disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 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. In our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Hardin 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.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Hardin 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 Hardin 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.

HAMILTON 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 initiatives that have the heart and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And 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 over the 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 Hamilton 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 my community has worked with me to secure funding in Hamilton County worth over $548,000 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have pumped over $7.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memories of working together have to include Webster City’s commitment to rebuilding crumbling school with Harkin technology grants, and Jewell’s tremendous success in downtown restoration through Main Street Iowa grants. Among the highlights:

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 helps preserve Iowa’s heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Jewell to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart economic activity. And I am so pleased that Hamilton County has earned $240,000 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’s 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 increase 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, Hamilton County has received $308,341 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Hamilton County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $65,000.

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 initiatives that promote self-reliance and economic self-sufficiency.

MONONA 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 initiatives that promote human and economic well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities