

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 New Hampton Community School District received a 2001 Harkin grant totaling \$275,000 which it used to help build a community fitness center in collaboration with the city of New Hampton. The district also received a 2002 grant for \$260,000 to install a new HVAC system at the high school and four fire safety grants totaling \$218,817 to make improvements to schools throughout the district. 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 New Hampton Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Deb Larsen, Bob Smith, Terry Anderson, Tom Rasmussen and Kevin Rieck and former board members Rich Stochl, Rick Holthaus, Tom Gansen, George Feazell, Virgil Pickar, Gerald Johnson, Dr. Todd Becker, Rich Goodwin, David Utterback and Clarence Kriener. I would also like to recognize superintendent Stephen Nicholson, former superintendents Bob Longmuir and Terry Christie, business manager and supervisor of buildings and grounds Bob Ayers, curriculum coordinator Linda Kennedy, high school principal Richard Evans, activities director Kelly O'Donnell, New Hampton Mayor Darwin Sittig and the New Hampton City Council, Chairman Steve Dahl and members of the board of trustees for the New Hampton Municipal Light Plant, Chip Schwickerath and Willis Hansen from the GIFT Campaign, and Lynn Schwickerath from the New Hampton Booster Club.

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 New Hampton 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.●

OELWEIN 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 Oelwein 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 Oelwein Community School District received three Harkin grants totaling \$1,129,212. The 1998 grant for \$250,000 helped build the Oelwein Early Childhood Learning Center to provide classrooms for prekindergarten, preschool, child care, Head Start and before and after school programs. The 1999 grant for \$750,000 helped build the Williams Performing Arts Center and Oelwein Wellness Center. The 2005 grant for \$129,212 helped build the Regional Academy for Math Science and Technology. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

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trict. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Jim Moeller, Charlene Stocker, David Schmidt, Kathy Adams, Jean Nelson, Candace King and Rick Myott and former board members Mary Davis, Harlan Peterson, Dave Lorenzen, Tim Conrey, Dr. George Harper, Marilyn Miller and Becky Hamann as well as superintendent James Patera, former superintendent Dr. Kent Mutchler, business manager/board secretary Joan Loew and former business manager/board secretary Keith Jarchow.

The city of Oelwein has been an important partner with the school district so I would like to recognize mayor Larry Murphy, former mayor Gene Vine, city manager Steven Kendall, and members of the city council—Mike Kerns, Paul Ryan, Duane Brandt, John Gosse, Nathan Lein, Rex Ericson and former members Viola Sims, Curt Solsma, Jacqueline Greco, Charles Geilenfeld, James Mazziotti, Terry Pepin and Duane Ohrt as well as community members Kevin Brooks, Lyle Miller and Tom Masey.

The projects also received strong support from the Greater Oelwein Area Charitable Foundation, Inc and I would like to recognize board members Donald Avenson, Stephen Bisenius, Steven Falck, Donald Frazer, Gene Fuelling and Ronald Van Veldhuizen.

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SPIRIT LAKE 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 Spirit Lake Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

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The Spirit Lake Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$953,709 which it used to help build a five classroom addition to the middle school for science, art, industrial arts, family and consumer science and for renovations at the high school. The district also received a 2000 fire safety grant for \$69,300 to make improvements at the elementary and middle schools. These projects were part of a comprehensive facility plan developed by a committee of local citizens and 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 Spirit Lake Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Beth Will, vice president Ann Goerss, Cliff Garvey, Scott Wicks and Todd Hummel and former board members Carol Schultz, Dr. Craig Newell, Mike Donahue and John Van Dyke. I would also like to recognize superintendent Douglas Latham, former superintendent Tim Grieves, high school principal Steve Ratzlaff and facility director Jim Tirevold.

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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 do better.

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WEBSTER CITY 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 Webster City Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

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The Webster City Community School District received two Harkin fire safety grants totaling \$186,126 which it used to help replace windows at two elementary schools and to replace fire alarms, install safety glass and make other improvements throughout the district. 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 Webster City Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the Board of Education—Craig Loffredo, Judy Maubach, Loween Getter, Dan Ryherd and Pam Hayes and former board members Paul Hess, Dr. Subhash Sahai, Rick Rasmussen and Jack Foster. I would also like to recognize super-

intendent Mike Sherwood, director of building and grounds David Orton and former superintendents Dennis Bahr and Kay Forsythe.

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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 from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DE- CLARED ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2001, WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TER- RORISM—PM 64

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a