

Up impacts the lives of students every day.

Both of us are testament to the profound impact these programs have on our youth, as we participated in the Close Up program in its early years, an experience that incited our first thoughts of a career in public service. We commend and congratulate Close Up on its important work.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Charlie McBride is no stranger to public policy. He worked for 12 years on personal and committee staffs in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Since then, as a government relations and business consultant, he has represented a myriad of clients in virtually every policy field, for which he is known and well-respected by our colleagues. His experiences have instilled in him a strong appreciation of the need for knowledgeable and thoughtful citizens, particularly in our legislative processes. For this reason, he has enthusiastically embraced Close Up's efforts to develop an informed, effective, and responsible citizenry among this Nation's youth.

Mr. VITTER. Charlie was first introduced to Close Up in 1974 when he was chief of staff for Senator Bennett Johnston and helped secure funding for the Allen J. Ellender Fellowships that served to provide support for economically disadvantaged students and teachers to participate in Close Up programs. After working closely with Close Up for many years, he joined its board of directors in 1988 and has served as the vice chairman for the past 10 years. During his service, Charlie has provided leadership and assisted Close Up in its relations with Members in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Ms. LANDRIEU. We are proud that Louisiana students and teachers have participated in Close Up programs since the organization's inception and that a good friend and fellow Louisianan has contributed so much time and effort to this great organization. Thanks to people like Charlie, students are provided the unique opportunity to learn about our government by meeting lawmakers, representatives of public interest groups, journalists, and people from all branches of government, and to understand how they can make a positive contribution through participation in our democracy. Charlie's presence at Close Up will be sorely missed. We are privileged to formally recognize Charlie's commitment and efforts to this great endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY HOWARD

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to pay special tribute to Jeffrey R. Howard, a key member of my staff on the Select Committee on Intelligence for his distinguished service to the Senate. Jeffrey will leave us shortly to join the new office being opened by Ionic Security in Maryland, where he will serve as the chief technology

officer's chief of staff. I am honored to have the opportunity to publicly thank Jeffrey and note my appreciation for his outstanding service to the Select Committee on Intelligence during the past 4 years.

Since becoming the vice chairman of the committee in 2011, I have often relied upon Jeffrey's impressive technical expertise and teamwork skills on a wide range of oversight issues. He has provided us with his expert advice in matters relating to science, technology, and engineering, including cybersecurity, oversight of the National Security Agency, and information technology programs.

Jeffrey is well known on the Hill and by the private sector as one of the leading congressional staff experts on cybersecurity legislative issues. He has worked tirelessly with my team to develop and negotiate legislative proposals consistent with my strong desire to get an effective cybersecurity information sharing bill enacted into law. During the 112th Congress, Jeffrey was a crucial participant in the negotiations that led the ranking members of eight Senate committees to co-sponsor S. 2151 and S. 3342, the Strengthening and Enhancing Cybersecurity by Using Research, Education, Information, and Technology Act of 2012, more commonly known as "SECURE IT." During this Congress, Senator FEINSTEIN and I have been working very hard to develop a bipartisan cybersecurity information sharing bill that we believe will be well-received by the private sector and our colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives. We are finally quite close to being able to mark up our cybersecurity information sharing bill and Jeffrey played an integral role every step of the way.

Jeffrey even has a superpower—he has the ability to translate extremely complicated technical topics into clear and concise explanations that can be used to solve difficult, real-world problems. He is also the undisputed staff champion at documenting the extent of his oversight efforts. He has filed more memoranda for the record during his tenure than half of the professional staff members combined. I dare say that Jeffrey may know more about the National Security Agency than some of the senior executives who have served there. Jeffrey's inexhaustible work ethic and sound judgment have made him an indispensable member of the committee staff and an invaluable resource to other congressional committees. His sly wit and good humor make him a pleasure to work with. He is the consummate team player who improves the performance of everyone around him.

My colleagues and I trust Jeffrey's judgment implicitly. His dedicated public service and exceptional day-to-day performance on the job have earned our respect and admiration, and it inspired a generation of staff who had the privilege to work alongside him. There is no doubt that Jeffrey has

a bright future at Ionic Security; however, should the right opportunity present itself, I would strongly encourage my Senate colleagues to entice him back into public service. We will miss Jeffrey deeply, but his legacy will remain a part of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NORMA LOVE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Norma Love—a venerable Associated Press reporter who is retiring at the end of the month after a long career covering government and politics in the Granite State.

Norma's name is well-known to anyone in New Hampshire who has picked up a newspaper in the past three decades. She started in the AP's Concord bureau 31 years ago, and she has covered the statehouse for 29 of those years—spanning the administrations of seven Governors.

It was at the statehouse where I first had the privilege of meeting Norma. We crossed paths on more times than I can count during my years in the attorney general's office. Whenever Norma called, I always knew that I would be talking to a consummate professional who holds herself to the highest standards of journalism.

Norma understands that journalists have a responsibility to ask tough questions. She has always taken a firm—but fair—approach to her reporting, and that is why she is so deeply respected by public officials on both sides of the aisle.

Norma could have been a reporter anywhere in the country, but she chose New Hampshire. During her decades of diligent reporting, she has been a witness to history—chronicling the people and places of her adopted State. While much has changed in the Granite State, and in newsrooms, since Norma arrived at the AP, her commitment to excellence in journalism has never wavered.

The people of New Hampshire are so fortunate that Norma Love has been asking hard questions on their behalf for the past 31 years. Norma brings tremendous credit to the profession that she loves, and she will leave behind big shoes to fill in the statehouse press room.

I am pleased to join with Norma's colleagues and many friends in wishing her the very best as she makes this transition and looks to new horizons. As we thank her for her many years of dedicated reporting, we send her every good wish for a long, full, and happy retirement. •

BOONE 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 Boone 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 Boone County worth over \$5.7 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$7.3 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the community's tremendous success in obtaining more than \$3.3 million from the Federal Aviation Administration for improvements to the airport. As a strong supporter of small community airports, I have long fought for funding from programs that support service to small communities and infrastructure support to keep these airports modern.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Central 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 Boone 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 Boone County, I have fought for funding for more than \$5.9 million in Defense Department funds for Iowa Thin Film Technology, 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, Boone County has received \$339,299 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Boone County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$194,051.

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, Boone County has received more than \$2.5 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, Boone County's fire departments have received over \$699,392 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 Boone County has recognized this important issue by securing \$236,000.

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 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 Boone County, both those with and without disabilities.

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

BLACK HAWK 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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