

staff, administration, and governance in the Nashua-Plainfield Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the current board of education, Brian Bierschenk, Lisa Franzen, Dawn Koob, Michael Mahoney and Gail Zwanziger. I would also like to recognize superintendent Paul Bisgard, former superintendent Linda Johanningmeier, middle school principal Ron Reusche, head custodian Dave Fordyce and custodian Richard Lindloff.

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 Nashua-Plainfield 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.●

OLIN CONSOLIDATED 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 Olin Consolidated 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 Olin School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$575,000 which it used to help build an addition to the school. The project is a collaboration with the Olin library board and the addition houses the town's library, the district's Iowa Communications Network classroom and access for community activities. The additional space made it possible to convert the former school library into classrooms for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and music. The district also received a fire safety grant totaling \$20,325 to make safety improvements. 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 Olin Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Mike Hansen, Randy Cress, Margo Ahrendsen, Marty Francksen and Rob Strawn and former board members Brian Bean and Ned Rohwedder as well as superintendent Charles Liston, former superintendent Juanita Suhr and board secretary/treasurer Carrie Fortin. I would also like to recognize the members of the Olin Public Library board—Carrie Fortin, Margaret Kistler, Deanna Butterworth, Dianne Tenley and Jan Dierks and former board members Jean Rickels, Sandy Hansen-Heggebo, and Sandy Weirather as well as librarian Dolores Wood and former librarian Sheri Ulrich

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 Olin Consolidated 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 HOUSE

At 3:13 p.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. 998. An act to direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2352. An act to enhance the safety of elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education.

H.R. 2535. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility and suitability of constructing a storage reservoir, outlet works, and a delivery system for the Tule River Indian Tribe of California to provide a water supply for domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3036. An act to reauthorize and enhance the National Environmental Education Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3437. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 5293. An act to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation in Nevada, to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the settlement, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5350. An act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property located in Norfolk, Virginia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5611. An act to reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5736. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Gadsden, Alabama, as the Colonel Ola Lee Mize Veterans Clinic.

H.R. 6229. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the "Mayor William 'Bill' Sandberg Post Office Building".

H.R. 6338. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4233 West Hillsboro Boulevard in Coconut Creek, Florida, as the "Army SPC Daniel Agami Post Office Building".

H.R. 6460. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6503. An act to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

H.R. 6604. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to bring greater transparency and accountability to commodity markets, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6625. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6681. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, as the "Jacob M. Lowell Post Office Building".

H.R. 6772. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the "CecCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building".

H.R. 6855. An act to extend the authority for the United States Supreme Court Police

to protect court officials off the Supreme Court grounds, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States flag flown over the United States Capitol should be lowered to half-mast one day each month in honor of the brave men and women from the United States who have lost their lives in military conflicts.

H. Con. Res. 388. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense and the Federal Voting Assistance Program should take certain additional and timely measures to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their dependents and citizens living overseas are provided with reasonable information on how to register to vote and vote in the 2008 general elections.

H. Con. Res. 408. Concurrent resolution recognizing North Platte, Nebraska, as "Rail Town USA".

H. Con. Res. 410. Concurrent resolution recognizing the FBI on their 100th anniversary.

H. Con. Res. 415. Concurrent resolution celebrating 75 years of effective State-based alcohol regulation and recognizing State lawmakers, regulators, law enforcement officers, the public health community and industry members for creating a workable, legal, and successful system of alcoholic beverage regulation, distribution, and sale.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 171. An act a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Commerce Street in Commerce, Oklahoma, as the "Mickey Mantle Post Office Building".

S.J. Res. 35. Joint resolution to amend Public Law 108-331 to provide for the construction and related activities in support of the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project in Arizona.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to be bill (H.R. 3986) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2608. An act to amend section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide, in fiscal years 2009 through 2011, extensions of supplemental security income for refugees, asylees, and certain other humanitarian immigrants, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to collect unemployment compensation debts resulting from fraud.

H.R. 5551. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to implement the increase provided under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2008, in the amount of funds made available for the compensation of attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5893. An act to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 996. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to expand passenger facility fee eligibility for certain noise compatibility projects.

S. 2339. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

S. 3406. An act to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

At 3:58 p.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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6890. An act to extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109-148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief, and for other purposes.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 3507. A bill to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss.

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-7672. A communication from the Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's decision to conduct a streamlined A-76 competition of information assurance functions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7673. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7674. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7675. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7676. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7677. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2,4-D, Bensulide, Chlorpyrifos, DCPA, Desmedipham, Dimethoate, Fenamiphos, Metolachlor, Phorate, Sethoxydim, Terbufos, Tetrachlorvinphos, and Triallate; Tolerance Actions" (FRL No. 8375-2) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7678. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Control of Air Pollution by Permits for New Construction or Modification" (FRL No. 8715-7) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7679. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ethoprop; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8382-6) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7680. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inert Ingredient: Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance for amylopectin, acid-hydrolyzed, 1-octenylbutanedioate and for amylopectin, hydrogen 1-octadecenylbutanedioate" (FRL No. 8374-1) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7681. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withdrawal of Federal Antidegradation Policy for All Waters of the United States within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" (FRL No. 8716-2) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7682. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for Massachusetts" (FRL No. 8709-4) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7683. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Underground Storage Tank Program: Approved State Program for Hawaii" (FRL No. 8709-4) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7684. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Underground Storage Tank Program: Approved State Program for Hawaii" (FRL No. 8709-4) received on September 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.