

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Southeast Warren 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 Southeast Warren Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$39,360 which it used to help renovate a classroom and replace windows and siding for the gymnasium in Lacona. The district also received a fire safety grant totaling \$50,000 for electrical upgrades, door closures and emergency and exit lighting at the junior/senior high school in Liberty Center. 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 Southeast Warren Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Ron Miller, Jennifer Mihalovich, Paul Mead, Larrie Williams and Marianne Lester and former board members John Burrell, Gerald Judkins, Thomas Farley, Greg Davis, Debbie Miller and Kevin Smith. I would also like to recognize former superintendent Susan Garton, custodian Silas Andersen and business manager Julie Wilson.

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 Southeast Warren 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.●

REMEMBERING SPECIALIST SHAVONTE DONTRELL FIELDS

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SPC Shavonte Dontrell Fields from Fort Wayne, IN. Shavonte was 22 years old when he lost his life on September 7, 2008, from injuries sustained when his vehicle, also carrying his 2-year-old son Ladaryion Shavonte Fields, overturned in Indianapolis shortly after he returned from active duty in Iraq.

Today, I join Shavonte and Ladaryion's family and friends in mourning their deaths. Shavonte, who was known to many as Dontrell, will forever be remembered as a loving father, son, brother, and friend to many. Shavonte is survived by his parents Anita M. Davis Fields and Robert Lee Fields, Jr.; his stepfather Detrick Eley; his siblings Robert Lee Fields, III, Detrick Tubbs and Demetria Eley; his grandparents, John and Margurite Davis, Frank and Betty Cochran, Robert and Mary Fields and Deborah Andrew; and his great-grandparents Tom and Lena Lofton. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Carlotta Joann Cochran.

Shavonte served a 14-month deployment in Iraq as a petroleum specialist with the Army National Guard. Those who knew him best recall a devout man who loved making people smile. Shavonte's family said he had an "energetic personality and an infectious sense of humor that spread to all those in his vicinity." He was a member of the Progressive Baptist Church of Fort Wayne. At the time of the accident, Shavonte was moving back into civilian life, set to start a new job as a customer service representative with AT&T the next day.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the example Shavonte set as both a soldier and a father. Today and always, he will be remembered by family, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Shavonte Dontrell Fields in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. I pray that Shavonte's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Shavonte.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE CRITELLI

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to someone I have known for many years, both because of his guidance of a major company in Connecticut as well as his leadership in the mailing industry—Mike Critelli, executive chairman of Pitney Bowes Inc.—which is headquartered in Stamford, CT. Mike will be retiring late this year, after dedicating 30 years to both Pitney and the mailing industry.

Mike and I have come to know each other not only because Pitney Bowes is headquartered in my home State of Connecticut but also because he has been the chairman of the Mailing Industry CEO Council, an organization of chief executive officers of companies in the mailing industry.

The Mailing Industry CEO Council, under Mike's able leadership, has been at the forefront of educating policymakers about the mailing industry for years. Although those of us who follow mailing industry issues know by heart now the key statistics—a \$900 billion industry representing over 8 percent of the gross domestic product and employing 9 million workers—there was a time when the impact of the industry was less well known. Mike Critelli and the Mailing Industry CEO Council helped to change that. The CEO Council came to town several times a year to meet with me and others in Congress to provide support for the postal reform legislative effort. They helped to spread the word to many of my colleagues who are not on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over postal issues, about the importance of the mailing industry and the impact of the industry on jobs in each of their States. As we moved forward with postal reform legislation in the 109th Congress, having others in Congress actively supporting the mailing industry proved very helpful.

As we worked together on the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, my staff and I were always impressed by the attention and care Mike gave to every detail. As a lawyer, Mike took the time to read the various versions of postal reform legislation page by page. He got into the details and commented on specific provisions—and the final outcome was better as a result. He was critically important in brokering some agreements with interested parties that helped get us over the final hurdles towards enactment. In the final days of the 109th Congress, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act passed the House and Senate and was signed into law. Mike Critelli played an essential role in helping to educate others about the importance of the mailing industry and the need for the legislation that enabled it to get done.

He began his career at Pitney Bowes as a staff attorney and rose through various leadership positions over the years. He served as general counsel, chief personnel officer, and then became president of Pitney Bowes Financial Services. He was then CEO and chairman and now serves as executive chairman of the board. He has brought the company through many changes—acquisitions and transformations. He has also served as an effective ambassador for the mailing industry. After the deadly anthrax attacks of fall 2001, Mike wasted no time in working with the U.S. Postal Service to advocate on its behalf so that our mailstream would quickly regain the confidence of the American people.

Under Mike's leadership, Pitney Bowes has been a leader as well on health care issues. The company invests heavily in the health of its employees and has found that the focus on prevention, wellness, early diagnosis and treatment, and chronic disease management has improved health and minimized costs for employees as well as the company. This has helped to make Pitney Bowes a model for other companies.

Mike has also demonstrated a strong commitment to diversity. Under his tenure, Pitney Bowes has been consistently recognized as one of the best corporations in America for diversity. Although this record began before Mike took the helm as CEO, he continued to grow the diversity efforts within the company. Outside of the office, Mike served for several years in a Connecticut chapter of the Urban League and as chairman of the National Urban League Board.

As I wish Mike Critelli well as he begins a well deserved retirement, I can't help but be disappointed that Connecticut's business community is losing a great leader. For our sake, I hope he continues in some capacity assisting us with public policy issues of concern to our State.●

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY J. HARDING

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish today to honor Anthony J. Harding for his leadership, integrity, and many accomplishments at United Water, one of the Nation's largest private water companies. During the past 5 years, Tony has been the chief executive officer of United Water, and he was responsible for the success of the company's water and wastewater operations of both regulated and nonregulated businesses. Last month, Tony was named chairman of the board at United Water, a subsidiary of Paris-based Suez Environment.

Tony has over 35 years of experience in engineering and operations including management of major water businesses in Europe and Asia. Prior to joining United Water, he was president of Suez Environment in the Asia Pacific Region, with overall responsibility for water operations in the Phil-

ippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Australia, and New Zealand. He also enjoyed a long and distinguished career managing water operations for two of England's most prestigious water companies: Essex and Suffolk Water Plc. and Northumbrian Water Plc.

In 2003, Tony was named chief executive officer at United Water and he immediately made an impressive impact in the United States water services industry, making the company the respected and sought-after institution it is today. As CEO, Tony has made great strides in improving the water services to people in cities and towns across the country. As a result of his remarkable skills, United Water now provides water services to customers in the 48 continental States as opposed to 21 States when Tony took over as CEO.

In 2005 Tony worked with then-Governor Kempthorne of Idaho to install high-tech membrane water filtration technology at a brandnew water treatment plant in Boise. In 2006 he worked with Pennsylvania Congressman TIM HOLDEN to bring similar technology to the people in the Harrisburg community. In 2007, Tony launched an aggressive \$110 million project in northern New Jersey, utilizing the latest water filtration technology to improve water quality for nearly 1 million residents in the State.

Additionally, Tony has provided his wealth of experience to the National Association of Water Companies and the American Water Works Association. He is also on the board of directors for the United Way in northern New Jersey. Dedicated to both his community and his family, Tony and his wife, Christine, have two daughters, Rhyann and Bethann.

Tony received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Glamorgan in Wales. He was also a contributing author to the textbook "Instrumentation and Computer Integration in Water Utility Operations," a joint project between the American and Japanese Water Associations.

There is no doubt that Anthony J. Harding exhibits all the qualities of an exemplary leader who has greatly impacted this Nation's water and wastewater industry. Therefore, I am pleased to pay tribute to Anthony J. Harding and know my colleagues will join in wishing him continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:20 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. 1907. An act to authorize the acquisition of land and interests in land from willing sellers to improve the conservation of, and to enhance the ecological values and functions of, coastal and estuarine areas to benefit both the environment and the economies of coastal communities.

H.R. 3299. An act to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3336. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing Camp Hale as a unit of the National Park System.

H.R. 3849. An act to provide for the conveyance of parcels of land to Mantua, Box Elder County, Utah.

H.R. 5335. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5853. An act to expand the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to include Barrett's Farm, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6159. An act to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6176. An act to authorize the expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6370. An act to transfer excess Federal property administered by the Coast Guard to the Confederate Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

H.R. 6524. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6685. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans.

H.R. 6853. An act to establish in the Federal Bureau of Investigation the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator to address mortgage fraud in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6984. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the following bill with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1315. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance veterans' insurance and housing benefits, to improve benefits and services for transitioning servicemembers, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) announced that he had signed the following bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

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".

H.R. 2608. An act to amend section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide,