



MEDIA RELEASE



To: Ames Media
From: Ames Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development / Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2009
Re: Senator Grassley's Ambassador Tour

Senator Grassley brings Ambassador Tour to Ames; 56 countries hosted

Ames, Iowa – Day three of Senator Charles Grassley's Ambassador Tour arrived in Ames on Wednesday evening just as the sun returned to the sky. Two busloads of ambassadors and other high-ranking diplomats from more than 50 countries disembarked at Reiman Gardens for a reception, dinner and program in their honor.

Senator Grassley, a senior senator in Iowa and Washington DC, has coordinated a bi-annual tour on Iowa communities since 1986. Designed to provide foreign diplomats an opportunity to learn more about the state's business, agriculture, education and culture, the Tour helps facilitate greater economic collaboration between Iowa and countries from around the world. This year was the first in several the Tour was brought back to Ames for one of the overnight stays.

According to Senator Grassley's staff, one of the most enjoyable aspects of the tour is the opportunity for Iowans to host the diplomats in their homes. Civic leaders and members of the Ames business community stepped up to host individuals and couples from countries ranging from Angola to Yemen.

The Ames hosts joined the international guests and Senator Grassley at Reiman Gardens for the Wednesday night event. After touring the gardens, everyone enjoyed a dinner catered by Hickory Park and Hy-Vee with beverages provided by Olde Main Brewing Company. A brief program featured welcomes from Ames Mayor Ann Campbell, ISU President Gregory Geoffroy, Congressman Tom Latham, Senator Grassley, Ambassador Luis Gallegos from Ecuador, and US Trade Representative and Cabinet Member Ron Kirk. In addition, internationally renowned bass-baritone singer Simon Estes performed four songs for the audience.

The tour encompassed many communities throughout the state and included overnight stays in Carroll and Fort Dodge before coming to Ames. Prior to the event at Reiman Gardens, the group toured ISU's Virtual Reality Applications Center. Thursday morning the tour continued to Nevada to tour Lincoln Way Energy before heading to Marshalltown, Ankeny and Des Moines.

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