

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING KOJO NNAMDI'S
10TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the 10th anniversary of Kojo Nnamdi broadcasting on the American University's WAMU 88.5. Over the course of the last decade, based on his skills as an interviewer and his keen insight, Nnamdi has grown into a national treasure and one of the most respected broadcasters in the National Capital Region. "The Kojo Nnamdi Show" features 2 hours of news, political issues, and social trends of the day in a magazine program format.

It is hard to remember a time before Kojo Nnamdi was part of the WAMU 88.5 broadcasting family, but it was just 10 years ago, in 1998, when Nnamdi left his host position at WHUT-TV's public affairs show "Evening Exchange" to become the host of WAMU's radio program "Public Interest." He replaced former host Derek McGinty, filling a vibrant radio talk show slot that can be traced back to 1977 with Fred Fiske. The program officially was renamed "The Kojo Nnamdi Show" in September 2002.

Nnamdi was born Rex Paul in Guyana. He came to this country in 1967 to attend college. He began broadcasting in 1973 at WHUR-FM and chose his radio persona based on the Akan word for Monday—Kojo—and Nnamdi Azikiwe, a fellow journalist and the founder of modern Nigerian nationalism who was the first President of Nigeria.

Nnamdi's global perspective and inviting demeanor have made his radio program a must-do for both regional and national leaders. Each weekday, he challenges his guests and call-in audience alike to explore a variety of current and emerging topics relevant to our daily lives. As good a listener as he is an interviewer, Nnamdi opens our consciousness to new ideas. He is so highly skilled that the Washington Post has called him, "maybe the best interviewer in town."

Locally, Nnamdi has become one of the foremost experts on the political and social scenes of Annapolis, Richmond, and Washington, DC. On Fridays, 1 hour of his show is renamed "The Politics Hour" while he opens his airwaves to the region's elected officials, community activists and local leaders. I personally have looked forward to joining Nnamdi for his show time and again.

As Kojo Nnamdi enters his second decade broadcasting at WAMU 88.5, I take great pride in joining with countless others in our community and across the Nation in congratulating him on this milestone. I listen with anticipation for his next topic and his next guest who will help open our minds and further our dialog. ●

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MARTIN GUITAR FACTORY

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Martin Guitar Factory, in Nazareth, PA, on celebrating 175 years of successful guitar making. C.F. Martin & Co. has continually produced the highest level of craftsmanship, design, quality, and tone for the acoustic guitar for over a century and a half.

Established in 1833, the Martin Guitar Factory has been at the leading edge of guitar manufacturing for six generations. The founder of Martin Guitar, Christian Frederick Martin, Sr., was born in 1796 in Germany and began the craft at the young age of 15. Since the guild system in Germany limited the opportunities for guitar production, C.F. Martin, Sr., decided to emigrate to the United States in the 1830s. Martin Guitar set up shop in New York City for 6 years before finally settling in the Lehigh Valley in 1839. After a century and a half of success in guitar manufacturing, C.F. Martin & Co. continues to produce the finest quality American acoustic guitars today. Each year, Martin Guitar manufactures and ships approximately 170,000 guitars all over the world and welcomes over 21,000 visitors to its factory in Nazareth, Northampton County. Martin Guitars have been played by some of our Nation's greats, such as Elvis and Johnny Cash, and are still being played today by Eric Clapton, Beck, Willie Nelson, and John Mayer, to name just a few.

In addition to Martin Guitar's accomplishments and I believe this is key, the company has demonstrated incredible staying power through six generations. C.F. Martin & Co. is the oldest surviving manufacturer of guitars in the world and is thus an extraordinary model to other businesses. I am proud to say that C.F. Martin & Co. has long been and will remain a vital staple of the Lehigh Valley.

Special recognition for this anniversary belongs to the sixth generation chairman and CEO Mr. Christian F. Martin IV, and the hard-working staff of Martin Guitar, for continuing the long standing tradition of crafting America's finest acoustic guitars. It is with great pride that I congratulate the Martin Guitar Factory on 175 outstanding years of achievement. ●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT FULWIDER

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I congratulate Mr. Bob Fulwider as he nears the end of his term as the 103rd chairman of the Nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, IIABA. Mr. Fulwider was elected to the IIABA's executive committee in 2002, and was installed as the association's chairman last September.

Founded in 1896, IIABA, or the Big "I" as it is better known, is the Nation's oldest and largest association of

independent insurance agents and brokers, representing a network of more than 300,000 agents, brokers, and their employees. During his term as chairman of the Big "I", Bob Fulwider has been a leader on a number of issues for the association including regulatory reform and natural disaster insurance. Perhaps most importantly, during this year's consideration of the farm bill and specifically its impact on crop insurance, Mr. Fulwider was a forceful advocate for his association who led with professionalism and determination.

Mr. Fulwider has over his lifetime built two financial and insurance planning service businesses throughout eastern Iowa including West Liberty and West Branch, IA. Mr. Fulwider is also a former national board director and a past president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Iowa, IIAI.

Mr. Fulwider has been honored with several national and state awards. He has been honored with two IIABA Presidential Citations—in 1987 and 1994. He was named IIAI Agent of the Year in 1993 and received the association's "Mr. Chairman" Award in the same year. He also received the Agent of the Year Award in 1990. He is the first honoree in the Iowa association's history to receive the award twice. In 2002, Mr. Fulwider was honored with the Sydney O. Smith Award, IIABA's highest individual government affairs honor. In 2003 he was named to the Iowa Insurance Hall of Fame.

