

top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

POSTVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. 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 the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Postville Community School District, and to report on their participation 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 State government in Iowa, 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 Postville Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$1 million which it used to help build an addition to the elementary school that included a new media center and administrative offices. The district also received a 2003 grant totaling \$265,408 for renovations at the high school. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Postville Community School District. In particular, I'd like to recognize the leadership of the Board of Education, president Brad Rekow, Jeff Cox, Laura Lubka, Jamie Smith and Dan Schutte and former board members Staci Malcom, Kathy Ohloff, Gary Catterson, Dennis Koenig and Dennis White. I would also like to recognize the chairman of the district's capital campaign, Cloy Kuhse, superintendent Darwin Winke, former superintendent David Strudthoff and architect Mark Moine of Gardner Architecture.

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 and parents in the Postville Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

HONORING DR. AL LORENZO

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the importance of providing access to a quality education is one of our most important goals as a nation, as our children and grandchildren compete in an ever increasingly complex workplace. Those who dedicate their lives to this mission have chosen one of the most rewarding and satisfying life paths. For 29 years, Dr. Albert Lorenzo served as president of Macomb Community College, skillfully charting a course that has greatly benefitted not only those who have been directly affiliated with the college, but also the surrounding community. His commitment to educating students has transformed countless lives.

July 1, 2008, marked the end of an era for one of Michigan's premier educational institutions, Macomb Community College, and the end of a richly rewarding journey for Dr. Lorenzo. I, along with my Michigan colleague, Senator STABENOW, would like to sincerely thank him for a job well done and for making such a significant contribution to the lives of the people of Macomb County and the State of Michigan.

Dr. Lorenzo was installed as the fourth president of Macomb Community College in July 1979 and navigated the college through significant transition and growth. Upon his retirement, he was the longest-serving community college president in Michigan. Under his leadership, Macomb Community College began offering classes leading to various bachelor degrees in 1991, filling an important void in the community. Dr. Lorenzo is also credited with creating the first ever university center model, which is now used in community colleges throughout the country. Macomb's University Center facilitates partnerships with eight universities and institutions, working to bring higher educational opportunities to this underserved community in

Michigan. The college is flourishing, with an enrollment of approximately 27,000 students and with three out of every four Macomb County college students beginning their college careers at MCC.

In addition to his commitment and success at MCC, Dr. Lorenzo has been a leading member of the Macomb community. Over the years, he has been active on several corporate boards and policy commissions, has worked with several national advisory groups and has been appointed by both Governor Engler and Governor Granholm to economic advisory boards.

Al Lorenzo has also been recognized nationally for his many publications and has been awarded 12 major leadership awards, as well as 2 honorary doctoral degrees. He has received numerous other commendations, including the Tom Peters Leadership Award, and the March of Dimes Citizen of the Year Award. Additionally, he was named President of the Year by three national associations.

Al will be devoting the next chapter of his life to solving the economic and educational challenges that face Macomb County and Michigan by working with Oakland University as they expand their services in Macomb County. We know our colleagues in the Senate join us in recognizing Dr. Al Lorenzo, his wife Katherine, and their family on his retirement. He has left an enduring mark on the educational landscape in Michigan, and we wish him many more years of service and success as he begins this new endeavor.●

ANNIVERSARY OF MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to the students, faculty and staff of Marian High School on the 50th anniversary of the school's founding. This is indeed an important milestone, and the many contributions they have made are evident throughout the Detroit community.

For a half century, the faculty and staff of Marian High School have worked tirelessly to educate young women and prepare them for college and the workforce. The school's emphasis in service instills the values of leadership and responsibility in Marian High students, and the strong academic curriculum, vast array of sports and activities, and qualified staff has contributed mightily to the success of many women over the years.

