

residents of Davis 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 successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$30 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memory of working together has to be the community's success in earning grants for fire safety equipment and facilities through FEMA, working with Bloomfield to renovate the Davis County Courthouse, and the J.H. Leon Building through Main Street Iowa challenge grant funds.

Among the highlights:

**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, Davis County's fire departments have received over \$1.9 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

**Main Street Iowa:** One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns such as Bloomfield to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Davis County has earned \$63,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

**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, Davis County has received \$659,000 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Davis County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$35,000.

**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, Davis County has received more than \$3.1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

**Disability Rights:** Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. 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 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 Davis County, both those with and without disabilities. 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 Davis 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 Davis 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. ●

#### DELAWARE COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and

well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities 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 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 Delaware 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 successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$9 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memory of working together has to be working together to mitigate and prevent damage from natural disasters. 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 has provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Delaware County has received over \$5 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

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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, Delaware County has received \$458,158 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Delaware County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$27,650.

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**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, Delaware County's fire departments have received over \$1 million 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 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 Delaware 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.

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cifically Delaware 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 Delaware 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.●

#### REMEMBERING MICHAEL CARROLL

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the remarkable life of a young West Virginian, Michael Carroll, who sadly lost his life to cancer on July 3. Although he said goodbye to family, friends and loved ones far too early, Michael led a tremendously accomplished life during his 17 years, and he truly touched the lives of so many with his heartfelt and inspirational efforts to help other children around the world battle cancer. Although we are all heartbroken about Michael's passing, it is a privilege to celebrate his extraordinary achievements.

A Wheeling native, Michael Paul Carroll was diagnosed with leukemia in 2003. After 3 years of treatment, he won his battle with cancer. Unfortunately in 2013, after years in remission, Michael was diagnosed with a glioblastoma grade IV brain tumor due to the radiation from previous treatment.

Yet, even though he was once again fighting for his own life, Michael's illness never stopped him from making a difference in the lives of other children suffering from cancer. While battling his brain tumor, Michael came up with the idea to design a stress relief toy that helps kids cope with cancer. The idea is that anytime young cancer patients feel frustrated with their treatment or have a bad day, they can exert their anger into these toys. After some thought and help from the community, he created Michael's Meanies so "a child with cancer can give it back to their sickness," he said. Michael invented three beanies after the three types of childhood cancers: Terry the Terrible Tumor, Lily Lymphoma, and Lousy Louie Leukemia.

Michael once said:

I wanted to give something to the kids that they could take their anger out on. I thought of making these into a stress ball-like toy that the kids can squeeze hard, punch or even throw them. My ultimate goal is for every child diagnosed with cancer to get one during their treatment.

Although his ultimate goal has yet to be achieved, Michael's reach knows no bounds and he was able to help children around the world. With 15,000 meanies made, it is not rare to see a child holding one of Michael's Meanies in a children's hospital in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, Canada, England, Australia, and New Zealand. Through his meanies, Michael continues to make

children's daily battle with cancer a little easier.

While making a difference throughout West Virginia, the United States and the world, Michael also made a significant impact in his hometown of Wheeling. He truly touched each person he met. Michael attended Wheeling Park High School, and also volunteered at the Ohio Valley Medical Center and St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. He often visited children's hospitals to spread laughter and joy while meeting with cancer patients. Michael said, "I take everything with humor," and wisely stated that laughter is the best medicine.

The strength that Michael mustered every day should inspire not only our sick young, but his resilience and goodwill should inspire all of us. His legacy and influence will live on through his meanies as they comfort children fighting for their lives around the world. Michael, thank you for the gift you have left for us all.●

#### RECOGNIZING FLORIDA ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize two exceptional Floridians who have sacrificed to serve as caregivers for Alzheimer's patients. Their stories were recently published in the latest edition of "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living with Alzheimer's & Other Dementias." The book, a compilation of 101 short stories, has previously discussed a range of other medical issues and diseases. For this latest publication, "Chicken Soup" partnered with the national Alzheimer's Association to tackle the difficult topic of Alzheimer's disease and dementias and to share the stories of the families who face the challenges of this disease. The heartbreaking stories that Laura Suihkonen Jones, of Lighthouse Point, and Jean Salisbury Campbell, of Fort Lauderdale, shared of their families' experience with Alzheimer's were chosen for inclusion from nearly 4,000 entries.

Today, Laura serves the Alzheimer's Association's Southeast Florida Chapter as its liaison to Congresswoman LOIS FRANKEL, and coordinates an Alzheimer's support group at Calvary Chapel in Fort Lauderdale. She wrote her story, "Fear and Self-Pity Are My Mortal Enemies," to share both the pain and joy of caring for her husband, Jay, who received his diagnosis 7 years ago at age 50 when their daughter was just 3 years old. Laura strives every day to be a message of hope, particularly for those families who receive Alzheimer's diagnoses at younger ages. Alzheimer's disease is growing rapidly, and recently 5.2 million people age 65 and older, as well as 200,000 individuals under age 65 were diagnosed.

Jean, a retired Broward County school psychologist, shares her personal testimony of caring for her elderly mother, the late Elizabeth Salisbury. Her essay, "The Bird," recounts