

LEE 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 Lee 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 Lee County worth over \$28.8 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$35.3 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together include the terrific work that Keokuk and Fort Madison have done to improve their downtowns through Main Street Iowa, my long standing support work to make sure the Avenue of the Saints construction benefits the area and is funded, and working to improve river navigation on the Mississippi River, in part through funding reconstruction of Lock and Dam 19 at Keokuk.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Southeast 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 Lee 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 Lee County, I have fought for more than \$23 million for the restoration of Lock and Dam 19 as well as overall navigation and environmental improvements on the Mississippi River, as well as more than \$118 million for work on the Avenue of the Saints, helping to create jobs and

expand economic opportunities in the region.

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 Fort Madison and Keokuk to use that money to leverage other investments to jump-start change and renewal. I am so pleased that Lee County has earned \$78,500 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.

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, Lee County has received more than \$4.1 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Lee County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$288,457.

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. Lee County has received over \$5.1 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, Lee County's fire departments have received over \$1.4 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment, and more than \$564,187 in Byrne justice assistance grants.

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 Lee County has recognized this important issue by securing \$389,563 for community wellness activities.

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 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 one 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 Lee 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 Lee 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 Lee County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiative 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.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT MILLER III

● Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I speak in memory of the life of Robert Jackson Miller III, an accomplished architect and a man who, above all else, was a devoted husband and a loving, generous father. Bob passed away on March 10, 2014, at the age of 48, leaving behind a wife and four daughters who loved him dearly.

Bob held within him a brilliant capacity to design buildings that drew out the full potential and imagination of those who entered their doors. Throughout his career—from his early years at Robert A.M. Stern Architects and his role as partner-in-charge at Michael Graves and Associates in New York, to his co-founding of Miller & Wright Architects in New York City—he was a diligent designer who cherished the ability he had to provide unique shared space for individuals across the United States. He often spoke of his proudest work, the St. Coletta School in Washington, DC, a place where children and adults with intellectual disabilities were afforded the opportunity to learn and grow as a community.

Yet all of Bob's architectural accomplishments pale in comparison to the passion that defined his life: the love he felt for his wife Grace and his daughters Eve, Margot, Lily B. and Poppy. To say that Bob was an utterly devoted family man would merely scratch the surface of his complete dedication to the lives of his wife and daughters. If you were to ask Bob, he would prefer nothing in the world more than simply sharing a Friday night at home with his family, watching movies or relaxing on the beach in their company. He was content to spend as much time as he possibly could with them; nothing brought him more joy. If you were ever to go to the Miller household, you would invariably find Bob hard at work teaching the girls new lacrosse techniques, helping them practice for their plays, or helping construct an elaborate Halloween costume. His faithfulness as a father and a husband were characteristic of the kind soul Bob possessed. When he was diagnosed with melanoma, Bob placed even more emphasis on profoundly treasuring each moment he was allowed with Grace, Eve, Margot, Lily B. and Poppy. He never lost sight of the gift he had been given to spend his life with them.

This will be the first Father's Day the girls spend without their father. To lose a valuable, vibrant, compassionate spirit like their father's at such a tender age is an incomprehensible tragedy. There are moments of pain in this life

when we can see the sadness of others and desire only to lessen their hurt, knowing full well that our words and our sympathies are insufficient. This is such a moment.

I hope that Grace and the girls understand the bright loveliness their father brought into the world, and will continue to carry that light forward in his absence. The world is a better place for Bob having traveled through it. He is continuing his journey now, but we will remember him here, and his family will remember him for the rest of their lives. His memory will serve as an example of how to love completely, how to dedicate yourself to your family entirely, and how to treasure the moments you are given in the brief time we have.●

SIDNEY, MONTANA

● Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a town in eastern Montana with a story that reflects the American dream. In the 19th century, pioneers settled in Sidney, MT, chasing prosperity along the banks of the Yellowstone River.

Throughout the years Sidney has seen booms in agriculture and energy development, but through it all one thing has remained constant; the people who call Sidney home share the core values of service, honesty, and the willingness to help a neighbor in need.

Today, Sidney, Montana celebrates its 100th anniversary—100 years of ingenuity, 100 years of prosperity, and 100 years of history.

When pioneers first settled in eastern Montana they were not guaranteed prosperity, but they brought with them a strong work ethic. Before Sidney was even incorporated, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project canal was dug and with their new access to water, the dry land farmers were given a lifeline to irrigate crops and develop the plains. The pioneer farmers were taming an area of the country many thought couldn't be tamed.

Today, agriculture producers from Richland County continue to grow the crops and raise the cattle that feed the world—working the land the same way those before them did.

In the 1970s Sidney went through period of change. The world was now hungry for oil and Sidney, MT, was there to answer that call. Through the decade to follow Sidney boomed with energy through a period of prosperity.

With the recent increase in hydraulic fracturing, Sidney once again is at the center of an unmatched energy boom. With the development of the Bakken Formation, Sidney enters the newest chapter of its story.

Agriculture and energy has affected many families in Sidney, but one thing has remained the same. The people of Sidney remain good neighbors and they continue to stabilize a region that has grown accustomed to change.

I congratulate Sidney for its contributions to our State, our Nation,

and the world. We look forward to the next century being as exciting as the last.●

MANAGEMENT EDUCATION ANNIVERSARY

● Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I want to recognize the 100th anniversary of management education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Management education began at MIT in 1914 with the introduction of Course XV, then known as "Engineering Administration." Over the past century, MIT's business program has grown from a single course to a world-class school that provides our Nation's leaders and entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge they need for success, while also producing cutting-edge research.

Today, the MIT Sloan School of Management stands as one of the world leaders in management education. MIT Sloan has jump started the careers of some of our foremost innovators, thinkers and business leaders. From launching successful Massachusetts-based companies like Zipcar and HubSpot to making revolutionary intellectual contributions to the fields of organizational behavior and system dynamics, Sloan alumni have made a huge positive difference in the world. According to a Sloan study, in 2006, there were 25,800 active companies founded by MIT alumni, which combined to employ 3.3 million workers.

MIT's motto is "mens et manus," which translates to "mind and hand," and its school seal displays two men—one with a book, and another with an anvil. This connection between thought and action, between intellectual pursuits and practical applications, has helped define MIT's mission and has made the school the unique institution that it is today. For 100 years, MIT's management education programs have perfectly embodied this spirit.

I am proud to join with the MIT community in recognizing the enduring contributions that a century of management education programs at MIT have given us, and we all look forward to MIT Sloan's leadership in the next century of its work.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)