hand over the gavel as president, and I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize his many contributions to our State.

Born in Marianna in 1951, Stanley attended the University of Arkansas where he graduated in 1973 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and was awarded Highest Honors. Although Stanley was a tremendous student, he also displayed his leadership skills

early on, serving as President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, President of the Inter Fraternity Council, and President of the Cardinal XX Honorary Society. Upon graduation, Stanley attended the University of Arkansas School of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1976 and was also awarded Highest Honors. Upon taking the Arkansas Bar Exam that year, Stanley scored the highest grade in the State.

Although licensed as an attorney, Stanley returned to the family farm, producing cotton in Lee and St. Francis Counties. He soon became active within the agricultural community and served as president of the Lee County Farm Bureau from 1982–1984. Soon after, he joined the board of directors of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation in 1988, later serving as secretary-treasurer for 6 years, vice president for 4 years, and, as I mentioned before, president for the past 6 years. He has also served on the American Farm Bureau Board of Directors since 2004.

His involvement in the Arkansas agriculture community has led him on trade missions to Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Mexico, Turkey, Brazil, South Korea, and Peru. In addition, I had the good fortune to be joined by Stanley and other Arkansas farmers on a trade mission to Cuba in 2000 to discuss the opening of the Cuban market to Arkansas goods.

What makes Stanley so unique, though, is that his service to Arkansas extends beyond the agriculture world. Education has always been a priority for him. He served for 4 years on the Lee Academy School Board, where his children attended, and he just recently completed a 10-year term on the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, where he served as chairman for 2 years. He is a member of the Arkansas Academy for Agriculture Engineers and has been honored as Distinguished Alumni of the College of Engineering. Additionally, he has served on the board of directors for Baptist Health and as a board member of Simmons First National Bank.

Faith is an important part of Stanley's life. A member of the First Baptist Church in Marianna, Stanley has served as a Deacon in the church and taught youth and adult Sunday School classes for over 20 years. More importantly, he has been involved in prison ministries locally and oversaw the fundraising and construction of the prison chapel at an Arkansas Department of Corrections facility.

And last but certainly not least, Stanley's family—his wife Charlene and three children, Haley Davis, Nathan, and Anna—has been a tremendous source of pride and inspiration for him. In fact, Nathan is carrying on the family farming tradition and works with Stanley on the farm. Stanley is also the proud grandfather to Anna Kate, Jack, and Haven Davis.

As you can see, Stanley Reed is Arkansas through and through. So as he

steps down as president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, I want to thank him for all that he has done for Arkansas and in particularly, the Arkansas agriculture community. Stanley, although you are ending your tenure, I know you will not be far away. I look forward to working with you and know you will continue to make your impact felt in your community and in the State you love so much.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES E. LEA

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about the life of a truly outstanding Missourian. On October 7, 2008, this nation lost a son, a soldier, and a community servant when Dr. Charles E. Lea of Lexington, MO, passed away. While we mourn his passing, we are extraordinarily grateful for all that he gave to his community, his State, and his country during his lifetime.

I believe that Dr. Lea is a wonderful example and reminder of the brave men and women who have served our country in the past and continue to serve it today in this time of great need.

In 1957, Dr. Lea graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and after putting himself through medical school at the University of Missouri, volunteered for service in Vietnam. Widely regarded and recognized as a humble servant, Dr. Lea was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's Medal, four Air Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Parachutist Badge for his service.

While awards and commendations obviously show a great deal about a person, I am a believer that the strength of a person's character is revealed in his or her daily actions. Those who knew Dr. Lea best shared an anecdote with me regarding his time in Vietnam. Dr. Lea was featured in newspapers and on television here at home for his efforts during the war to save a village elephant that had been shot. Seemingly insignificant at the time, those efforts placed the United States, and our servicemen and women, in high regard in the eyes of the Vietnamese village. This small effort, not part of his duty or orders, but undertaken by a man trying to make a difference, had an extensive impact.

Following his military service, Dr. Lea became a general practice family physician and served countless families in Oklahoma and Missouri throughout his medical career.

As I reflect on Dr. Lea's life today, I am reminded not only of the value of his personal service and sacrifice, but of the committed service and selfless sacrifice of all the men and women who have served this country in uniform. America owes a large debt to all of the remarkable men and women who have served this great nation. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Lea and his family, and in remem-

brance of his life and his service, my utmost gratitude goes to all those who have served.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD DAVIS

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I honor a truly great man and a good friend, Dr. Ronald Davis, who died on November 6, 2008 at his home near East Lansing, MI.

Dr. Davis was an outstanding physician, a great leader, and an effective, impassioned advocate for the uninsured. As President of the American Medical Association, Ron helped focus our attention on making sure health care was available and affordable for all Americans.

We worked together earlier this year on the Farm Bill—an unusual issue for physicians to get involved in—but Ron and I were committed to making sure our Federal farm policy promoted health and nutrition. With his help, we passed a truly groundbreaking farm bill that increased the Federal commitment to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Last February, Ron was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. This cancer, which affects over 37,000 Americans each year, is unfortunately one of the hardest to treat. But Ron didn't see it that way. He told his fellow doctors, "Never take away someone's hope," and he lived by those words.

Even while undergoing painful and difficult cancer treatments, Ron was on the front lines, educating the public about support Web sites for cancer patients that allow families to stay informed while building a support network for the patient.

A champion for preventative medicine and public health, Dr. Davis was a leading advocate for healthier lifestyles. He traveled the country urging Americans to quit smoking, exercise more, and eat better.

He also led the effort for the historic apology by the AMA to African-American doctors for the organization's past exclusion of Black physicians. He believed that "by confronting the past we can embrace the future," and pushed to increase enrollments by minorities in medical schools and health professions.

I want to express my deepest sympathies to his wife Nadine and his three sons, Jared, Evan, and Connor. America has lost a great doctor, and his family has lost a great man. Ron's extraordinary record of community service, dedication, and courage should serve as an inspiration to us all.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages