

**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, Dubuque County has received more than \$2.7 million in Harkin grants.

**Disaster mitigation and prevention:** In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Dubuque County has received over \$4.3 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

**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, Dubuque County's fire departments have received over \$3 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment and over \$570,000 in Byrne Justice Assistance Grants.

**Disability rights:** Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. 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 Dubuque County, both those with and without disabilities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Dubuque County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, co-operation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Dubuque 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.●

#### KEOKUK COUNTY, IOWA

● **Mr. HARKIN.** Madam 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 Keokuk 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 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together include their tremendous success in obtaining funding for public safety programs, as well as farm bill funding for local economic development.

Among the highlights:

**Main Street Iowa:** One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Sigourney to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Keokuk County has earned \$40,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

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**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, Keokuk County has received more than \$2 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 the methamphetamine epidemic. For instance, Keokuk County has received \$69,475 in Community Oriented Policing Services

grants. Also, since 2001, the county's fire departments have received over \$1.9 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

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This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Keokuk 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 Keokuk 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.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW MCCORMICK

● Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to a devoted public servant as he retires from a career at the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Navy. Matthew S. McCormick has dedicated 32 years in service to our Nation, including 11 years—the last 4 as manager—at the Richland Operations Office at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in my home State of Washington.

A graduate of Montana State University, Mr. McCormick began his civil career as a nuclear engineer for the U.S. Navy. After he worked on the Naval Reactor's Program, Mr. McCormick moved to the Department of Energy serving in multiple different capacities in the Office of Environmental Management and with the Savannah River Site and Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. His time there taught him the value of environmental cleanup, and was critical to his next job as assistant manager for the Central Plateau in the Richland Operations Office. He proved himself in this role, and was named manager of the Richland Operations Office in 2010.

It is clear to me that Washington State has benefitted from Mr. McCor-

mick's leadership. As a part of the Manhattan Project, the Hanford Nuclear Reservation produced plutonium from 1944 until 1987. The people of the Tri-Cities sacrificed for the strength and safety of our Nation, and cleanup of the Hanford site is an ongoing challenge. Mr. McCormick has shown tremendous dedication to this task, and has helped ensure that the cleanup efforts at Hanford continue to move forward in a meaningful and timely fashion.

Mr. McCormick was part of the team that set forward a path to protect the Columbia River and reduce the active footprint of the Hanford site by focusing on cleanup projects along the shoreline under the 2015 Vision. During his tenure, the remaining plutonium left in the Plutonium Finishing Plant after the Cold War was stabilized, packaged, and shipped offsite and out of the State of Washington. Cleanup was completed at the first reactor area—F Reactor, and a total of seven of nine nuclear reactors were placed in interim safe storage. Significant progress has been made in protecting the Columbia River from contaminated groundwater through the construction of the 200 West Pump and Treat Facility in the Central Plateau and three new pump and treat facilities along the Columbia River. Most importantly, Mr. McCormick has strived to ensure that local communities, tribal nations, and stakeholders know their voices are being heard.

Mr. McCormick's success in carrying out the cleanup mission at Hanford was aided by his ability to build relationships, including with me and members of my staff. When he was made manager almost 4 years ago, I knew that the Tri-Cities community and Washington State as a whole could count on his leadership. Today I join with others throughout the Pacific Northwest in thanking him for his years of service. I congratulate Mr. McCormick on his retirement, and wish him the best of luck in moving forward.●

#### REMEMBERING RAYMOND J.W. SCHUMACHER

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, today I wish to honor Raymond J.W. Schumacher, a veteran of the Second World War.

It is my honor to share the story of Raymond's service, because no veteran's story should ever go unrecognized.

Raymond was born in Leechburg, PA in 1913. In May of 1943, he enlisted with the Army Air Corps. He was assigned to the 8th Air Force, 351st Bombardment Group.

Raymond served as a wing gunner on a B-17 bomber crew. The unit was stationed in England and carried out daytime bombing operations across Western Europe.

The 351st was responsible for crippling attacks to German infrastructure and even supported the Allied landing

at Normandy in June of 1944. After the Allies won the war, Raymond left the Army Air Corps as a staff sergeant in September of 1945.

He returned home to Pennsylvania where he and his wife Treva raised their son Raymond II and their daughter Karen. Raymond spent the next several years serving as a guard for First Sterling steel mill. Raymond passed away on July 14, 1964.

Last week, it was my honor to present Raymond and Karen with their father's Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Four Bronze Service Stars.

It was my honor to also present a World War II Victory Medal, an Army Good Conduct Medal, and an Honorable Service Lapel Button World War II.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JERRY COONEY

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I wish to honor Jerry Eugene Cooney, a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

It is my honor to share the story of Jerry's service, because no veteran's story should ever go unrecognized.

Jerry was born in Billings, MT in 1946. After graduating from Joliet High School in 1965, Jerry joined the U.S. Navy. He underwent basic training in San Diego before being assigned to the Seabees' 21st Naval Construction Regiment in Davisville, RI. In October of 1966, the Twenty-first went to Da Nang, Vietnam where it constructed a Marine base.

During his tour in Vietnam, Jerry's unit was under constant enemy fire for which he earned a Combat Action Ribbon. Jerry returned to the United States in July of 1967. After a short leave, Jerry joined an advance team to Antarctica in September of 1967 where he spent the summer expanding McMurdo Station.

Following his stop in Antarctica, Jerry spent the remainder of his service as part of a five-man exhibition team tasked with representing the Seabees across the country. Jerry mustered out of Active Duty in September of 1968 and joined the Retired Reserves.

In 1969, Jerry married Lori and together they had two children and six grandchildren. Jerry worked for Montana-Dakota utilities for 35 years before he retired in 2006.

Last month, in the presence of his wife Lori, it was my honor to present Jerry with the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Two Bronze Stars, and Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.

It was my honor to also present a Combat Action Ribbon, Antarctica Service Medal, and a Discharge Button.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true