

is that the town devotes about 70 percent of its budget to its schools. It is in a county where about half the citizens—50 percent of the citizens of 100,000 in Blount County—have a library card. It is a place where—at least it was when I was there—if you get in trouble at school, you get in trouble at home. I can remember being called to the principal's office and administered pretty stern discipline when I was in the eighth grade, and I received the same treatment when I got home, even though my father was chairman of the school board. So there was none of this business about parents blaming the teacher and the principal for what the child had done.

But I think the school principal, who is new to the town—Greg Roach—said it best. I saw him being interviewed at half time during the football game last Saturday night.

He was asked: How did this happen? How did you have this champion football team more than any other school in the State and then you are named the best school district in the State? How can you do that all at once?

He said: Well, it is a town school and when something happens, everybody shows up.

Well, they showed up at Tennessee Tech for the football game last Saturday night, but they also show up at the annual academic awards banquets. I have been to those, and over the last several years it is more like a sporting contest, with this student winning the Spanish championship and this one doing well in Latin and getting the same kinds of honors, awards, scholarships and pats on the back that football players do.

This emphasis on excellence in education and athletics is not something new to Maryville, TN. My grandfather sold his farm in the county to move into town so that my father could go to school, and my aunt said my father felt as though he had died and gone to heaven when he had that opportunity. My father, who was an elementary school principal after World War II, ran for the city school board with four other men and women and they stayed on the board as a ticket. They were elected every year as a ticket. They stayed there for 25 years, with the whole objective of improving the quality of the education in the Maryville city school system.

While all that was going on, my mother taught in the preschool program—really the only one in our county at that time, although I think Mrs. Pesterfield also had a preschool program. But Mrs. Alexander's—I used to call it lower institution of learning—had 25 3- and 4-year-olds and 25 5-year-olds in the afternoon. She was lobbying the whole time to the school board on which my father served to put her out of business and start a public kindergarten, which they eventually did in our State.

I used to talk about the Maryville schools and the community of Mary-

ville when I was running for President 20 years ago, and my friend, Bill Bennet, who was also a U.S. Education Secretary, was chairman of my campaign. He would say to me: LAMAR, not every community in America is Maryville, TN, and I know that. I know that. But I think a lot more could be. There are a lot of theories about what makes a good school, but I think Principal Roach may have it about right. It is a town school, and when something happens, everybody shows up.

I think our new speaker of the house in Tennessee, Beth Harwell, had it right too when she observed that our State legislature finished work early. They had some disagreements but worked well together, got some results, and she said they learned in kindergarten to work well together, and that maybe that would be a good lesson for Washington, DC.

Well, I think Speaker Harwell is right. The example of the Maryville football team and the Maryville students is also right. When everybody shows up when something is going on, and when people work well together, good things happen. Working well together—in our case, bipartisanship—is not a goal, just as working well together was not the goal of the football team. They wanted the championship. It was not the goal of the students. They wanted the scholarship. But they knew they had to work well together as a community to get a result.

They got a championship football team. They got the best school district in the State. Perhaps that is a lesson for the Senate as we seek to take the very difficult responsibilities we have and earn the respect of the men and women of this country who hired us and sent us here to solve problems.

That is why today I would like to celebrate the success of the championship football team of Maryville High School and the championship school district of Maryville, TN, and suggest their lesson of working well together might be a good lesson for us.

I yield the floor.

#### PRESERVING ELECTRONIC RECORDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was pleased to see that the President of the United States has issued a memorandum directing executive branch agencies to reform their records management. The goal is to improve performance, promote accountability, and increase government transparency by better documenting agency actions and decisions. The President's memorandum noted that the current Federal records management system is based on an outdated approach involving paper and filing cabinets, and it outlines a framework for moving the records management process into the digital age by including plans for preserving electronic records. This issue was highlighted in a recent report of the National Archives and Records Ad-

ministration, which warned that Federal agencies have done a poor job of managing the increased volume and diversity of information that comes with advances in information technology.

I commend the President for taking this action, and I am pleased to say that the U.S. Senate is already carrying out the practices for its own records that he has recommended for the executive branch. Over the last 10 years, the Senate has preserved an average of 3,000 to 4,000 feet of textual records for each Congress. Those paper records have been supplemented by 2.5 terabytes of electronic records. The Senate's electronic records are being preserved at the Center for Legislative Archives within the National Archives.

With guidance provided by the Secretary of the Senate, 75 percent of all Senate committees are now engaged in archival preservation of their digital records. Several Senate committees have responded to the increased volume and complexity of electronic records by hiring professionally trained archivists to appraise, describe, and transfer these materials.

The operations of every Senate office have been transformed over the last decade. Our greater reliance on electronic communication and records systems has increased the need for preservation planning. Just as the paper records of the U.S. Senate, dating back to 1789, have been carefully archived, records generated digitally in the 21st century will require diligent attention if they are to survive for future use.

#### TRIBUTE TO EARL AND OPAL WILLIAMS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I stand today to pay tribute to a fine and blessed couple, Mr. and Mrs. Earl and Opal Williams of Laurel County, KY.

Earl Williams and Opal Morgan grew up less than 20 miles apart Earl attended Bush High School located east of London, KY, and Opal attended Hazel Green High School west of London—yet their paths never crossed at the time.

However, when Earl was 24 years old he set out for Kinzua, OR, some 2,500 miles away where he began working for the Kinzua Pine Mills Company. "In those days you could not get any work locally, you had to leave home and usually go a long ways to find work," Earl recalls.

As fate would have it, a short time later Earl and Opal met after Opal traveled to Kinzua to visit her father, who was also employed by the Kinzua Pine Mills Company. Eventually, Opal took a job in a local factory and decided to stay in Kinzua. "Our courtship was about normal," Opal says. "We dated for about a year and got married December 22, 1949, in Goldendale, Washington."

In December of 1954, Earl and Opal returned home to Laurel County, KY, after spending 2 years in Indianapolis, IN. Earl began a career with Water

Softener Rental, a company Earl bought into and then later purchased outright from his partners, while Opal stayed busy making a wonderful home in the house the couple built on the "Old Williams' Farm," a house Earl is especially proud of. "This farm belonged to the Williams family during the Civil War," he boasts.

Earl and Opal were married for 7 years before they were blessed with four children, sons David, Joe, and Phillip, and daughter Amber. The couple is not shy about explaining that their children have been the highlight of their lives. "We enjoyed our boys," the couple says, "but we were ready for a girl when Amber came along."

These days Earl and Opal stay busy tending to their three grandchildren and one great-grandson several days a week, and Earl still drops by the office daily to "check on" his sons. The couple, who have been married for over 61 years, claim that their faith and dedication to their church, Lick Fork Community Missionary Baptist, has played a major role in the success of their lives and marriage over the years—the two have been members of the church for over 50 years. "It has been a good life," Opal says. "We got married 61 years ago to stay married. We never thought of divorce like young couples do today."

Mr. President, Earl and Opal Williams have shared an incredible journey together, and their faith in each other, their family, and their church has given them a wonderful story to share. Earl and Opal's life together serves as an inspiration to the people of Kentucky, and I wish them many years of further happiness. The Laurel County-area publication the Sentinel Echo recently published an article to share the Williams' story with the rest of our great Commonwealth. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo, Winter 2011]  
FINDING LOVE IN A FAR OFF PLACE  
(By Sue Minton)

Earl and Opal were not high-school sweethearts. They did not know each other as teenagers. Both grew up in Laurel County, on opposite ends of the county and attended rival high schools.

Earl Williams grew up east of London and attended Bush High School. Opal Morgan grew up west of London and attended Hazel Green High School.

Less than 20 miles separated the two. They may have seen each other at box suppers, the movies or social gatherings, but did not take notice.

"In those days you could not get any work locally, you had to leave home and usually go a long ways to find work," Earl said.

For 24-year-old Earl this was Kinzua, Oregon.

And it was in this lumber company-built town, 2,500 miles from home, that Earl did take notice of Opal.

The couple met in Kinzua where Earl was working for the Kinzua Pine Mills Company. "Kinzua, Oregon, was built by and for the Kinzua Pine Mills Company," Earl said. "It

was a company town, everything was owned by the company, all the stores, even the houses we lived in."

Opal went to visit her father, who also worked for the company, and stayed on after meeting Earl, getting a job in a local factory.

"Our courtship was about normal," Opal said. "We dated for about a year and got married Dec. 22, 1949, in Goldendale, Washington."

"About all there was to do in this little town was go to the movies," she said. "They showed the same movie all week. So we went once a week."