Education is an investment in the future of our Nation, and students and schools must aspire to high standards. Throughout the last 50 years, the faculty and staff of Marian High School have met this challenge by fostering a nurturing and safe environment for its students to grow and develop. The most recent example of this is the class of 2007, which produced five National Merit Scholars, 37 Phi Beta Kappa Honorees, and numerous other scholarship

winners. Students at Marian continued to consistently score above State and national averages on the SAT and ACT tests, a testament to the high standard of excellence cultivated at Marian High School.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in extending my congratulations to the faculty, staff, alumni, and students of Marian High School on the school's 50th anniversary. I wish them the best as they continue this important work for another half century.●

WEST VIRGINIA ANGELS IN ADOPTION

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I honor the love and commitment exhibited by two of my fellow West Virginians, Jeff and Amy Dunford of Spanishburg, my 2008 nominees as West Virginia's Angels in Adoption. I have participated in this program by the Congressional Caucus on Adoption since its inception, and I am proud to talk about this year's West Virginia family.

In 2003, Jeff and Amy made the wonderful decision to become foster parents. They, like many caring West Virginia families, opened up their home and created a loving environment for children in need of such a place.

The Dunfords started with a sibling group, and by the spring of 2005, the Dunfords have successfully adopted three children, all the while continuing to provide both a short-term and long-term home for additional foster children. In fact, it was not long after the adoption process was completed that another sibling group was placed in the Dunford home. These three boys, all under the age of 3, would also be adopted by the Dunfords.

Being a foster and adoptive family always has its challenges, as well as its unique rewards. Taking care of young children often means sleepless nights, unexpected emergency room visits, and countless parent-teacher conferences. They were also faced with situations unique to foster families, including biological parent visits and counseling sessions. Through it all, the Dunfords faced these challenges with love and determination and now six children have a permanent and loving home.

Today, the Dunford family consists of Jeff and Amy, Jeremy, Walter, Holly, Richard, Greg, and Christopher. Jeff and Amy continue to be active in the foster care system, providing assistance with recruitment and training.

Jeff and Amy are a testament to the wonderful men and women involved in foster care and adoption services. Throughout my Senate career and as a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I have worked hard in a bipartisan manner to expand and support adoptive and foster parents. Over the years, progress has been made, and since the 1997 Adoption and Safe Family Act which I fought for, adoptions for foster care have doubled—a true

sign of success. But with over 100,000 children still in foster care and waiting to be adopted, there is more to do.

This year, I am working with a bipartisan coalition to expand the adoption incentives program, improve adoption assistance and on programs enhancing foster care. As important as policy can be, the true heroes are the parents like the Dunfords, who have selflessly opened up their home to vulnerable children. I hope their story, and the stories of all this year's Angels in Adoption, will inspire my colleagues and families nationwide to promote adoption and other supports for vulnerable children.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R.6168. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building".

H.R.6575. An act to require the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations to prevent the over-classification of information, and for other purposes.

H.R.6630. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from granting authority to a motor carrier domiciled in Mexico to operate beyond United States municipalities and commercial zones on the United States-Mexico border unless expressly authorized by Congress.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 6168. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6575. An act to require the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations to prevent the over-classification of information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6630. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from granting authority to a motor carrier domiciled in Mexico to operate beyond United States municipalities and commercial zones on the United States-Mexico border unless expressly authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7500. A communication from the President of the United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency

with respect to certain terrorist attacks; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7501. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Singapore; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7502. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to the Republic of the Philippines; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7503. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. Exports to Hong Kong; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7504. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((73 FR 46809)(44 CFR Part 65)) received on August 27, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7505. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((73 FR 46811)(44 CFR Part 67)) received on August 27, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7506. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Eligibility of Students for Assisted Housing Under Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937; Conforming Amendment to Include Students with Disabilities Receiving Assistance as of November 30, 2005" ((RIN2501-AD43)(FR-5226-F-01)) received on August 27, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7507. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Kosovo in the Export Administration Regulations" (RIN0694-AE34) received on August 29, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7508. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the District of Columbia's Budget Request Act for fiscal year 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7509. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the organization's inventory of commercial activities for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7510. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's FAIR Act inventory for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7511. A communication from the Chief of Staff and Director of Communications, Office of Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Special Counsel's