

“From Small Town Iowa to Feeding the World, Norman Borlaug is a True American Pioneer”

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Wednesday, 26 March 2014 10:26

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Washington, D.C. – Congressman Dave Loebsack made the following statement today at the unveiling of the statue of Norman Borlaug that will represent Iowa in the U.S. Capitol.

“From growing up in a small agricultural town in Iowa boasting a one room schoolhouse to saving one billion lives by fathering the ‘Green Revolution,’ Norman Borlaug is a true American pioneer. As someone who taught students about developing countries, the work of Norman Borlaug often played a key role in explaining how many of these countries were able to propel their economies forward. Dr. Borlaug is an example of someone who inspired younger generations to appreciate the incredible role that science and agriculture play in our everyday life.

“His Iowa roots, compassion, and ability to think big not only changed the world, but showed thousands of Iowans that they too could change the world. I am proud that people from all over the world who visit the Capitol can now learn more about Dr. Borlaug’s efforts to feed the hungry and promote peace.”

The statue unveiling was held in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol, today, March 25, which is also National Ag Day and the 100th anniversary of Borlaug’s birth. The statue of Borlaug will join others in the collection that honors men and women who are, according to the 1864 law creating the collection, “illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services such as each state may deem to be worthy.” Each state was invited to contribute two statues to be housed in National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. Dr. Borlaug’s statue is replacing a statue of James Harlan, which will now be housed in Mt. Pleasant at Iowa Wesleyan. The collection, now totaling 100 statues, is currently located throughout the U.S. Capitol and the Capitol Visitor Center. ###