

Wayne Townsend, cousin Shawn Mersa, maternal grandfather (Bud) or Carroll Harrison, Jr., Sharon Rice (Harrison) aunt.

Today we remember Army PFC Jon R. Townsend, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

HOSPITALMAN ERIC D. WARREN

Mr. President, as well I would like to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Navy HM Eric D. "Doc" Warren. Eric died May 26, 2012 of injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device in Sangin district, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Eric was born November 22, 1988 and was a resident of Shawnee, OK. As a child, he was active in Cub Scouts, little league sports, and earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Eric was also active in his church youth group, football, wrestling, and drama.

After graduating from McLoud High School, he enlisted in the Navy, graduated from Corpsman School and completed Fleet Marine Force training as a combat corpsman. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC.

He was deployed to Afghanistan in January 2012 for his third tour of duty.

"When he was home last time, I shook his hand and he hugged my neck and whispered in my ear 'pray for me,'" Reverend Ron Baldrige said. "I prayed for him every day."

Eric was a skinny kid with a mischievous streak who took pleasure in challenging his pastor and youth minister, Reverend Baldrige explained. Kevin Spurgin, youth minister at Eric's church said Hospitalman Warren knew the possible consequences of being in one of the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan, but any fears he may have had were overcome by pride for the job he was doing there.

His father, Marvin, said his son never put himself first and the only enemy he knew was at war. "He was really passionate about being with his guys over there," said Marvin, pausing to wipe away his tears. "He wanted to make sure they were safe."

On June 5, 2012, the family held a funeral service at Downtown Pentecostal Holiness Church in Shawnee, OK. There was a 60-second standing ovation for Eric during his funeral service to commemorate Hospitalman Warren's service to his country, and the ultimate sacrifice he and his family made.

Eric is the son of Donna Beth and Marvin Warren Jr., who adopted 11-year-old Eric Warren after marrying his mother. His birth father is William Burris, according to his obituary.

Today we remember Navy HM Eric D. "Doc" Warren, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### CHICKASAW 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. 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 Chickasaw 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 \$4.2 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the success Alta Vista has had in accessing farm bill funds for important projects such as obtaining a fire truck, wastewater treatment, and conservation activities.

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, Chickasaw County has received \$980,307 in Harkin grants.

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, Chickasaw 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, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Chickasaw County's fire departments have received over \$1 million 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 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 Chickasaw 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 Chickasaw 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 Chickasaw 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.●

## DALLAS 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 Dallas 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 Dallas County worth over \$2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$28 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is their terrific work to improve wellness both at worksites and to provide opportunities for physical activity in the community, under the terrific leadership of Shelley Horak.

Among the highlights:

**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 Dallas County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$150,000 for community wellness activities.

**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 Adel to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Dallas County has earned \$45,000 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.

**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, Dallas County has received \$1,283,316 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Dallas County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$244,341.

**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. Dallas County has received over \$1.6 million 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, Dallas County has received more than \$4 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, Dallas County's fire departments have received over \$1.5 million 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 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 Dallas 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.

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## GRUNDY COUNTY, IOWA

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