

EBRI News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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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

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

Additional information on EBRI and its 30th anniversary is available at www.ebri.org , including a commemorative program book at www.ebri.org/

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S10473

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 1,800 aircraft. The company's jets have been used to train NASA crew members, transport top Government officials, 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 just 100 employees in 1967 to more than 6,000 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 7-year, \$400 million-plus Long-Range Facilities Master Plan that includes at least 1,100 new jobs.

I am delighted to recognize the golden anniversary of Gulfstream 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 the great State of 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 EBRI, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. EBRI is a well-known, nonpartisan research institution providing invaluable analysis, briefings, and publications on health and retirement issues, which are critically important to both America's workers and the employers that sponsor these benefits. 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. On EBRI's anniversary, I wish to register my appreciation for its work and my admiration for its commitment to issues relating to employee benefits. I commend EBRI for the valuable contribution the institution has made to policymaking in the all-important areas of retirement, health, and economic security, and wish EBRI continued success in the future.●

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY
EDUCATION

I would like to take just a few minutes 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 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 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 life 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 superintendent Harrison Cass, Jr., former superintendents Marty Lucas and John Perdue, the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Bettendorf Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Barry Anderson, vice president Jeannine Crockett, Paul Castro, Barb Ehrmann, Melinda Duncan Foreman, Betsy Justis, Scott Tinsman and former board members Debbie Roski, Richard Wahlstrand, Dean Arney, Tom Luton, Kathy Weigle, and Steve Mayer.

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.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Bettendorf Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

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 minutes 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 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 Creston 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 befit 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 \$60,862 to install fire alarms, improve accessibility, and update 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



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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 offered 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, 625 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.

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE 30TH ANNIVERSARY—TRIBUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, among the key areas of jurisdiction for the Education and Labor Committee are employee benefits—specifically, retirement and health benefits—that are so important to the economic security of American workers. Over the years, Congress has passed various laws designed to protect and strengthen the health and pension benefit programs that millions of American workers and retirees depend on.

Congress needs timely and objective data in order to determine and ensure that these critical programs are delivering needed benefits. When Government data is not available, one of the most valuable resources we have to help us understand what is happening in these areas is the nonpartisan and nonprofit Employee Benefit Research Institute, EBRI, which marks its 30th anniversary this year.

EBRI is a rare organization in Washington: It does not take policy positions and it does not lobby—its mission is to provide objective, accurate, reliable research. One of the reasons its work gets attention and is respected is because EBRI does not have an ideological agenda and it does not try to “spin” the numbers. Because EBRI is a non-advocacy organization, legislators on both sides of the aisle can use its work with confidence.

EBRI also has important educational initiatives, in particular its “Chose to Save” program, which has produced and distributed award-winning public service announcements designed to help Americans wake up to the need for saving. This campaign also provides

valuable tools so workers can quickly and easily determine a “Ballpark Estimate” of how much they need to save, and gives them pointers on how to start saving and where to go for help.

EBRI was created partly as a result of the enactment in 1974 of ERISA, the major Federal law governing health and retirement benefits, because employers needed objective, reliable information about benefit trends. Much has changed since then, both in the benefits that American workers receive, and in the Federal laws that govern those benefits. EBRI's work has helped lawmakers, plan sponsors, workers, and the news media understand current trends and how proposed legislative changes are likely to affect the benefits system.

EBRI has been guided by Dallas Salisbury, its president and chief executive officer. Mr. Salisbury has been an important analyst and contributor to national public policy decision making on employee benefits. His thoughtful and often prescient analyses have aided lawmakers throughout the years.

EBRI's research provides information that is critical to the decisions made by public policymakers. As EBRI celebrates its 30th anniversary, I want to thank them for decades of quality work. We look forward to their continued research and analysis in the future.

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

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember the life and courageous service of United States Navy Petty Officer Third Class Matthew J. O'Byrant.

Petty Officer O'Byrant 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 from Islamabad.

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 a 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. At his funeral, Matthew's brother, Lawrence, 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 upon 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, sail-

ors, 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.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Petty Officer Matthew O'Bryant. We should also remember his wife, Bridgett O'Bryant; his parents, Barbara and Tommy O'Bryant; his two sisters, Janet O'Bryant and Nancy O'Bryant; his brother, Lawrence O'Bryant; and his other relatives and many friends.

Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

May Matthew rest in peace. He was without question a true American hero.

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 one doubts that TERRY knows the values of a hard day's work. He's been a farmer, an Air Force specialist, a small business owner and newsman. He served the people of Alabama's second district, stretching from Autauga down 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 work ethic, keen insight and ability to get things done. His retirement is a blow to those in Washington that know and rely on him, but if anyone deserves our thanks for a job well done it is certainly my friend and longtime colleague TERRY EVERETT.

AUTHORIZE 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 1984

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, 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



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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — *Extensions of Remarks*

E2151

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 13th 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—

as it is today—to conduct objective, reliable research on income security issues so that policymakers and the public would have the best possible information when making decisions on these issues.

EBRI is an extremely rare organization in this town: It does not take policy positions, and it does not lobby. Rather than trying to tell Congress and the Federal Government what we should do on health and retirement issues, instead it 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 EBRI is nonpartisan, its data and analyses are trusted and used by Members of both sides of the aisle. As we in Congress continue to address the important health- and retirement-related challenges facing our country, it is extremely important that we have a reliable source of information to turn to like EBRI. And in a town as transient as Washington, EBRI also is remarkable for the depth of knowledge, institutional memory, and tenure of its first and only CEO, Dallas Salisbury, who has led the institute ever since it opened its doors 30 years ago. The institute has never wavered from its original mission of objective research and education.

I offer my congratulations to EBRI on its three decades of service. With health care and retirement coverage becoming ever-more important to our constituents, and the policy choices becoming ever-more complex and difficult, we will need their contributions and knowledge more than ever in the years to come.

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 26, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER
President

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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.

