

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 Buena Vista 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 Buena Vista County worth over \$4.9 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$23.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be working with Buena Vista University to secure more than \$5.5 million since 1995 for renovations and investments to the campus, including course development needs, modernizing technology and equipment, and support for distance learning programs.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northwest 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 Buena Vista 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 Buena Vista County, I have fought for funding for more than \$2.5 million to dredge Storm Lake, 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, Buena Vista County has received \$424,090 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Buena Vista County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$175,000.

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. Buena Vista County has received over \$12 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, Buena Vista County has received more than \$5.9 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, Buena Vista County's fire departments have received over \$596,000 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 Buena Vista County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$2 million for the United Community Health Center.

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

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS EDEN

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Lt. Col. Christopher Robert Eden on his retirement from the United States Air Force. Lieutenant Colonel Eden is retiring after nearly 21 years of service to our country. He was born at Williams AFB, Arizona, in 1970 and grew up in the shadows of one of our Nation's finest service academies, the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Inspired by his grandfather who flew B-29s in World War II and his father and uncle who both graduated from the Academy and were Air Force pilots, Chris dreamed of someday following in their footsteps. In 1989, he was recruited to play baseball at the Air Force Academy Preparatory School and later accepted an appointment to the Academy. He graduated in the class of 1994, having been selected as a Rugby All-American during his senior year. Upon graduation, Chris received one of several coveted pilot training slots available at Reece AFB, Texas, and graduated in 1995 as the top T-1 Graduate.

During his first assignment flying C-21As at Yokota Air Base, Japan, Chris transported high-level dignitaries traveling throughout Asia and the Pacific, including diplomatic missions to North Korea. While fulfilling this assignment, he was upgraded to Instructor Pilot and was assigned to fly the C-17A at Charleston AFB, South Carolina. Here, Chris commanded emergency nuclear airlift, aeromedical evacuation, humanitarian relief, Presidential support,

and combat missions to support Operations Allied Force, Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom.

In his next assignment as Chief of Flight Operations and Acceptance/Test Pilot at the Boeing C-17A Plant in Long Beach, CA, Chris tested and accepted new C-17A aircraft, developed and flew the first commercial C-17 FAA noise certification tests, developed crew training and aircraft delivery procedures, and authored and implemented new fuel tank leak check procedures. While serving in Long Beach, he upgraded to Evaluator Pilot, and his unit was honored with the Department of Defense Flight Operations of the Year Award.

As Chief of C-17A Requirements at Headquarters Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Illinois, Chris helped continue to grow the C-17A fleet while receiving a Masters in Management and Leadership from Webster University. In his final year at Scott AFB, he was selected to fly in the 89th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

As chief of training and chief pilot at Andrews, Chris transported our Nation's leaders in two administrations, including the Vice President, the First Lady, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. During this assignment, he was upgraded to Evaluator Pilot and trained the squadron's newest pilots to adhere to the highest SAMFOX standards of the 1st Airlift Squadron's no-fail missions.

During his Air Force career, Chris flew more than 5,100 hours and received many awards, including the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Aerial Achievement Medal. Throughout his accomplishments, Chris proved to be an effective and humble leader, displaying dedication, loyalty, and respect to the mission and the Air Force. His exceptional character should make us all proud that we have men and women like Chris serving in our Armed Forces.

I congratulate Lt. Col. Christopher Robert Eden for his many achievements and honors, but most of all, I thank him for his for exemplary service to our country. Fly Safe and Go Zoomies!●

BILLIONTH BAKKEN BARREL

● Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, last week, somewhere in Montana or North Dakota, the Bakken formation released its billionth barrel of crude oil. I applaud the hardworking Montanans and other workers who are part of this extraordinary development.

As debate over the Keystone XL Pipeline drags on and the President inexcusably continues to delay that project, it is important to appreciate how much has changed in less than a decade in the American energy sector. As the commander in 2004 and 2005 of

the largest deployment of Montanans to war since World War II, I understand firsthand the costs of dependence on oil from hostile places.

That same dependence costs our pocketbooks. Since multistage horizontal hydraulic fracturing has revolutionized oil and gas production in this country, we have been able to fill our tanks and tractors with more American oil. Yet last year we still spent \$384 billion on 3.5 billion barrels of foreign oil.

When that comes from close allies like Canada, whose industry is closely integrated with the American economy, we all prosper. But we remain unacceptably reliant on countries who sell us oil and then work to undermine our national security.

What does 1 billion barrels from the Bakken mean? That is 1 billion barrels of oil that did not come from places like Iran, Venezuela, Algeria or Russia.

It is 1 billion barrels of oil whose exploration, development, production, transportation, and refining occurred in the United States, injecting cash and strengthening our economy at home. While the Bakken boom, like any surge in a single sector, has brought its share of growing pains, overall it has strengthened Montana's economy, creating thousands of jobs in towns from Sidney and Fairview to Miles City and Billings, long-term investments in infrastructure and a skilled workforce.

Montana's role in the Bakken is a story of entrepreneurs. The Bakken itself was first cracked over a decade ago by a Billings geologist, Richard Findley, and his team, in the Elm Coulee Field. Montanans have continued to start new small businesses focused on the Bakken.

As we celebrate the success of the Bakken, we can also point to other energy projects around Montana that are also helping increase our energy security, from enhanced oil recovery to carbon sequestration for coal. Montana's rich renewable resources: wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass are also creating good-paying jobs and producing energy.

I salute these innovators for their continued success to make America more energy secure and create jobs in Montana.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4487. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4487. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2280. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 839. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-156).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. WALSH):

S. 2287. A bill to facilitate the development and commercial deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2288. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand existing tax credits to encourage the capture, utilization, and sequestration of carbon dioxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) (by request):

S. 2289. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2290. A bill to increase the maximum penalty for unfair and deceptive practices relating to advertising of the costs of air transportation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated: