

For the past decade, Dr. Janssen has played an invaluable role in helping the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors accomplish its Federal and State legislative priorities.

While his many accomplishments are too numerous to list here, his most recent efforts clearly demonstrate just how much he has meant to Los Angeles county and my State over his entire career.

Dr. Janssen has advocated closely on important Medicaid reform proposals and helped to improve the flexibility of Federal foster care funds.

He coordinated and developed advocacy strategies with local government and housing and community development groups in the Los Angeles region to protect vital community development block grant funds.

Working to improve the county's health system, Dr. Janssen helped assure critical Federal funding guarantees and assisted in creating an action plan in the event of an avian flu epidemic. He also collaborated with the State's congressional delegation, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the administration to secure funding for Martin Luther King/Charles R. Drew Medical Center—King/Drew—in south Los Angeles, preserving critical, life-saving services, and ensuring that the patients served by King/Drew continue to have access to care.

In an issue that is of utmost importance to my State, he worked closely with key administration officials and members of Congress to ensure that Los Angeles Air Force Base would not be closed or realigned.

In terms of homeland security, Dr. Janssen led the county in working to boost funding and increase the allocation of first responder grants to local governments. Likewise, he supported legislation to adopt a threat-based formula that directs homeland security funds where they are needed most.

These are just some of Dr. Janssen's significant accomplishments on behalf of Los Angeles county and the State of California. As he retires, I extend my gratitude to him for his many contributions throughout a distinguished career. With sincere best wishes, I congratulate him upon his retirement from public service. I am pleased to join his many coworkers, family, friends, and associates in wishing him health, happiness, and good fortune in all his future endeavors.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CHUCK LARSON, SR.

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, one of the joys of my job as a Senator is working closely with talented, dedicated Iowans from all walks of life. One of those exceptional people is Chuck Larson, Sr., U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa. With his retirement next month, he will conclude an extraordinary career in public service spanning nearly four decades.

Chuck has dedicated his life to the law and public safety, as director of

Iowa public safety in the 1970s, as a consultant in Saudi Arabia to the Kingdom's Highway Patrol Project in the early 1980s, as director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy, and as a member of the President's Drug Free Communities Committee. In December, he will complete two terms as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa.

My staff and I have worked closely with Chuck for many years. I could cite many examples of his leadership and professional excellence, but one instance stands out in particular. Some time ago, my office was contacted by members of an Iowa jurisdiction where various law enforcement agencies and key players in the community were not communicating effectively, leading to an increase in drug and gang activity. My staff contacted Chuck, and he intervened in that community personally and directly. He set up meetings with community members and law enforcement agencies and brought them together in a positive spirit. Today, that community is considered a national model for cooperation in the fight against drugs and gangs. And one thing that all groups in the community agree on is that it was Chuck's leadership and personal skills—going above and beyond his job description—that led to this success. Thanks to Chuck's work in that community and cross my State, Iowa is a better, safer place to live, work, and raise a family. Indeed, there is no doubt in my mind that Chuck's dedicated work is one big reason why Iowa has one of the lowest crime rates in the United States.

One key to Chuck's success is that he speaks with the authority of a seasoned veteran of decades on the front line fighting crime and improving public safety. Throughout his distinguished career, he has put public service above personal gain. We have all heard the saying that "you get what you pay for." But in Iowa, when it comes to U.S. attorneys, that is not the case. We get far better than we pay for. Despite modest salaries, Iowa has been blessed with U.S. attorneys of the highest caliber. And most folks in Iowa know this and appreciate it. We hold our law enforcement professionals—from police officers right up to the highest ranking prosecutors—in special esteem. And we are grateful for the excellence, professionalism, and long hours that they bring to their jobs.

I will miss Chuck's counsel and his can-do, cooperative attitude. My staff and I have turned to him again and again over the years, and he has never let us down. It has meant so much to be able to rely on someone of his caliber for authoritative answers and prompt action.

Though I am sorry to see Chuck go, I know how much he is looking forward to spending more time with his family—his wife Ellen and his children and grandchildren. I am grateful for his decades of truly distinguished and brilliant public service, and I wish him the very best.●

#### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REDFIELD FIRE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to remember the fire that devastated the community of Redfield, SD, on November 16, 1986. Though there was a tragic loss of life and many families saw their property and possessions destroyed, the community was able to come together to help each other through those difficult times and to ultimately rebuild and thrive.

The fire began sometime prior to 4:30 that morning and was reported by Dawn Waldner. Soon local police and firefighters were on the scene, but the blaze proved uncontrollable. It was in the process of consuming an apartment building with 31 apartments and many of the downtown businesses in Redfield. The fire was so hot that it cracked the windows of any building in the vicinity of the flames. The Senior Citizens Center, Crawford Furniture, Coast to Coast hardware, Blaine St. Clair's business office, American Family Insurance, KQKD Radio, and a TV repair shop were among the businesses that were destroyed or damaged.

The day's greatest loss, however, was the life of young Rebecca Nelson, who was just over a year old. She was trapped in the burning apartment building, and though people on the scene made heroic efforts to save her, they could not discover her in time. Civilian Gene Freshour and police sergeant Dave Dosch both risked their lives by going into the building without masks to search for the child. Firefighters Bob Tiff, Jim Haider, Ron Eimers, and Rich Gruenwald formed a search team, also risking their lives, in the attempt to find Rebecca. Despite the brave actions of all those involved in the effort, she could not be rescued.

The fire burned so hot that firefighters said they could see the water evaporating before it even hit the fire. The tar on the streets melted, and ammunition in the hardware store was set off. By the time the embers were cold, over a million gallons of water had been used putting it out. It wasn't long, though, before the community came together to start the hard work of healing and rebuilding.

With the help of two community development block grants, the city was able to purchase much of the damaged property. Over 580 truckloads of debris were taken from the area, but new businesses have moved in and prospered. The site also is home to a memorial to Rebecca Nelson. There will be a memorial service in memory of the events of the day on November 16, 2006, at Siegling's Parking Lot, near the Rebecca Nelson Memorial. I extend my deepest condolences to those who suffered losses in the fire and commend the community for their unity and perseverance in rebounding from this disaster.●

#### BIGHORN CENTER TRIBUTE

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Bighorn