

and a yearly budget of \$3.4 million collected from private donations and awarded grants, C.O.P.S. assists with rebuilding the lives of surviving families and coworkers of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

I thank Suzie Sawyer for her dedication to this great cause and thank C.O.P.S. for 30 years of incredible service to grieving surviving law enforcement families and coworkers.●

CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills—but I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Cherokee County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community. Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$5.2 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memory of working together has to be ensuring that the Cherokee County Regional Airport has the resources it needs to stay modern. Dependable air service is a significant factor for growing businesses as well as increasing tourism in the area. I look forward to learning about the impact of these improvements, which are important for the airport and the local economy.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northwest Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects, including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Cherokee County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding

that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Cherokee County, I have fought for funding for small community airports, which brought more than \$1.4 million to the county in the past decade, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Cherokee County has received \$163,458 in Harkin grants.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Cherokee County has received more than \$1.1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained, equipped, and able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Cherokee County's fire departments have received over \$875,290 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act,

I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Cherokee County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Cherokee County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Cherokee County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. Of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

OSCEOLA COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

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Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Osceola County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I

have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$4.5 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be out work together to promote wellness in the community through obesity prevention, construction of playground equipment, and ensuring access to preventative care. Ensuring Iowans have access to quality, affordable health care is critical, particularly for those in rural areas, who may find this care out of reach. Thanks to the insightful leadership of Janet Dykstra, the Osceola Community Hospital is equipped with the equipment and facilities to care for residents and promote wellness in the area.

Among the highlights:

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Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as—for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Osceola County's fire departments have received over \$543,297 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Osceola County has recognized this important issue by securing \$116,399 to curb obesity and \$35,833 to implement a wellness center through the Harkin wellness grant program. The Osceola Community Hospital also received \$50,000 to purchase age appropriate playground equipment through farm bill programs.

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This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Osceola County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Osceola County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the oppor-

tunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

REMEMBERING HALE B. BENNETT

● **Mr. HELLER.** Mr. President, today we honor the life and service of Hale Bennett, whose passing signifies a great loss to Nevada. I send my condolences and prayers to his wife Kay and all of Hale's family in this time of mourning. Hale was a man committed to his country, his State, and community. He will be sorely missed.

Hale was a true patriot and served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He flew combat missions over France, Germany, and the Low Countries. Through the course of the war in Europe, he flew 68 bombing missions and went out on an additional 100 that returned without dropping bombs due to bad weather. Hale's unit, the 553rd Squadron of the 386th Bomb Group, 9th Air Force, was so highly respected that on D-day they were chosen to fly the final bombing runs over the Germans on Utah Beach as our troops were landing on the beach below. After the war, Hale was called once again to serve our Nation by training bomber pilots for the Air Force during the Korean conflict. As one of our Nation's servicemembers, he made exceptional sacrifices for our country and deserves our deepest gratitude. I am both humbled and honored by not only his, but his family's service to our great Nation.

Hale and his wife were upstanding Nevadans and a huge asset to their community. His dedication to serving others extends far beyond our Nation's military. Hale worked as the Department of Motor Vehicles chief of Registration and Titling and often represented his department in the Nevada State Legislature. His work as chairman of the board of the Carson-Tahoe Hospital showcased his commitment to the betterment of the community and led him to meeting his wife, Kay. The couple, both on the hospital board of trustees and pilots, spent their time having many adventures together and contributing their community. The Bennett's love for aviation and community service led them to Silver Springs, where they took on the daunting task of turning an abandoned airstrip into a thriving airport. His hard work and contributions to his community will remain a lasting legacy in the Silver State.

As a World War II veteran, Hale's commitment to his country, as well as his dedication to his family and community, exemplified why the legacy of all World War II veterans must be preserved for generations to come. These veterans truly are the greatest generation—selflessly serving not for recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals, but to ensure they are cared for when