

provide search and rescue. State troopers and police officers from Nebraska and Minnesota have helped the Cedar Rapids Police Department keep the city secure as the floodwaters recede and cleanup begins.

I appreciate the sacrifice and dedication these folks have made to help Iowa in its time of need.

But it does not stop there. The Iowa National Guard has deployed over 4,000 of their members across the State, providing vital manpower to assist local communities. They have used their skills and training to help meet numerous local needs. They have helped with sandbagging, shoring up levees, saving homes and businesses, and they have secured bridges and patrolled levees. They have been assisting local law enforcement with security. They have distributed clean drinking water to communities that have no running water and provided generators to those without power.

The National Guard has also provided air support via helicopters to support the assessment of damage and transportation of vital equipment. The list of needs met by our Iowa Guardsmen goes on and on, and their dedication knows no bounds.

In fact, one Iowa Guardsman, National Guard SPC Curtis L. White, had to change his wedding plans when he was deployed in support of the flood effort. He married his wife Daniele on Thursday, June 19, on the viaduct on the corner of Highway 92 and 2nd Street in Columbus Junction where he had been assisting with the flood operations. I thank him, his new wife, and his fellow Iowa National Guard soldiers and airmen for their sacrifices and compassion for their fellow Iowans.

I also thank those in the Iowa wing of the Civil Air Patrol who flew Senator HARKIN and this Senator around the State to view the impacted areas. The Civil Air Patrol also flew photo missions to examine the extent of flooding. I commend the Civil Air Patrol for their dedication.

Finally, I thank the men and women across the State who are serving in hospitals, emergency rooms, long-term care facilities, community health centers, home health agencies, and hospices. Many of these people lost their homes to flooding, and yet they still showed up at work to do the right thing. They are to be commended for those efforts.

I know these folks were on the front-line working to evacuate patients from places such as Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids as floodwaters rose. When this happened, facilities such as Saint Luke's Hospital in the same city and others nearby jumped up without hesitation to take in these displaced hospital patients.

We cannot forget the hard work and dedication of our health care professionals during this crisis, and as they are on the road to recovery. With people such as these, I have no doubt that facilities such as Mercy Medical Center will be fully operational in no time.

As the floodwaters start to recede and Iowa moves toward rebuilding, the responsibility of public safety will still be on the shoulders of our first responders. These capable men and women who serve in law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, the National Guard, and in hospitals across the State need all the resources we can provide them in this time of need. We have a responsibility to make sure they are equipped for the job and any future natural disasters we have.

That is why I led the Iowa congressional delegation in writing to Federal agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice, asking that deadlines for law enforcement and first responder grant programs be extended for communities impacted by the flooding.

Communities in Iowa should not be penalized from receiving grants because they have not had the time to hurry up and beat a deadline that does not take into consideration such natural disasters. These communities should be given special consideration for applying for grant moneys because of the extensive damage.

Programs such as the Assistance to Firefighters and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters can provide vital assistance to fire departments that were impacted by the flooding. These departments may need new equipment, radios, computers, and repairs to their fire stations. These grants can provide that assistance.

Further, programs such as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program, called Byrne/JAG, as we all know it around here, and the Community Oriented Policing Services, and we refer to that as the COPS Program, can also provide these same types of resources to police departments in need.

Iowans will soon be facing a long process toward rebuilding. It will not be easy. However, I am proud to say that I know Iowans will be helping others to rebuild in the Iowa spirit of hard work and generosity. We in Congress are doing all we can on our end to ensure that first responders in the field have the resources they need.

So I applaud, maybe now a third or fourth time but you cannot do it too many times, these brave men and women who serve their communities and carry on the spirit of Iowa.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a

period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time counting postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF GLORIA HUGHES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Ms. Gloria Hughes for her committed service to Nevada. Ms. Hughes will be retiring on June 30, 2008, after over three decades of service in the Mineral County Assessor's office.

Ms. Hughes began her service in 1973 as a deputy clerk. She then served as deputy assessor, senior deputy assessor, and chief deputy assessor. In 1994, she was elected to her first of four terms as assessor.

As assessor of Mineral County, Gloria has worked tirelessly to improve the quality and efficiency of her office, never losing heart when she encountered obstacles. For example, Gloria won a 12 year battle to obtain an office vehicle, which helps the staff fulfill their appraisal duties throughout rural Mineral County. Ms. Hughes' realization of this goal and others like it ensured that her office was consistently the best it could be. Indeed, the State department of taxation repeatedly gave the Mineral County Assessor's office perfect marks in every category of methods and procedures of tax assessment.

True to her nature, Ms. Hughes expresses regret that she will not be able to see all of her goals for Mineral County realized, but is optimistic that the dedicated employees she leaves behind will fulfill them when the time is right.

Gloria will be missed by her employees—whose best interests she worked for ceaselessly—and the citizens of Mineral County who were the fortunate beneficiaries of her fervent commitment to her job, her county, and her state.

I am grateful to Ms. Hughes for her service and proud to honor her and her achievements.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BOB STOLDAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Bob Stoldal, a legend in Nevada news and the Las Vegas community for more than 40 years. Mr. Stoldal's first experience in a news office came in 1960, working for the Las Vegas Review Journal—first as a janitor, then as a typesetter. In the next year he was hired by KLAS radio as a graveyard-shift radio disk jockey, where he was known to his listeners as Bob Free.

Over the past five decades, Mr. Stoldal has worked as a reporter, anchor, news director, and vice president of news for KLAS. He was the first ever general manager of Las Vegas One and held that position for the past 10 years.