EBRI Marks 30th Anniversary of Providing Benefits Research

WASHINGTON—The nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) celebrated its 30th anniversary on December 4, marking its third decade of providing “just the facts” research on retirement, savings, health, and other employee benefit programs to the public, policy makers, academics, and others around the world. EBRI does no lobbying or advocacy.

EBRI stands alone in employee benefits research as an independent, nonprofit, and nonpartisan organization. It analyzes and reports research data without spin or an underlying agenda. All findings, whether on financial data, options, or trends, are revealing and reliable—the reason EBRI information is the gold standard for private analysts and decision makers, government policy makers, the media, and the public. As members of both political parties in Congress noted in recent tributes, EBRI has been a vital resource.

Since its founding in December 1978, EBRI’s mission has been to provide objective and reliable data and analysis. Its mandate, when the Institute was formed 30 years ago, is “to contribute to, to encourage, and to enhance the development of sound employee benefit programs and sound public policy through objective research and education.” This nonpartisan approach has made EBRI a vital information resource:

- “One of the most valuable resources we have to help us understand what is happening in these areas is the nonpartisan and non-profit Employee Benefit Research Institute. One of the reasons [EBRI’s] work gets attention and is respected is because EBRI does not have an ideological agenda and does not try to ‘spin’ the numbers,” said Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

- Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, said: “The high quality and objective work done by EBRI has won it respect within the halls of Congress, among members on both sides of the aisle in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.”

- Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and a former state insurance commissioner, said: “Rather than try to tell Congress and the Federal Government what we should do on health and retirement issues, instead [EBRI] simply reports what the facts are—and what the likely results are likely to be from different policy options. Substance, reliability, credibility: That’s what I expect when I see work from EBRI.”

- “Because of their high quality and non-partisan, non-advocacy stance, policy makers and the media appropriately turn to EBRI’s staff and leadership for analysis and insight into future benefit trends and clear thinking about the policy proposals that are being debated,” said Robert Reischauer, now president of the Urban Institute, and formerly Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

Its president and CEO, Dallas L. Salisbury, has been head of the Institute since Dec. 4, 1978, its first day of operations. Of Mr. Salisbury, Rep. Miller said: “Mr. Salisbury has been an important analyst and contributor to national public policy decision making on employee benefits. His thoughtful and often prescient analysis has aided lawmakers throughout the years.”

The Institute’s flagship periodicals are the monthly EBRI Issue Brief (which focuses on one benefits issue in depth) and EBRI Notes, (which focuses on recent data releases, public policy activity, and new studies). The EBRI Databook on Employee Benefits and Fundamentals of Employee Benefit Programs are regularly updated as resources, with the Sixth
Edition of *Fundamentals* being published next month. All EBRI research is available free on the organization’s Web site, [www.ebri.org](http://www.ebri.org)

EBRI’s research program also includes policy forums, briefings, testimony, interviews, and speeches. Major studies over recent years have included the status of workers’ preparations for retirement, Social Security reform, pension design and investment trends, and health insurance coverage and health policy reform. Major surveys include the annual Retirement Confidence Survey (the longest-running public opinion survey in the nation), the Health Confidence Survey, and surveys on consumerism in health care. The EBRI Education and Research Fund sponsors the American Savings Education Council and the Choose to Save® public education program.

Among its most recent work, responding to requests from Congress and the news media, EBRI has provided unique analysis on the impact of recent stock market turmoil on 401(k) balances, based on data from the EBRI/ICI 401(k) database, the most comprehensive database on 401(k) plan participants. These updates are posted at EBRI’s Web site at [www.ebri.org/whatsnew/index.cfm?fa=401kbalances](http://www.ebri.org/whatsnew/index.cfm?fa=401kbalances)

Additional information on EBRI and its 30th anniversary is available at [www.ebri.org](http://www.ebri.org), including a commemorative program book at [www.ebri.org/](http://www.ebri.org/)

PR #818
The G-1 laid the foundation for the future of GulfStream Aerospace. Five decades after that first flight and more than four decades after moving to Savannah, Gulfstream has manufactured more than 1,000 aircraft. The company’s jets have been used to train NASA crew members, transport top community leaders, and support our Armed Forces, making Gulfstream a vital part of America’s aerospace industry.

Gulfstream also plays a key role in the city of Savannah, where its workforce has grown from 100 employees in 1967 to more than 8,000 today, making it the largest manufacturing employer in the city. That workforce is expected to grow even more in years to come, thanks to a $400 million-plus Long Range Facilities Master Plan that includes at least 1,500 new jobs.

