

the quality of food being offered to our kids in the Muscatine community. I hope we can expand the great work they have done to other communities in Iowa and all across the Nation.

HIRAM, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Town of Hiram, ME. Known today as a gateway to the rugged and beautiful Western Maine Mountains, Hiram was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today.

Hiram's incorporation on June 14, 1814, was but one milestone on a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the banks of the Saco River were the hunting grounds of the Sokokis Tribe, and the legendary Pequawket Trail was their route between the Atlantic Ocean and the mountains. The reverence the Sokokis had for the natural beauty and resources of the region is upheld by the people of Hiram today.

The very name of the town, dating to the first European settlement in the 1780s, speaks of this reverence. Like the realm of the biblical King Hiram I of Tyre, the community was established among the trees that were its first source of prosperity. With the fast-moving Saco River and its tributaries providing power, sawmills became an important industry, soon followed by blacksmiths, leather manufacturing, and other endeavors vital to Maine's development. As a junction of two of Maine's early railroads, Hiram became the gateway to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The wealth produced by the land was invested in schools and churches to create a true community.

The history of Hiram is directly connected to the very birth of our Nation. One of the town's first settlers was General Peleg Wadsworth, whose company of Minutemen answered the call of freedom at Lexington and Concord. After a life of remarkable service to our young country, in the military and in public office, General Wadsworth settled in Hiram in 1807, established a farm, and led the incorporation of the township. It is fascinating to consider the influence the beautiful surroundings had upon his grandson, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who spent many summers in Hiram as a boy.

A quality that runs through Hiram's history is courage. Some 100 young men from the town fought to save our Nation in the Civil War, and 39 gave their lives in that noble cause. It is humbling to know that Pleasant Ridge Cemetery is the final resting place for patriots from four generations of the Lyons family who served with valor and distinction.

Today, Hiram is a charming town of involved citizens. The historic Soldiers Memorial Library, built nearly a century ago in honor of those who defended our country, is avidly supported

and remains a center of community activity. The saw and scythe depicted on the new bicentennial seal are reminders of Hiram's past and indicators of the hard work and enthusiasm the townspeople have put into this year's landmark birthday celebration.

This 200th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years; it is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for more than two centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Hiram has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MARION 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 Marion 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 Marion County worth over \$5 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$95 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is working with Central College to provide \$1.8 million for the Center for Math, Science, and Technology to expand its curriculum, increase technology training in teacher education, and provide distance learning for teachers in the field.

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 Marion 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 Marion County, I have fought to resurrect the Des Moines River Greenbelt account which helped the Marion County Cordova Center on the Rock to build an environmental learning center, amphitheater, trails, and other outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as a 4-mile trail connecting the city of Pella with Cordova area. While there is more to do in the future, I am pleased that construction of the first phase of the project was complete in August 2013 at a cost of \$3,100,000.

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, Marion County has received \$319,444 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Marion County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$249,844.

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. Marion County has received over \$5 billion to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

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, Marion County has received more than \$2.2 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, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Marion County's fire departments have received over \$1.7 million 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 Marion County has recognized this important issue by securing \$264,000 for worksite wellness programs.

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

WINNESHIEK 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 Winneshiek 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 Winneshiek County worth over \$2.7 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$15.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memories of working together have to include working with community leaders to secure more than \$22 million in federal funding for the Northeast Community College in recent years. The federal funding was directed towards various programs and renovations, including dairy research, farm safety, and renewable energy education.

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 in-

centive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Winneshiek County has received \$274,120 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Winneshiek County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$35,000.

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, Winneshiek County has received more than \$2.2 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, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Winneshiek County's fire departments have received over \$743,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment, \$65,500 in Byrne Justice Assistance grants, and more than \$692,000 in other programs through the Department of Justice to keep the community safe and drug free.

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 Winneshiek County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$113,000 to promote wellness, nutrition, and mental health in the community.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank,