

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:

**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, Osceola County has received \$66,873 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Osceola County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$50,000.

**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, Osceola County has received more than \$3.3 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 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.

**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 Osceola 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 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

they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Kay and all of Hale's family. We will always remember Hale for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication to his family and community earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

Throughout his life, Hale maintained a dedication to the preservation of justice and integrity, which I am honored to commend. Today, I join the Silver Springs community and citizens of the Silver State to celebrate the life of an upstanding Nevadan.●

#### RECOGNIZING DUKE BRUNELLI

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I congratulate Duke Brunelli of Sparks, NV, on his recent retirement from Southwest Airlines. I am proud to honor a Nevadan who has dedicated his life to serving our country.

As an attendee of the U.S. Naval Academy, Mr. Brunelli was deployed all over the world, including Vietnam, where the love of his country and the want to serve began. After graduation, he attended flight school in Pensacola, earning his Navy pilot wings. Duke then went on to complete jet transition training in San Diego and completed eight assignments aboard aircraft carriers. Through his accomplishments, Duke was promoted to commanding officer of the Golden Eagles, which were designated the safest jet-setting squadron in the Navy, while also graduating more pilots than any other squadron.

After completing his tour as commanding officer, Duke was ordered aboard the USS *Midway*, where he was involved in combat operations during Operation Desert Storm. He also successfully brought the Navy's oldest fleet carrier back to San Diego for decommissioning, where today it stands as a museum. Returning to Japan, Duke finished out his naval career as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations for Commander Fleet Air Western Pacific, where he retired from the Navy in 1994. Upon his retirement from the Navy, Mr. Brunelli started work as a commercial pilot, flying for Polar Air Cargo and Southwest Airlines for the past 20 years.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Duke Brunelli for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country, and his bravery and dedication earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our nation. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our

Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the nation.

Throughout his tenure, Duke has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the U.S. Navy. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Brunelli for all of his accomplishments and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

#### NEVADA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize four of Nevada's brightest students—Erika Carrera, Miguel Gonzalez, Jose Solorio, and Mary Tatlock—for being awarded the coveted Gates Millennium Scholarship.

There are only 1,000 recipients of the Gates Millennium Scholarship throughout the United States each year, and the Silver State has been fortunate to be the home to four of them. Erika Carrera, who attends the Veterans Tribute Career and Technical Academy; Miguel Gonzalez of Chaparral High School; Jose Solorio of Hug High School; and Mary Tatlock of Las Vegas Academy will represent Nevada in this esteemed program. Each of these students have been awarded the opportunity to continue learning through higher education institutions, and I expect great things to come from each of them.

These students' academic accomplishments serve to reinforce the important role of education in our State. As the father of four and husband to a lifelong teacher, ensuring that all of Nevada's students have access to a high-quality education is important to me. Higher education opens the door to more job opportunities and professional fulfillment, as well as increased earning power.

I am proud to congratulate Erika, Miguel, Jose, and Mary on this incredible opportunity and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these exceptional young Nevadans.●

#### RECOGNIZING CASCADE RESCUE COMPANY

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, this week we celebrate National Small Business Week, which pays tribute our Nation's many small business owners and entrepreneurs. I wish to recognize a small business in my home State of Idaho that provides an invaluable service. There is something special about businesses that dedicate themselves to providing and improving life-saving equipment. Search and rescue teams, first responders, and emergency medical

technicians hold a high standard for what they will purchase, because there is no margin for error. It gives me great pleasure to honor Cascade Rescue Company of Sandpoint, ID.

In 1962, Victor Bradley was volunteering his time to help injured skiers in Washington State. Pulling someone on the toboggans in use in the 1960s was incredibly strenuous, especially if several people needed help. Mr. Bradley knew that there must be a better design. Mr. Bradley spent several years designing and improving sleds, until in 1966 he decided to start the Cascade Toboggan & Rescue Equipment Company.

Mr. Bradley and his son Robert obtained a patent for their design and began selling toboggans to rescue professionals throughout the region. Orders grew exponentially, especially after a demonstration at Lake Placid drew national attention. Robert Bradley took the reins from his father in the early 1970s, and helped develop Cascade Toboggan into an internationally respected brand.

Ownership later transitioned to Dana and Susan Jordan, relatives of the Bradleys, who are the current owners and operators. To better fit the over 150 products being provided, they renamed the business Cascade Rescue Company, which is based in Sandpoint, ID. Today, the company provides rescue equipment across America and to 23 other countries.

So often, we measure success in terms of dollars and cents. While Cascade Rescue Company has a strong bottom line, they can also be proud of having been a vital component of countless life-saving responses. Ski patrols, firefighters, and medical technicians rely on Cascade products every day to safely and effectively do their jobs. I congratulate Cascade Rescue Company for nearly 50 years of growth, dedication, and service and wish them well in the future.●

#### CONGRATULATING MARELLI'S MARKET

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Marelli's Market in Hampton, NH, on celebrating their 100th anniversary.

Opened in 1914 by Italian immigrants Luigi and Celestina Marelli, Marelli's has been serving traditional Italian fare, including cigars, olive oil, and homemade ice creams, to generations of families in the Hampton community. They are most well-known for their world-famous roasted cashews and peanuts, which the family continues to roast themselves.

Today Marelli's is run by Luigi and Celestina's sons, Richard and Bobby, and grandchildren, Karen Raynes and Marcia Hannon-Buber, and the market has remained a cornerstone of the Hampton community. The market was recently entered into the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, a testament to its place in our State's history.