

are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Shenandoah Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year. ●

#### SHENANDOAH COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Shenandoah Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire-safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Shenandoah Community School District received a 1999 Harkin Grant totaling \$526,231 which it used to help build a new K-8 school. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received a total of \$64,189 from two fire safety grants. The federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are

the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration and governance in the Shenandoah Community School District. In particular I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Marty Maher, Dr. Margaret Brady, Brian Maxine, Dwight Mayer and Keith Meyer. I would also like to recognize superintendent Richard Profitt as well as former board members—Ken Lee, Roger Jones and Steve Berning and former superintendent Connie Maxson.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Shenandoah Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year. ●

#### SOUTH PAGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the South Page Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire-safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing fa-

cilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The South Page Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$298,650 which was used to help make improvements on the K-12 building. The district also received a \$50,000 fire safety grant that was used to replace and repair exit lighting and smoke detectors. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the South Page Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Ellen Nothwehr, Junior Niehart, Ron Peterman, Deb Wallin and Karl Kenagy as well as former board members—Terry Carlson, Larry Murphy and Brenda Swanson. I would also like to recognize superintendent Joy Jones and former superintendent Iner Joelson.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the South Page Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year. ●

#### HONORING TAMMY CHASE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Sisseton resident Tammy Chase and her dedicated service to the South Dakota National Guard. Serving as the family readiness group leader, Tammy provides support to units, servicemembers, and families throughout South Dakota. When a soldier serves overseas, his or her family and friends must assume additional responsibilities and sacrifices. Thanks to the work of Tammy, and the family