

that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$149,500.

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, Palo Alto County has received more than \$5.7 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, Palo Alto County's fire departments have received over \$585,120 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 Palo Alto 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 Palo Alto 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 Palo Alto 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 opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

POCAHONTAS 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 Pocahontas 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 secure funding in Pocahontas County worth over \$225,000 and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$5.4 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be their tremendous use of farm bill funds that I authorized for a variety of local projects, including construction of a daycare, fire department improvements, sewer improvements, courthouse improvements, and conservation.

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, Pocahontas County has received \$225,000 in Harkin grants.

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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, Pocahontas County's fire departments have received over \$390,245 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

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TRIBUTE TO LELAND DEVON MELVIN

● Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a distinguished Virginian, Leland Devon Melvin, who retired as Associate Administrator for Education of NASA on February 28, 2014 after 24 years of service to our Nation.

Leland's career began on a different path, on the football field at the University of Richmond. Leland was a phenomenal wide receiver for the Spiders from 1982-1985 and still leads Richmond's career lists with 198 receptions for 2,669 yards. He scored the fourth-most touchdowns in Richmond history, 16, and was inducted into the university's Athletics Hall of Fame in 1996-1997. Leland was drafted to play in the NFL by the Detroit Lions in 1986. He also trained with the Dallas Cowboys and the Toronto Argonauts.

Hindered by injuries, Leland was unable to continue pursuing athletics and switched gears by earning his master of science degree in materials science engineering from the University of Virginia. Leland started his career at NASA in 1989 as an aerospace research engineer at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton. He entered NASA's astronaut corps in 1998 and served on board the space shuttle *Atlantis* on two missions to the International Space Station in 2008 and 2009. Leland is one of only 14 African Americans to travel to space.

Leland will finish his tenure at NASA as Associate Administrator for Education, a position he was appointed to in 2010. In this role, Leland has led NASA's efforts to teach young Americans the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, with a particular passion for underserved communities. Leland also serves on the White House National Science and Technology Council's Committee on STEM, which coordinates and oversees the STEM education activities and programs within the Federal government. On the global level, Leland serves as our Nation's representative to the International Space Education Board, which develops and coordinates worldwide efforts to educate students on space, science and technology.

I commend Leland for his commitment to science and education, as well as public service. At a time when STEM education is becoming a priority for the United States, Leland's work has been beneficial to developing the skilled workforce necessary to drive our Nation's world-class innovations. Moreover, as an athlete who found a second passion at NASA, Leland serves

as an iconic example of the opportunities young people can seize in science and technology. Leland's hard work, achievements and inspiring life story will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on our Nation.

On behalf of the Senate and the people of Virginia, I thank Leland for his invaluable service to NASA and the Nation. Although he may be leaving NASA, he will continue to educate and inspire long after his work is done. I wish him the best of luck in the months and years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING ANGLERS HABITAT

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, my home State of Idaho is blessed with abundance of natural beauty. Idaho natives and visitors from all over the world enjoy the beauty, the peace, and the excitement of the lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams that cover over 800 square miles of my State. With summer fast approaching, the minds of many Idahoans are turning to a pastime thousands of years old: fishing. When anglers want to get serious about snagging a steelhead, they turn to the professionals. With that in mind, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Anglers Habitat, located in Caldwell, ID.

Owned by Wayne Johnson, Anglers Habitat has been selling a wide variety of fishing and outdoors gear since 1994. Mr. JOHNSON and his employees are careful to only stock the best, most reliable fishing tools. From rods and reels to dog beds, they offer hundreds of items from dozens of product lines. The selection is so good, many of their customers hail from outside the United States. Trust me, the folks at Anglers Habitat know what they are doing. At 5,760 square feet, theirs is the largest fly fishing store in the region.

Anglers Habitat goes the extra mile to make sure that customers find what they need. Their products are available for purchase in person at their flagship location, on the official company Web site or through their eBay site. Anglers Habitat also offers a trade-in program where customers can bring in used equipment that still in working condition in exchange for a discount on newer items. Not only does this create a good deal for the customer, but it also reduces waste and recycles still useable equipment.

Good service is also integral to the success of Anglers Habitat. Expanding customer knowledge is something they take seriously. Through their YouTube channel, the company promotes products and provides product reviews so that consumers may make an informed decision while shopping for equipment. They also offer free Saturday clinics on how to build a custom rod. High-end equipment can cost hundreds of dollars, and it is important to know how to best take advantage of modern fishing technology.

My home State of Idaho is blessed to be home to so much natural splendor and abundant outdoor recreational op-

portunities. Companies like Anglers Habitat recognize this beauty and provide a way for countless others to enjoy a pastime to which we Idahoans are already so accustomed. As we celebrate National Small Business Week, I want to congratulate Mr. JOHNSON and the team at Anglers Habitat on their two decades of achievement and wish them continued success in the future.●

47TH STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize New York City's 47th Street Business Improvement District, 47th Street BID. The 47th Street BID is a not-for-profit organization formed in 1997 by the merchants and landlords of the Diamond District, one of New York City's best known and most vibrant economic areas. The 47th Street BID has been instrumental in establishing the Diamond District as a central hub for the world's diamond and jewelry industries and has worked to cement its place as a powerhouse component of New York's economy.

The Diamond District, which consists of one block in midtown Manhattan—located on West 47th Street between Fifth Avenue and Sixth Avenue—is home to a significant portion of New York's diamond manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers and serves as the home base for two industries that hold a great deal of importance for New York: the diamond industry, including both rough and wholesale diamonds, and the finished-jewelry industry. These two industries are extremely important to New York's tourism sector and are responsible for employing thousands of New Yorkers in highly-skilled jobs. New York City's diamond industry is also home to high-quality jewelry manufacturing, and aspiring artists come from all over the world to be trained in New York in the art of creating this much sought-after jewelry. The diamond and jewelry sector also supports a large number of high-profile, critical New York industries as well, including fashion, entertainment, and hospitality.

It is estimated that over half of the diamonds that come to the United States enter through New York, and the Diamond District is known all over the world as the international center for the diamond and jewelry trade. The Diamond District is also home to two foreign-trade zones—the International Gem Tower at 50 W. 47th Street and the World Diamond Tower at 580 Fifth Avenue, which also houses the 47th Street BID headquarters. People flock from all over the world to buy and sell diamonds and other gems in these free trade zones. The 47th Street BID has also been instrumental in enhancing the economic development activities of the Diamond District and making the area safer and more beautiful for merchants and consumers who work and shop there. The 47th Street BID also