

Representatives tonight this NASA reauthorization bill, which will give the flexibility to the next President, and his designee as the next leader of NASA, the flexibility in a very troubled program that has not had the resources to do all the things that are demanded of it to try to continue to keep America preeminent in space; also to continue to have access to our own International Space Station that we built and paid for; and then to chart out a course for the future exploration of the heavens that will keep us fulfilling our destiny of our character as an American people, which is that by nature we are explorers and adventurers.

We never want to give that up. If we ever do, we will be a second-rate nation. But we would not because we have always had a frontier, a new frontier. In the development of this country, it used to be westward. Now it is upward and it is inward and that is the frontier we want to continue to explore.

So happy birthday, NASA. It is my hope that we will have the House of Representatives take this up on their suspension calendar tomorrow.

I wish to give great credit to the staff who are in the room for the majority and the minority. They all have worked at enormous overload—Chan Lieu and Jeff Bingham. Jeff, despite the fact of having suffered a heart attack earlier this year, and we didn't even let him out of his recuperative bed but that I was on the phone with him getting him to start corraling all these other Senators and House Members so we could get a consensus, so we could come together in an agreement.

The result tonight is the fact that this has been cleared in a 100-Member Senate, when Senators are on edge and they are always looking for something to object to, and there is no objection here, as ruled by the Presiding Officer.

My congratulations to all the people, to the staff of the Commerce Committee, and to the staff of the Science and Technology Committee in the House of Representatives, chaired by Congressman BART GORDON of Tennessee. I am very grateful for everybody coming together and making this happen.

I want to say a special thanks to all of the Senate staff who worked so hard on the NASA authorization bill. Not just Chan Lieu and Jeff Bingham, but also Ann Zulkosky and Beth Bacon on the Commerce Committee, as well as Art Maples, my Congressional Fellow. We also had tremendous support from our legislative council, Lloyd Ator and John Baggeley. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.●

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CEDAR RAPIDS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam 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 Cedar Rapids 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 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 Cedar Rapids Community School District received Harkin grants totaling \$4,912,132 which it used to help modernize and make safety improvements throughout the district. Six Harkin construction grants totaling \$3,750,000 have helped with several projects. A 1999 grant was used to help build Viola Gibson Elementary School, and Harkin grants helped the district build additions for science and fine arts at Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools; additions which included media centers and additional classrooms at Hoover, Roosevelt, and McKinley Middle Schools and Pierce and Wilson Elementary Schools and to also make plumbing and HVAC improvements at McKinley. These schools are the modern, state-of-the-art facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, they are the kind of schools that every child in America deserves.

The district also received six fire safety grants totaling \$1,162,132 to make improvements at buildings throughout the district. The improvements included upgraded fire alarm systems, electrical work and other safety repairs. 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 Cedar Rapids Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—John Laverty, Keith

Westercamp, Lisa Kuzela, Ann Rosenthal, Melissa Kiliper-Ernst, Mary Meisterling, and Judy Goldberg, and former board members Richard Bradford, Ken Childress, Doug Henderson, Jeff Ilten, Dennis Kral, Becki Lynch, Susan McDermott, Ron Olson, and Al Smith.

I would also like to recognize superintendent David Markward, former superintendent Lew Finch, and staff members including Doug Smith, Bob Gertsen, Steve Graham, Susan Peterson, Tom Day, Chris McGuire, Barb Harms, Brian Krob, Kathy Conley, Connie Tesar, Wayne Knapp, Larry Martin, Bill Utterback, Joyce Fowler, Tim Virden, Rick Netolicky, Becky DeWald, Ralph Plagman, Bob Tesar, Terry Strait, Mary Wilcynski, Shannon Bucknell, Richard Sedlacek, Ken Morgan, Valerie Dolezal, Mike Allen, Steve Hilby, Kristen Ricky, Brian Litts, Gregg Petersen, Kathleen Reyner, and David Dvorak, and the following individuals from Shive Hattery: George Kanz, Keith Johnk, Jim Knowles, Doug DuCharme, Tim Fehr, and Chad Siems.

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 to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Cedar Rapids 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.●

##### CHARITON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam 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 Chariton 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