Their detailed knowledge of their professions is outstanding, and contributes significantly to our work on the issues before us.

The association's Congressional Fellowship Program has been a valuable addition to the Senate over the past five decades, and their work is more important now than ever. The American Political Science Association deserves great credit for sponsoring these fellowships.

BUILDING ON WELFARE REFORM ACT

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, it has become clear that welfare programs created in the 1960s to be safety nets became spider webs by the 1990s. The old welfare system provided monetary assistance but did not do enough to provide job training, education, and other paths towards self-sufficiency. The welfare reforms of 1996 changed the old system and gave States more freedom to attempt new and innovative approaches to move people from welfare to work.

This legislation expired last year, and Congress must look to enhance the successes of the 1996 law. I am pleased today to join Senator CARPER in cosponsoring the Building on Welfare Reform Act—a bill that will continue to help people move from welfare to work.

During my time as Governor, Nebraska began programs like Employment First and Families First that provided much-needed assistance to low-income families and helped them find a way to leave the cycle of welfare dependency. The average time a family spent on assistance fell nearly two-thirds and Nebraska taxpayers saved $14 million.

The best path to self-sufficiency is work. This bill increases the percentage of welfare recipients who must work from 50 to 70 over the next 5 years. The bill also requires a 32-hour workweek from able welfare recipients. States will receive credit for moving people from welfare to work, not just off welfare. This will encourage States to solve problems that present an obstacle to meaningful work and lasting independence from public assistance programs.

Since 1996, welfare reform has been successful, not just because it requires work but also because it provides the resources to families to meet the work requirements. Our welfare reform proposal provides funding for childcare, transitional jobs, and public-private educational partnerships that will allow welfare recipients to gain the skills they need to advance in the workplace and become independent.

Because a strong family is essential to breaking the cycle of poverty, our welfare reform proposal encourages families to stay together and provides assistance to families who do. Another provision provides additional funds to prevent teen pregnancy with a bonus to States that meet this goal.

Given flexibility and resources, States have worked their own magic since the welfare program was revamped, and I will continue to support this approach as we embark on the next generation of welfare reform.

TRIBUTE TO INTERNS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I extend my appreciation to my summer 2003 class of interns: Anne Wilzbacher, Joanna Busch, Angela Wilson, Cliff Sullivan, Nick Herbold, Alex Nelson, Omar Ul Haq, Theresa Reilly, Derek Wulf, Kalsoom Lakhani, Dave Townsend, Haley Wallace, Josh Craft, Ermira Babamusta, Becca North, Abby Smith, Michael Kuehner, Charles Monterio and Carolyn Timberlake. Each of them has been a tremendous assistance to me and to the people of Iowa over the past several months, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Since I was first elected into the Senate in 1984, my office has offered internships to young Iowans and other interested students. Through their work in the Senate, our interns have not only seen the legislative process, but also personally contributed to our Nation's democracy.

It is with much appreciation that I recognize Anne, Joanna, Angela, Cliff, Nick, Alex, Omar, Theresa Derek, Kalsoom, Dave, Haley, Josh, Ermira, Becca, Abby, Michael, Charles and Carolyn for their hard work this summer. It has been a delight to watch them take on their assignments with enthusiasm and hard work. I am very proud to have worked with each of them. I hope they take from their summer a sense of pride in what they've been able to accomplish and an increased interest in public service and our democratic system and process.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING ANGELA CONNOLLY

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the government leadership exemplified by Angela Connolly, the Chairwoman of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, in Des Moines, IA, who has been selected the National County Leader of the Year. American City and County, a national magazine about local government, honored Angela at the 2003 Annual Conference of the National Association of Counties that took place earlier this month. I have known Angela many years, and can testify to her commitment to the use of government in making people's lives better.

Angela has exercised her leadership on a number of issues that have greatly impacted Iowa's capital city in a positive way. Her advocacy and tireless work on the Iowa Events Center will bring a premiere entertainment and athletics venue to central Iowa, and she was key in securing Vision Iowa funding for the Capital City Vision Projects, which include a new science center, a higher education learning center, a riverwalk, and a home for the World Food Prize. Angela also led the board of supervisors through a reorganization that significantly reduced a budget deficit and brought about efficiencies in the delivery of county services.

Angela Connolly was elected to the Polk County Board of Supervisors in 1998, and is currently serving her second term and is the 2003 chairperson. Prior to her election, Angela served more than 20 years as a Polk County employee. Angela is active in many civic and community activities, serving on a dozen boards and commissions and nearly 20 additional committees and community organizations. A champion of health and human services, she serves on boards advocating for services for children, persons with disabilities, and mental health treatment. Among the boards she serves are: the Metro Mayors Group, Greater Des Moines Partnership, Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Metropolitan Advisory Council, Polk County Health Services, Polk County Correctional Services, and the Des Moines Arts Festival.

Angela Connolly is an exemplary leader in county government, who serves her constituents with honor and integrity. I look forward to continuing to work with her to make Iowa a great place to call home.•

TRIBUTE TO THE CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to the Clark County Fire Department and its personnel for their progress in improving fire protection for the citizens of Clark County. Their recent accomplishments have not gone unnoticed.

Through hard work and increased investment in manpower, equipment, training, and facilities, the firefighters of Clark County have made great strides to serve their fellow Kentuckians. They finished construction of the Rogers-Parrish Fire Station No. 3 in Trapp which compliments the fire protection provided by the main station on Barnes Drive and Station No. 2 on Fulton Road. Cooperation by the City of Winchester was instrumental to increasing fire protection by investing in better fire hydrants, better water distribution systems, and more advanced fire training facilities.

While funding is a significant component to improving fire protection, no dollar sign can be placed on the bravery, courage, and commitment inherent in those who put themselves into harm's way to protect those in danger. The firefighters of the Clark County Fire Department are heroes to so many and deserve our gratitude. At a moment's notice, they can be relied upon to respond to any emergency regardless of the circumstances to assure the safety of those in need.

As our Nation takes measures to strengthen our homeland security, it