

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 4 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 Monona 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 Monona County worth over \$1.7 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$4.8 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be our shared commitment to school construction, renovation, and fire safety through the Harkin grant program. Working together with State and local communities, this funding has ensured Iowa students are learning in schools that are safe, and modern. I look forward to learning about the renovations made possible in Monona County.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development: In Western 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 Monona 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, I have consistently fought for job training dollars which have meant more than \$800,000 in Monona County, 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, Monona County has received \$985,638 in Harkin Grants. Similarly, schools in Monona County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$57,500.

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, Monona County's fire departments have received over \$498,000 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, ADA, 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 Monona 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 Monona 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 Monona 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.●

RECOGNIZING OWL'S MOTHER'S DAY CAMPAIGN

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize OWL and the important work that it does for older women in our country. For more than 30 years, OWL has served as the only national nonprofit to focus solely on the issues

of aging American women and be the voice for the 74 million mid-life and older women in our country.

Every Mother's Day, OWL focuses on a key issue that affects our Nation's aging women—our mothers, grandmothers, wives, sisters, aunts, and friends. Past issues of OWL's Mother's Day Campaign have ranged from examining our Nation's health care system, addressing the growing epidemic of elder abuse, and educating women on end-of-life choices. This year, OWL has chosen to focus on the need for quality, accessible long-term care. Women often serve as the primary caregivers for a loved one, and women also may need long-term services and supports as they outlive men. Today, OWL is hosting a briefing to unveil a report on key findings and discuss how this year's Mother's Day Campaign can create a dialogue around this topic.

I particularly look forward to seeing their findings this year. As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging and particularly this May in observance of Older Americans Month, I am well aware of the need to examine the long-term care system in America. As the population ages and more Americans need long-term care services and supports, it is important that they receive high-quality care without placing a burden on their families. The Aging Committee has and will continue to examine this topic and raise awareness of the issues surrounding our Nation's long-term care.

OWL's continued work across the Nation is more critical now than ever before, and we must ensure that our existing long-term care system is able to meet the needs of America's women.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT LEON DUNLAP

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to note the passing of Robert Leon Dunlap, of North Charleston, SC. He died Thursday, April 17 at the age of 83.

Dunlap attended Midland Park Elementary School and graduated from North Charleston High School. He served in the Army during the Korean war, and was a 52-year veteran of the Charleston County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad. Robert was also married to Gloria Massalon Dunlap for 52 years.

Assistant Chief Dunlap helped found, and served in, the North Charleston Volunteer Rescue Association, which in 1973 was expanded to include all of Charleston County. This volunteer organization responds for accidents, fires, and land and water rescues. Dunlap was the association's treasurer more than 50 years. He earned the Order of the Palmetto for his services, and the current North Charleston headquarters is named in his honor.

While fulfilling his rescue duties, Dunlap also worked at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. During his 39-year career he earned many awards and commendations, including the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.