

Convention in Chicago. In the late 1960s, as a free-lance journalist, she saw several of her articles published in *The Washington Star*.

A long-time resident of Washington's Cleveland Park neighborhood, Mrs. Fisher was member of the National Press Club, the Women's National Press Club, the American Newspaper Women's Club, Mortar Board, and Theta Sigma Phi, a journalism and communications professional organization.

From Washington State to Washington, DC, from Paris to Chicago to the Halls of Congress and the National Press Club, Mary Jane Fisher was an admired and respected journalist. She approached every assignment with enthusiasm and determination to get the story right. I will miss my conversations with her, and I am certain that sentiment is echoed by hundreds across the Nation this week as we remember her, and offer our heartfelt condolences to her daughter Susan, her son John, son-in-law Brian, and granddaughters Jennifer and Karen.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHEYENNE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. From July 4 to July 6, the residents of Sheyenne gathered to celebrate their community and its historic founding.

Sheyenne is located in Eddy County. The name is said to have come from the Cheyenne Indian Tribe; however, it was misspelled by the area's first explorers and hasn't been changed since. The town was inhabited in 1885 by Clarence E. Bennett and then formally platted in 1892 under the jurisdiction of J.W. Richter. The Richter family built the first store and elevator on what is now Main Street. Sheyenne began as a large wheat growing community and slowly evolved into a small business community with the expansion of the railroad and increased numbers of settlers. The nearby Sheyenne River served as a constant source of food and other goods throughout its development.

As my colleagues know, the Great Depression left no community in the Midwest unaffected. Sheyenne suffered greatly as an agriculture community, but—as they had done during World War I and the influenza epidemic—citizens helped one another and fought through all of the hardships.

Today, Sheyenne is home to Hendrickson Park, the Log Cabin Museum, and the Warsing Dam. Volumes of the "Shining Star" Sheyenne Newspaper dating back to 1897 can be found at the Log Cabin Museum. Outdoorsmen can catch anything from a largemouth bass to yellow perch along the banks of the Warsing Dam. Camping, hiking, and biking are also popular activities in this area.

The celebration of 125 years as a community was nothing short of spectac-

ular. Sheyenne had an all-school reunion, a parade, a BBQ dinner, a Bull-a-Rama, and memorable fireworks to top it off. The community also honored the newly remodeled and expanded Equity Elevator that has been in operation since 1910. This was truly a celebration unlike any other.

Madam President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Sheyenne, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them well for the future. By honoring Sheyenne and all other small historic towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering, frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Sheyenne that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Sheyenne has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAZEY, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. From July 18 to July 20, the residents of Dazey gathered to celebrate their community and its historic founding.

Dazey is located in Barnes County. It is proudly named after the famous playwright C.T. Dazey. Classic plays such as "In Old Kentucky" and "Abie's Irish Rose" were written by C.T. and performed on Broadway during the turn of the 20th century. C.T. Dazey purchased land from the Mack Brothers and donated half of it to the Northern Pacific Railroad to build a new town with the agreement that it would be named after him.

World War I sparked life in Dazey giving this "boom town" energy to build houses, hotels, banks, churches, a newspaper company, and a post office. The first baseball team in Dazey was put in motion in 1888; it played its first game against the neighboring township of Getchell. Dazey was a thriving community until the Depression. Despite hard times, Dazey hung on and began to grow again. Today, homes are being built and community members have restored the great atmosphere in charming Dazey.

The city's 125th anniversary celebration kicked off with an all-school alumni banquet and karaoke dance. The celebration continued into the weekend and included a parade, a play, a tractor pull, a buffalo feed, and a North Dakota mysteries and oddities museum. There was the popular "mud run" as well as a play at the Dazey theatre titled "Stop the Villain." It was an event that will be remembered by these residents and visitors for years to come.

Madam President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Dazey, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them well for the future. By honoring Dazey and all other small historic towns of North Da-

kota, we keep the pioneering, frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Dazey that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Dazey has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTINE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. On July 26, the residents of Christine gathered to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Christine is a small town located in Richland County in southeastern North Dakota between the Red River and Wild Rice River. The post office was established November 17, 1884, in the general store owned by John Munger. Settled by Scandinavians, Christine was named for the Swedish operatic soprano, Christine Nilsson. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad built a depot at Christine in 1886.

Today, Christine remains a proud community that has a prosperous economy consisting of farming. The Christine community center is a valuable asset that provides a place for the citizens to gather. Residents of Christine are known for their honesty, strong work ethic, and living off the land.

The community had a wonderful weekend celebration to commemorate its 125th anniversary. Residents began the celebration with a breakfast served by Christine Church at the community center. There was also a parade, a carnival, a presentation of Christine's history, and a dedication of the community center. The evening ended with a city meal and dance with music from the Plow Boys.

Madam President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Christine, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Christine and all the other historic towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Christine that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this community is deserving of our recognition.

Christine has a proud past and a bright future.●

TRIBUTE TO STEWART PORTELA

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, it is an honor for me to recognize a man who has made it his life's work to recognize the contributions of Idaho veterans and educate the next generation of Idahoans about the sacrifices made by those who have fought for our great Nation. Stewart Portela, a teacher at Firth High School, is the author of three books on Idaho veterans. He has arranged no fewer than eight student tours back here to Washington, DC,

and to area Civil War battlefields himself, in order to make the trip more affordable for his students. He accompanies his students on these educational tours. He has held graduation ceremonies in conjunction with the Firth High School graduation ceremonies to graduate local veterans who enlisted in the military prior to graduating from high school. Named "Operation Veteran," this idea has spread to at least 10 neighboring high schools.

Stewart is responsible for the display of photos of all the local veterans in the high school hallways, complete with unit designation, years, branch, and wars. There are over 200 veterans whose photos are displayed at Firth High School. He conducts the Veterans Day program at the high school every year. In 2007, 87 veterans and 600 people from the local community attended the ceremony.

As a teacher, Stewart brings history to life. With close to 40 students in his military history class every year, Stewart is proud to be able to share experiences firsthand with them, like earlier this year when an 87-year-old veteran who served aboard the USS *Pennsylvania* at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, told his story to Stewart's class. In fact, Stewart's extraordinary efforts were recently rewarded when he was honored as one of three Idaho recipients of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Idaho Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008.

Stewart has been the featured speaker at more than 40 veterans, civic, or church groups, talking about veterans and their influence on our Nation. He has devoted many years, much energy, and great passion to remind us, young and old, that freedom is not free and that those who have made tremendous sacrifices for our freedom are a heart-felt thank-you away.

I am glad to recognize and thank Stewart for his ongoing contributions to inspire patriotism, recognize veterans, and promote the civic education of our children.●

ADEL-DESOTO-MINBURN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam 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 Adel-DeSoto-Minburn 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 Adel-DeSoto-Minburn Community School District received a 2003 Harkin grant totaling \$454,290 which it used to help build an addition to Adel Primary School and to renovate classrooms in the building. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received a 1999 fire safety grant for \$75,000 to make fire system, exit lighting and electrical improvements in the district.

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 Adel-DeSoto-Minburn Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Tim Canney, vice president Kim Roby, Sally Bird, Jen Heins and Steve Meyer and former board members Pat Steele, Darrell Weems and Paula James. I would also like to recognize superintendent Greg Dufoe and former superintendent Timothy Hoffman.

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 Adel-DeSoto-Minburn 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.●

CENTER POINT-URBANA COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam 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 Center Point-Urbana 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 Center Point-Urbana Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$125,500 which it used to help build a new health and fitness center addition which is used not only by the school, but by the community as a whole. The district also received two fire safety grants totaling \$42,152 which it used to replace emergency systems throughout the district.

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 Center Point-Urbana Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Carol Engelken, Mark Boies, Tammy Carolan, Scott Millikin and Dan Jones as well as former president Connie Elgin and former members Kelly Bonar and Todd Ramsey. I would also like to recognize superintendent Alan Marshall, former superintendent Richard Whitehead, athletic director Dan Rosendahl and board secretary Kathy Thomas.

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