Opal recalls the company having a community building called "The Pass Time."

"On Saturday nights they had dances and on Sunday mornings the building was cleared out for church," she said. "We didn't care much about dancing; it was just being together in each other's company."

The couple returned to Laurel County in December 1954 after leaving Kinzua and spending about two years in Indianapolis, Indiana.

After returning home Earl went to work with Water Softener Rental. "I bought into the company in 1957 and later purchased the company from my partners," he said.

While Earl was building a successful business, Opal was making a home for the couple in the house they built on part of the Old Williams' Farm.

"This farm belonged to the Williams family during the Civil War," Earl said proudly.

Although their marriage and life was good, the couple wished for a baby.

"We were married seven years before this happened," Opal said.

"We were beginning to think we were not going to have any children."

When asked "what was an important milestone or event in their lives?" they answered simultaneously, "the boys."

"That was probably the highlight of our marriage," Earl said, "when the boys, David, Joe and Phillip, were born."

"Everyone said we changed completely when David was born," Opal said. "I don't know how we changed or how much, but Earl's mother said we did."

With only two years between the births of Joe and Phillip, Opal referred to this almost like raising twins.

"It would have been nice to have had a girl," Opal said. "But little boys are nice too, and I enjoyed my boys."

"But, we were ready for a girl when Amber came along," Earl said.

"We have three grandchildren, Amber, James and Matthew, and a great-grandson, Will," Opal added.

Earl and Opal said their marriage had not been different from most couples who have been married for many years. They don't have a magic formula to explain the success of their marriage. They just took their wedding vows seriously.

"We never thought of divorce like young couples do today," Opal said. "We got married 61-years ago to stay married. You have your differences but you work through them."

"They should try to work their problems out," Earl added.

"Couples should not be so quick to get a divorce. If everything does not fall into place for them, they'd get divorced," she added. "But there are some situations when a divorce is the only way."

Opal feels it is important for young wives to develop their own lives and interests. "Married couples should be able to work together, but women need their independence."

Their faith and dedication to their church, Lick Fork Community Missionary Baptist, where they have been members for more

than 50 years, has contributed to and played a major role in the success of their lives and marriage.

Although both are in good health, Earl has slowed down some since retiring, but still goes into the office daily "to check on the boys."

"It is nice having him home," Opal said. "Before he was always working at the business or the farm."

Opal spends three days a week enjoying and caring for great-grandson Will, the latest boy in the Williams' family.

When Will's mother, Amber, was asked to comment on her grandparents she said, "Eric and I were like them (referring to her grandparents), we were married seven years before Will came along. I think it is amazing to have been married for so many years and raised three sons that have been very successful. They were taught good work ethics (which) they are passing on to their children."

"It has been a good life," Opal said.

"We have had a good married life. It does not seem like 61 years; it has went by fast," Earl added.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, on December 7, 70 years ago, just before 8 in the morning local time, the first wave of 183 Japanese imperial aircraft descended upon the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor. A second wave of 170 aircraft followed to make sure that as much damage was done as possible. Within 2 hours, this unwarranted act of aggression left four U.S. Navy battleships, three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti aircraft training ship, one minelayer and 188 U.S. aircraft destroyed. The attack left devastation and havoc in its wake, taking the lives of 2,402 Americans and wounding 1,282. The Imperial Japanese Navy conducted this attack in order to limit U.S. military intervention capabilities in respect to Japanese imperial ambitions in the Pacific arena.

On that day that President Roosevelt so aptly said would "live in infamy," the Japanese Empire left something behind amongst the smoldering ruins of our Navy. They left behind a unified people in which they "awakened the beast." Out of the ashes of Pearl Harbor was reborn an even stronger American Navy, economy, and people.

For the younger generations of today, Pearl Harbor was a remote event in an era long gone. But to people like Army PFC. Merle Berdine, of Valparaiso, IN, who was sitting in the warm Hawaiian sunshine in front of his barracks at Fort Kamehameha that fateful Sunday morning, this act of aggression was an attack on the present. Pearl Harbor wasn't just part of his collective history that he shared with his nation, it became part of his personal history, shaping and defining him. At 7:54 a.m. Merle was a soldier going through his daily routine and finishing up his 1-year rotation at Pearl Harbor. At 7:55 a.m. he was a man under attack in a nation at war, digging a trench to withstand the bombardment and wondering whether he