

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.

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 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.

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 do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Spirit Lake 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.●

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.

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 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.

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.

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That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Webster City 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.●

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

notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2008.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, in Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon committed on September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 18, 2008.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, 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. 1594. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, as the Michael A. Marzano Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

H.R. 3019. An act to establish an Office of Housing Counseling to carry out and coordinate the responsibilities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding counseling on homeownership and rental housing issues, to make grants to entities for providing such counseling, to launch a national housing counseling advertising campaign, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5772. An act to amend section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

H.R. 6627. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out certain construction projects, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6842. An act to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 6893. An act to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to connect and support relative caregivers, improve outcomes for children in foster care, provide for tribal foster care and adoption access, improve incentives for adoption, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6899. An act to advance the national security interests of the United States by reducing its dependency on oil through renewable and clean, alternative fuel technologies while building a bridge to the future through expanded access to Federal oil and natural

gas resources, revising the relationship between the oil and gas industry and the consumers who own those resources and deserve a fair return from the development of publicly owned oil and gas, ending tax subsidies for large oil and gas companies, and facilitating energy efficiencies in the building, housing, and transportation sectors, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 6842. To restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 6899. An act to advance the national security interests of the United States by reducing its dependency on oil through renewable and clean, alternative fuel technologies while building a bridge to the future through expanded access to Federal oil and natural gas resources, revising the relationship between the oil and gas industry and the consumers who own those resources and deserve a fair return from the development of publicly owned oil and gas, ending tax subsidies for large oil and gas companies, and facilitating energy efficiencies in the building, housing, and transportation sectors, and for other purposes.

S. 3526. A bill to enhance drug trafficking interdiction by creating a Federal felony relating to operating or embarking in a submersible or semi-submersible vessel without nationality and on an international voyage.

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-7625. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert T. Dail, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7626. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) breach relative to the Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellite program (AEHF); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7627. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Department's Operation and Financial Support for Military Museums; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7628. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Military Health System; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7629. A communication from the Executive Director, Project on National Security Reform, providing notification that the required report relative to the national security interagency system will be submitted by October 15, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7630. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Plan for Coordinating National Guard and Federal Military Force Disaster Response"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7631. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acquisitions in Support of Operations in Iraq or Afghanistan" (RIN0750-AG02) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7632. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Limitation on Service Contracts for Military Flight Simulators" (RIN0750-AG04) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7633. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security-Guard Functions" (RIN0750-AF64) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7634. A communication from a member of the Sensors and Instrumentation Technical Advisory Committee, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Availability of Uncooled Thermal Imaging Cameras in Controlled Countries"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7635. A communication from the Federal Register Certifying Officer, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House" (RIN1510-AB00) received on September 2, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7636. 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 "Clarification of the Classification of Crew Protection Kits on the Commerce Control List" (RIN0694-AE24) received on September 2, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7637. A communication from the Acting Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemption from Registration Under Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for Foreign Private Issuers" (RIN3235-AK04) received from September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7638. 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 48136)(44 CFR Part 65)) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7639. 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 48412)(44 CFR Part 67)) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7640. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((73 FR 48130)(44 CFR Part 64)) received on September 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.