

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, Muscatine County has received more than \$3.5 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Muscatine County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$32,500.

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, Muscatine County has received more than \$1.1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

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, Muscatine County's fire departments have received over \$2.1 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, 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. 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 Muscatine 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 Muscatine 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 Muscatine 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.●

CONGRATULATING NICHOLAS CAROTHERS NIMMO

● **Mr. HELLER.** Madam President, today I wish to congratulate Nicholas "Cole" Carothers Nimmo, on obtaining one of the Boy Scouts of America's highest ranks of Eagle Scout.

Cole began his journey to the rank of Eagle Scout when he became a Boy Scout in 2008. Throughout his time in the Boy Scouts, he has tirelessly worked to achieve this next rank and honor. He completed his Eagle project this past fall by leading a team of friends, family, and leaders in raising money for the materials and building a large storage shed for a local girls summer camp. Becoming an Eagle Scout enabled Cole to develop an appreciation and love of the outdoors. Biking in the Acadia National Forest with Troop 388, canoeing on the Susquehanna River, and earning his favorite merit badge in camping were highlights of his tenure in the scouts thus far.

As one of tomorrow's leaders, Cole's dedication to his local community enhances my faith in our great Nation's future. His training has enabled him to develop skills and knowledge that will help him serve those around him his whole life. It is truly an honor for me to help in celebrating his advancement to Eagle Scout. Continuing at this level of accomplishment, with such a strong commitment to civic duty, Cole will become a strong, contributing citizen of this great Nation. He knows that achieving the rank of Eagle is just the beginning of a life filled with leadership and service opportunities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cole on his loyal service and contributions to his troop and community.●

ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

● **Mr. NELSON.** Madam President, I recognize this June as the inaugural Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Alzheimer's remains one of our Nation's leading causes of death, and the number of diagnoses is expected to

triple by 2050—resulting in 16 million Americans over the age of 65 living with Alzheimer's. Today, one in three seniors will die with Alzheimer's disease. Currently, in my home of State of Florida, 480,000 residents over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer's, and the number is project to rise to 720,000 by 2050.

Given these staggering numbers, it is important we focus our resources to address this disease as outlined in the National Alzheimer's Plan, a roadmap for confronting Alzheimer's and dementia. The National Alzheimer's Plan is released annually and outlines steps the government should pursue in the fight against Alzheimer's. Last year, the Special Committee on Aging, for which I am privileged to serve as chairman, held a hearing to assess the progress made in combatting Alzheimer's disease and examined the first year of the National Alzheimer's Plan as it continues its ongoing efforts to find an effective treatment by 2025.

This June, the first Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, we must initiate a global conversation about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Despite the prevalence of the disease, it is still widely misunderstood. The Alzheimer's Association, the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research, is working to reduce stigma surrounding the illness, promote education on the realities of the disease, and help promote research to end Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's Association is also encouraging Americans to "Go Purple"—the color of the Alzheimer's movement to fight Alzheimer's disease and promote public awareness of this month's mission.

Recently, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, AFA, released a cost analysis report of the caregiver provisions in the 2012 National Alzheimer's Plan. The AFA works to ensure the best care and services are available to improve quality of life for individuals confronting Alzheimer's disease. I believe that the work of the AFA and other Alzheimer's advocacy organizations is increasingly important as we continually work to improve the care and well-being for those living with Alzheimer's disease while also improving the quality of life for caregivers and family members as they care for their loved ones.

AFA's recent report, "Cost of Care: Quantifying Care-Centered Provisions of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease," evaluates the costs and benefits associated with implementation of coordinated care delivery models, transitional care programs, and expanded caregiver supports in the 2012 National Alzheimer's Plan. AFA found that implementation of these caregiver provisions provide significant cost savings while promoting better health outcomes for those living with Alzheimer's disease by reducing hospital readmissions and emergency room visits and delaying nursing home