

his family may have been residents of Rockcastle County instead of Laurel County.

Grigsby likes to joke about how his family came to Laurel County.

"They were originally from Perry County. My grandparents and parents were part of the migration north to find jobs in the late 50s and early 60s," he said.

In 1968 his parents decided to come back to Kentucky from Michigan. "I joke, they were moving back to Hazard and ran out of gas in London and just stayed," Grigsby said. "But they didn't."

Before the Pomp and Circumstance of his 1984 graduation played out, Grigsby had joined the Marines. He graduated from Laurel County High School in June and reported to boot camp on Halloween Day.

He referred to his stay in the Marine Corps as the "best worst" thing that has ever happened to him.

"It gave me the opportunity to get out and see a little bit of the world," he said. "I always wanted to be a part of something. If I was going to do anything, I wanted to be the best at it that I could. And the Marines have the reputation of being the toughest 'the elite.' You join the Army, you join the Navy, but you become a Marine."

While at Parris Island in boot camp he was selected for the Yankee White Program.

"I was stationed at Marine Barracks '8th and I' in Washington, D.C., the oldest post in the Marine Corps," he said. "While waiting on White House security clearance I got selected to go to the Pentagon. I was there for three months working with Casper Weinberger on a security detail for the secretary of defense."

Once Grigsby received his clearance he was stationed at Camp David for two years.

"We primarily worked internal security for the camp," he said. "I worked my way up through the ranks to the position of platoon sergeant. And that put me in direct contact with President Ronald Reagan."

Grigsby recalls eating lunch with President Reagan once and remembers how nice the event was. "He was the most wonderful person. There was no faultness to him. Sometimes you meet people and they put on this air of caring, but I felt like he genuinely cared about the people."

In 1988 Grigsby was discharged from the Marines and considers himself lucky.

"I remember vividly, in 1990 we were in the middle of Operation Desert Shield. My trucking partner and I were going to Union City, Tenn., to get a load of tires for Toyota. We were about Elizabethtown when the radio announced that we were taking fire and that was the start of Desert Storm. I was very fortunate that I got in and out before it began."

After his stay in the Marines, Grigsby worked as an auctioneer, long-haul truck driver, police officer and a security officer.

"While in the marines I attended auctioneer school and tried my hand at that," he said. "Vernon Holt, a local agent with Century 21, sponsored me to get my apprentice license. I went to California to help a cousin get his auction business started. But I never really pursued it."

But, while 'trying his hand' at it Grigsby met his wife, Bobbie.

"I was working as an auctioneer at the stockyard in Richmond, trying to get my foot in the auctioneer door. She was there with her family buying horses and I met her at the diner. On August 17, we will be married 21 years."

When auctioneering didn't work out, Grigsby decided he would like to learn how to drive a tractor-trailer. He went to truck driving school and long-hauled for about three years traveling to any place that was east of Denver, Colo., delivering mostly Toyota parts.

After being laid off from truck driving, he was hired as an officer for the London Police Department. While there he was one of the first officers to implement the narcotics K-9 Unit.

After leaving the London Police Department he once again decided to truck. This time buying his own vehicle.

"I went back on the road for financial opportunities," he said, "hauling whatever needed to go wherever for seven years. My claim is I've hauled everything from asbestos to zucchini."

"I liked seeing the country, but it was difficult for me. By this time we had two of our five children, and we were a close family. It was hard to be gone. There were things at home that needed my attention. In 2002 I got out of the trucking business and went to work at the United States Courthouse."

Currently Grigsby is the lead court security officer. He is the supervisor of a crew of men that are special deputies U.S. Marshals. "We primarily provide security for the courthouse, the judges and visitors."

Grigsby said on a couple of occasions they have had some excitement.

"We have been fortunate. It is not something that occurs every day. But there is a chance that it could happen," he added. "Security work is not what we do, it is what we can do and what we will do. We put our lives on the line every day. It is kind of like police work, but then it is not. In security you have to be ready to go from zero to all out in a split second. But, I like the job. It has all the necessities—pay is good, home time is good."

Grigsby spends some of what spare time he has playing music.

"I have played music since I was nine years old," he said. "Music is a major part of my life and my family's lives."

Grigsby, a self-taught musician, plays the guitar, fiddle, mandolin and bass. His older children, Emily and Charlie, who have had a few lessons but are taught mostly by their Dad, play several instruments.

"And it will just be a matter of time before Sarah and Grace start playing," he said.

"They, Emily and Charlie, along with Sarah sing and Grace does some," he said. Grigsby and Bobbie also sing. They perform a wide variety of different music, but mostly gospel.

"Music has always been a part of my life. Some families play sports—basketball, baseball, cheerleading—we play music. And through our music we have been to Laurel Heights, Laurel Village, and assisted living homes playing and singing for the people. We also play at festivals, schools and our church, Corinth Baptist."

Grigsby feels his biggest achievement is his children—Emily, Charlie, Sarah, Grace and 10-month-old Danica.

When the interview was almost over, Grigsby referred to a scene in the movie "Evan Almighty."

"God contacts Evan to build an ark. There is one part where his wife, Joan, is upset because they are having to leave, and God appears to her and says 'If someone prays for patience, do you think God gives them patience? Or does he give them the opportunity to be patient? That stuck with me. The world would be a much better place if we were kinder to each other. We live in such a traumatic world. If we would just take the time to speak to someone at the store or on the street and just be friendly, that would be the difference. That's what I try to do, just be kind to others.'"

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, tomorrow, on the sixth annual Endangered Species Day, we as a nation have a

twofold opportunity. First, we have the chance to celebrate the successful recovery of a remarkable number of plant and animal species worldwide. Second, we have the opportunity to pause in acknowledgement of the hard work that still lies ahead of us on behalf of the nearly two thousand species that are endangered or threatened today.

Since its enactment in 1973, the Endangered Species Act, ESA, has helped to recover such iconic species as the gray whale, the peregrine falcon, and the bald eagle. In 1967, the bald eagle, one of our Nation's most recognizable symbols, was in danger from environmental contaminants, human intrusion, and other risk factors, and was listed for protection under the ESA. Through its careful, science-based approach, ESA management ultimately resulted in the successful recovery of bald eagle populations across the country. The bald eagle was delisted in 2007 and is now thriving. In the State of Maryland, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge in Maryland is home to a healthy, flourishing bald eagle population. More recently the gray wolf, which was completely extirpated from our Northern Rockies States, is now recovering thanks to the careful protective management of the Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act.

The ESA provides resources and structure that are critical to our ability to improve the outcomes for threatened and endangered species. Since becoming law 38 years ago, with overwhelming support in the House of Representatives and unanimous support in the Senate, the ESA has been one of our Nation's most successful environmental statutes. The ESA not only improves outcomes for endangered and threatened species, it also improves local and regional economies. According to a 2006 Fish and Wildlife Service survey, wildlife-related recreation—meaning hunting, fishing and wildlife watching—generated more than \$122 billion in revenues in 2006. In my home State of Maryland, wildlife watching generated over \$1 billion in revenues in 2006, according to the same survey. This wildlife-related spending supports hundreds of thousands of jobs.

The Endangered Species Act, with its proven record of success in restoring species to health, remains a critically important tool in the protection of our natural environment. At this moment, nearly 2,000 animal and plant species are endangered or threatened worldwide—the protections of the ESA are therefore as important as ever. This Endangered Species Day, even as we celebrate the successes of our Nation's conservation efforts, let us also remember and pledge to protect the robust, science-based legislation that made those successes possible.

OFFSHORE PRODUCTION AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the importance of responsibly increasing our domestic drilling and energy production in order to secure America's energy future. Montana is home to the Bakken oil and gasfield, the largest technically recoverable onshore oilfield in the United States. In 2007, production from Elm Coulee field in Richland County averaged 53,000 barrels per day—more than the entire State of Montana a few years earlier. That number is expected to rise significantly as new pathways to market are put in place. Advancements in oil and gas technology are also making it possible for us to extract resources that just 5 years ago no one thought was possible.

I will continue to push responsible development of the Bakken Field. Oil and gas development in the Bakken region has applied new technology originally designed to enhance natural gas development and turned a small field into the largest onshore field in the United States. Our job in the Senate should be to encourage these kinds of innovations. Our job in the Senate should be to make sure that in places like the Bakken, where it makes all the sense in the world to develop, government agencies approve and permit exploration and development in a timely fashion. The Bakken is a strong example of where Montana is contributing to increasing American-made energy.

The Outer Continental Shelf is another good example. We can and should encourage investment in this area so that we increase production to meet our needs as the consumer of 25 percent of the world's produced oil. We must also continue to explore for new resources—and prove those—since as of now we only have 3 percent of the world's reserves.