In addition, Mr. Fulwider is extremely active in his community. After graduating from Iowa State University, he taught in Iowa public high schools and served on the Iowa State University faculty prior to entering the insurance business. Mr. Fulwider is past president of the Muscatine County Economic Development Council and training director and board member of the Iowa Council—Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Fulwider has served as Scoutmaster of his local troop for 25 years and has received numerous Scouting awards including the Silver Beaver. Additionally, he is active in his church and Masonic Lodge.

I want to thank Bob Fulwider for his work with the IIABA over the years and for his commitment to his profession, his community, and our state of Iowa. His efforts are greatly appreciated. I am proud to count Bob as both a constituent and a friend. I wish him, his wife Jan, and their family all the best in their future endeavors. ●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the American Society of Hematology, which is observing its 50th anniversary this year, and to salute the advances hematologists have been able to make

in biomedical research, largely as a result of the funding for the National Institutes of Health that many of us in the Senate fight for each year.

The American Society of Hematologists—ASH—represents more than 15,000 clinicians and scientists committed to the study and treatment of blood and blood-related diseases, including blood cancers, bleeding and clotting diseases, and hereditary disorders. Hematologists have made remarkable contributions to the advancement of biomedical research and are active participants in NIH biomedical research programs, recipients of NIH grants, and contributors to NIH's biomedical research accomplishments. I am pleased to note that some of this groundbreaking research is being conducted in Iowa by ASH member Dr. George Weiner and his team at the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa.

Hematologists have been at the forefront of some of the most remarkable advancements in medicine over the past half century. ASH members have turned Federal research dollars into effective treatments for diseases that were once disabling or a death sentence, and have been pioneers in the fields of bone marrow transplantation and gene therapy.

By the NIH's own estimates, the overall 5-year survival rate for childhood cancers rose to nearly 80 percent during the 1990s from under 60 percent in the 1970s. A diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukemia was fatal for every child who developed it in the 1960s, but today, after new combinations of drugs were developed by hematology researchers, and aggressive treatment of the brain and spinal fluid were incorporated, approximately 80 percent of children with the disease are cured.

NIH also notes that the emergence of new, more precise ways to treat cancer, such as drugs that target abnormal proteins in cancer cells, have contributed to a dramatic increase in the average life expectancy for Americans. Again, hematologists have been at the forefront of these discoveries.

Acute promyelocytic leukemia—APL—was once described as the most malignant form of acute leukemia. Today, the treatment of APL has become a model for treating cancer with targeted therapy. In combination with chemotherapy, targeted treatment has significantly improved survival in patients with APL and raised remission rates to about 85 percent.

In the 1950s the only treatment for chronic myelogenous leukemia—CML—was radiation of the spleen, granting patients about 30 months of survival. Analysis of the CML-specific chromosomal translocation allowed the development of imatinib, a gene-targeting drug that is the paradigm for a new generation of “smart” drugs that allow disease-specific therapy. Using this non toxic oral drug, more than 75 percent of patients diagnosed with CML achieve a

durable, complete cytogenetic remission.

I have consistently fought for increases to NIH annual budget, and will continue to do so to ensure that hematologists and researchers around the Nation continue to have the resources necessary to lead in new fields of biomedical investigation and translate new scientific discoveries into improved diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive strategies.

Again, I salute the American Society of Hematology for a magnificent first 50 years. With continued NIH funding, I am confident that hematologists will have even greater successes in treating and eliminating blood diseases over the next 50 years. ●

COMMENDING ALLAMAKEE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. 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 Allamakee 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 program of 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 Allamakee Community School District received a 2004 Harkin Grant totaling \$394,382 for a collaborative project addressing a myriad of needs throughout the community. After eight failed efforts to pass a referendum to make improvements to the high school, it was time to think outside the box.

Community leaders established the PRIDE committee to undertake a comprehensive planning process that looked at the needs of the school district as well as those of the community. The result was a proposal to renovate the high school and build an addition to the existing building. The committee also recommended building a new facility across the street from the high school to house a satellite center for Northeast Iowa Community

College, a community wellness center, a senior center, and a youth center. This project was a unique partnership between the school district, city, county and community college. And their hard work paid off with the passage of a \$10 million bond issue approved by 78 percent of the voters.

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 patrons, staff, administration, and governance in the Allamakee Community School District.

I would like to recognize a number of individuals for their outstanding leadership on the project, in particular, members of the Allamakee PRIDE Committee—Michael Meyers from Veterans Memorial Hospital, Dave Martin from Martin Funeral Home, Dennis Lyons from Farmers and Merchant's Bank, Joe Cunningham from the Waukon City Council, Patty Fosaaen from the Allamakee Board of Education, superintendent of schools David Herold and former superintendent of schools John Speer. I would also like to recognize members of the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors—Kathy Campbell, Lenny Burke, and the late Bill Clark; members of the Board of Education—President Tom Baxter, Bob Hager, Scott Melcher, Dwight Watkins and former member Sheryl Evanson; members of the Waukon City Council—former mayor Dwight Jones, Steve Wiedner, Rod Peterson and former members Drew Hager and Duane DeWalle; and several key school district administrators—buildings and grounds manager Dennis Mahr, business manager Janice Rea, junior high principal Joe Griffith and assistant high school principal Bob Wasson. Finally, I would recognize some of the personnel responsible for grant writing and for the bond referendum—Safe Schools/Healthy Students project director Barb Winters, elementary principal Ann Hart, Gail Prestemon from Waukon State Bank, Mary Jo Meyer from Farm Bureau Financial Services and Allamakee Community School District librarian Linda Groe.

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.