I am delighted to recognize the golden anniversary of Gulfstream’s flight and to congratulate its employees on their many contributions to the community, the country, and the worldwide aviation industry. With the help of its employees, Gulfstream has become a corporate citizen of the highest standard. I commend Gulfstream Aerospace on all their achievements and look forward to their continued success in the city of Savannah and throughout Georgia.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments today to pay tribute to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, or EBR, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. EBR is a well-known, nonpartisan research institution providing invaluable analysis, briefings, and publications on health care issues, which are critically important to both America’s workers and their employers. I think it’s important to recognize these institutions and the people that sponsor these projects. The high-quality and objective work done by EBR has been supported by the board of directors, including in the past members on both sides of the aisle. They have been recognized by the House of Representatives.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obligated 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.

**BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Mr. President, I would like to take just a few moments today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Bettendorf Community School District, and to report on their participation in a Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the 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 Federal grants. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Bettendorf Community School District received a 2001 Harkin construction grant for $75,000, which it used for a fitness education center and a 2002 Harkin fire safety grant for $150,000, which was used for an addition to the high school. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

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 leadership of the board of education—president Barbara Anderson, vice president Jeanne Crockett, Paul Castro, Barb Ehrman, Melinda Duncan, Fred Biggs, Scott Johnson, and former board members Debbie Roskili, Richard Wahls, Dean Armoy, Tom Eaton, Kathy Weigel, and Steve Mayer.

As we close the book of the Bettendorf Community School District, I am obligated 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.

The Creighton Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling $1 million which it used to help with renovations to convert the middle school into an early childhood education center. This project was part of a comprehensive facility plan for the district, which included a new K-8 school and an addition to the high school. These schools are the modern, state-of-the-art facilities that benefit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, they are the kind of schools that every child in America deserves.

The district also received a 1998 fire safety grant totaling $30,000 to install fire alarms, improve accessibility, and upgrade electrical systems throughout the district.

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 entire community for their dedication and hard work.

**CRESTON 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 moments today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Creston Community School District, and to report on their participation in a Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the 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 Federal grants. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

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World War II Memorial that was built to honor the 16 million Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners who served our Nation during World War II.

With the strong belief that everything good in his life is because of these courageous veterans, Mr. Miller began a campaign to send every World War II veteran from Henderson County to Washington, DC to see the memorial, which opened in 2004. World War II veterans who had not already been to the memorial and had physical or financial limitations were given the chance to take the trip. The community came together to raise the money to fund the project. Many community groups, businesses, and individuals contributed to this project, allowing these brave veterans to travel to Washington to see the memorial that was built in their honor. Mr. Miller, the Honor Air volunteers and contributors have all given something back to those for whom the debt can never be repaid. By the time it makes its last flight, 626 veterans from Hendersonville, NC will have made the Honor Air trip.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in expressing my appreciation and admiration for Jeff Miller, who made it possible for so many of our veterans to have the opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF U.S. NAVY PETTY OFFICER MATTHEW J. O'BRYANT

Mr. BONNER, Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember the life and conspicuous service of Petty Officer Third Class Matthew J. O'Bryant. Petty Officer O'Bryant was killed in a terrorist attack at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, a cowardly act that claimed the lives of 53 people including two members of our country's armed forces. Matthew was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

A native of Theodore, AL, Matthew O'Bryant excelled in the ROTC program at Theodore High School and was assigned to Navy Information Operations Command at Fort Meade, MD, as an cryptologic technician.

As a cryptologic technician, Petty Officer O'Bryant was in charge of maintaining the advanced communications and technological equipment so vital to America's success in 21st century warfare.

Petty Officer O'Bryant's brother, along with two of his cousins, had enlisted to serve in the Navy. Coming from a Navy family, Petty Officer O'Bryant was deployed to Pakistan for only 30 days before the blast that took his life. Matthew's father, R. G. O'Bryant, remembered him by saying, "There were four of us in the Navy. Well, there's three of us now. I guess there will always be four of us because he will always be in the Navy."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment to reflect on the many things that have helped to make this the greatest country on the face of the planet. And to that end, we must acknowledge that soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines like Petty Officer O'Bryant deserve the highest praise for their unselfish service and, in this particular case, for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD Cramer AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF HON. ROY BLUNT OF MISSOURI

In the House of Representatives

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, Terry came to the U.S. House of Representatives a successful businessman and is now heading back to Alabama as a successful congressman. No doubt that Terry knows the value of a hard day's work. He's been a farmer, an Air Force officer, a small business owner, and now a newspaperman. He served the people of Alabama's second district, stretching from Auleage to Dothan, for the last 16 years with that same work ethic, and they have benefited from his service.

Terry came to Congress as an intelligence expert from his days in the Air Force and an agriculture expert from his days on the farm—skills he put to good use sitting on the Agriculture, Armed Services and Select Intelligence committees.