Unfortunately, there are a number of proposals supported by my colleagues across the aisle who do not responsibly balance the U.S. energy needs with our responsibility to protect our coastal communities and other economic livelihoods. Specifically, S. 953 does the exact opposite of what we need to safely and responsibly increase American production.

The systemic lack of oversight in the Minerals Management Service was a critical component of last year's Deepwater Horizon explosion and 3-month oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The failure of BP, Halliburton and others to follow safety requirements, and the failure of the Federal Government to enforce these requirements, has cost our country tens of millions of dollars. These irresponsible oversights caused significant economic and environmental harm to an entire region.

In response to this disaster, the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling stated as their first finding that “the explosive loss of the Macondo

well could have been prevented.” The report key findings also state, “Fundamental reform will be needed in both the structure of those in charge of the regulator oversight and their internal decision making process to ensure their political autonomy, technical expertise, and the full consideration of environmental protection concerns.”

S. 953 does the exact opposite of what the offshore drilling commission recommended by encouraging lax oversight by setting an arbitrary timeline of 60 days, allowing insufficient time for in-depth analysis. Let's be honest: the practical effect of that policy would be for certain administrations to approve permits that they should not approve while other administrations reject permits that could ultimately have been approved. This kind of rush to judgment will only inject even more politics into our energy debates. As the Senate has shown time and again, that is the last thing we need.

No, it is time for a little less politicking and a little more common sense in our energy policy. Yet this bill also forces the Department of Interior to reissue leases without any environmental review—the opposite of the full environmental consideration the BP oilspill commission suggested. When a group of folks get together and tell you how to prevent another Gulf of Mexico disaster, the commonsense thing to do is listen to them.

I believe there are responsible measures we can take and should take to increase domestic production, which makes us more energy secure and helps to insulate us from unpredictable ups and downs in world production. We need to dedicate resources to efficiently and effectively processing drilling applications. But tying the agencies' hands behind their backs with arbitrary deadlines or forcing them to hold lease sales and not process environmental reviews does not address the problem.

If the Deepwater Horizon disaster proved anything, it is that cutting corners doesn't promote our economy or protect our environment. Encouraging regulators to look the other way or deny permits because they cannot fully consider them is antithetical to good governance. That is not good for American production, American jobs or American energy security.

PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to speak about a devastating illness, pancreatic cancer, and what we in the Senate can do to address this serious problem. Winston Churchill once said, “Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have.” I could not agree more.

Pancreatic cancer is a serious disease that affects over 42,000 Americans each year. We have made great strides to expand cancer research and improve treatments, but unfortunately pan-

creatic cancer research is where breast cancer research was in the 1930s. The survival rate for pancreatic cancer today is the same as it was 30 years ago. We have little understanding of the causes, no methods of early detection, few effective treatments, and single-digit survival rates.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth-leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and 75 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within a year of diagnosis; the 5-year survival rate is barely 5 percent.

According to a recent report on cancer trends, death rates for pancreatic cancer are increasing while death rates for all cancers combined, including the four most common cancers, prostate, breast, lung and colorectal, continue to decline. It is time to do something about this tragedy, this death sentence for tens of thousands of Americans.

It is time to make a serious commitment to ensure that advances in pancreatic cancer research keep up with the progress we have seen in fighting other types of cancers. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of S. 362, the Pancreatic Cancer Research and Education Act, introduced by the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. WHITEHOUSE. This legislation is designed to address the shortfalls in pancreatic cancer research by developing a comprehensive, strategic annual plan for pancreatic cancer research and awareness activities.

The Pancreatic Cancer Research and Education Act would better target research, develop a cadre of committed scientists, promote physician and public awareness and require accountability for these efforts. The bill creates a 5-year pilot project for the highest mortality cancers, defined as those with 5-year survival rates below 50 percent. It builds upon the Specialized Programs of Research Excellence, SPORes, that exist for breast and prostate cancer by designating at least two additional pancreatic cancer SPORes.

Finally, the bill promotes physician and public awareness through partnerships between the National Institutes of Health, NIH, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and patient advocacy organizations to develop a primary care provider education program.

The most important thing that we in Congress can do for those who have pancreatic cancer is to resolve to find new ways to improve treatments for those suffering from this devastating disease.

The health of our citizens is not a Democratic or Republican issue, it is an American priority and one we must all champion. The well-being of our country depends on the well-being of our citizens.

I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in supporting S. 362, the Pancreatic Cancer Research and Education Act.