I'm going to miss Terry when Congress reconvenes next year. The whole House will miss his voice, keen insight and ability to get things done. His retirement is a blow to us in Missouri, and a small business owner, a newspaperman, a farmer, but no one again in the Alabama Second District. I'm sure that Alabama is going to miss him, but no one again in the Alabama Second District.

AUTHORIZED FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW INSTITUTE FOR VICTIMS UNDER CRIME VICTIMS LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS PART OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF 1990

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

In the House of Representatives

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, I rise today in support of S. 3641, "A bill to authorize funding for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to provide support for victims of crime under Crime Victims Legal Assistance Programs as a part of the Victims of Crime Act of 1990."
The plate says disabled veteran. The tag number states simply that Robinson was and remains in this city: "VFW 1."

CONGRATULATING MISSION
SPECIALIST MICHAEL T. GOOD

HON. BETTY SUTTON
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Sunday, September 28, 2008

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mission Specialist Michael T. Good on his upcoming trip into space aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis.

Mission Specialist Good is one of seven astronauts who will fly on the shuttle’s fifth and final mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope. This 11-day flight will include five spacewalks to make repairs to the telescope, extending its life into the next decade.

Mission Specialist Good is a native of Broadview Heights, Ohio, in the 18th Congressional District. He attended Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, located in Brecksville, Ohio, which is also located in my congressional district. His wife Joan is also from Broadview Heights. The couple has three children, Bryan, Jason, and Shannon.

Mission Specialist Good is a distinguished graduate of the University of Notre Dame with both a B.S. and M.S. in Aerospace Engineering.

As a colonel in the United States Air Force, he has logged over 2,100 hours in more than 30 different aircraft.

Good was selected as a mission specialist by NASA in July 2000. Following 2 years of training and evaluation he was assigned technical duties in the Astronaut Office Advanced Vehicles Branch and the Space Shuttle Branch.

On October 14, 2008, at approximately 10:19 p.m., Mission Specialist Michael Good and the crew of the Space Shuttle Atlantis will launch from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Once again, I rise to express my congratulations and best wishes for Brecksville, Ohio’s Mission Specialist Michael Good. Best wishes for a safe and productive journey.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE REVITALIZING CITIES THROUGH PARKS ENHANCEMENT (RECIPE) ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Sunday, September 28, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I reintroduce legislation, the Revitalizing Cities Through Parks Enhancement, RECIPE, Act, that would establish a $10 million grant program for qualified, nonprofit, community groups, allowing them to lease municipally-owned vacant lots and transform these areas into parks. Parks and gardens created with the grants will not only provide safe places to gather, but will increase property values as well. The grants will be available from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to groups who have met standards of financial security, and who have histories of serving their communities. To further ensure that these grants are used to make lasting positive changes, land improved and made into open community space under this legislation must be available for use as open space from the government for at least 7 years.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. EARL POMEROY
OF NORTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Sunday, September 28, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, 2008 marks the 30th anniversary of the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI). I rise to congratulate them on their three decades of important work and the unique role they continue to serve for us here in Congress, the news media, and the public.

EBRI was created in response to enactment of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the major Federal law that still governs private-sector retirement and health plans today. EBRI’s purpose was the—

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Sunday, September 28, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber for rollcall vote 656 on September 28, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."
October 15, 2008

To: Dallas L. Salisbury, the EBRI staff and Members

On behalf of the Urban Institute—which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year—I want to congratulate EBRI for its record of accomplishment over the past three decades.

Few areas of private and public policy are more important than employee benefits to individuals' security and the well being of the nation's economy. And yet, because of the complexity and variability of benefits, many have little understanding of this area.

Faced with this challenge, EBRI has become the premier organization educating and enlightening policy makers, the media, analysts and the public on the changing state of employee benefits and related policy issues and options. EBRI is the leading source of high quality, comprehensible information and data on work-related benefits. When one wants sophisticated, objective analysis of benefit issues, EBRI is the first place one looks. EBRI's surveys and original research have served to inform other analysts working on benefit issues and helped to guide their research agendas.

Because of their high quality and non-partisan, non-advocacy stance, policy makers and the media appropriately turn to EBRI's staff and leadership for analysis and insight into future benefit trends and clear thinking about the policy proposals that are being debated.

Public and private benefit policy has been significantly strengthened and rationalized over the past three decades through EBRI's many contributions. But the organization's importance will be even more critical in the decades ahead as the nation's economy is transformed and the population ages.

We at the Urban Institute extend our best wishes to EBRI as it celebrates its 30th year and looks forward to the formidable challenges that lie ahead.