

attacked, or were bearing children at such an early age that it caused damage to them, which has left them incontinent. Because of their incontinence, they were rejected by their families and neighbors and forced to walk hundreds of miles to sit in the roadway and pray that they could get inside that hospital for a surgery to repair this obstetric fistula. Many of them, because of the severity of their injuries, went through multiple surgeries, so they would sit on the road and wait for weeks, go in for a surgery, recover, and then go to the back of the line and start over for the next surgery. That was the reality of the hospital we visited. The scene was grim, even horrific. I still remember it well.

The reason I come to the floor today is that I made a return trip 2 years ago with Senator SHERROD BROWN to Goma and to look up this hospital—this small little oasis of hope—to try to find a handful of doctors who had been there when I visited just a few years before to see what had happened. I knew the hospital continued to treat desperately poor and brutalized women of the region who had suffered because of brutal rape and horrific violence.

For two decades now, this war has gone on, which has led to these victims. Regional militias have been fighting over these minerals I mentioned earlier, too often using rape as a weapon of war. According to the United Nations, the Democratic Republic of Congo is the worst place on Earth to be a woman. Regional war and rape leave an estimated 1,000 or more women assaulted every single day, so 1,000 or more rapes and sexual assaults every day, or 12 percent of Congolese women—one of eight—have been victims.

Yet there is hope. That small hospital I saw years ago gave me hope. The two people who started that hospital were Lyn Lusi and her Congolese husband Dr. Jo Lusi. They founded this hospital and called it Heal Africa. It is in one of the most forgotten and dangerous places on the Earth—Goma in eastern Congo. Lyn and her husband Jo provided a place of love, hope, rebirth, and healing.

There was a special on PBS's "NewsHour" recently that talked about Heal Africa, the hospital, and Lyn and Jo Lusi. They survive on \$13 million a year—a huge sum in that part of the world but by global standards or American standards hardly overwhelming. They get private grants from overseas. They provide antiretroviral drugs to those suffering from HIV, and they try to repair the bodies of these traumatized women.

The PBS "NewsHour" special on Heal Africa showed how the hospital works with the American Bar Association—and I want to give a shoutout to them for the work they are doing in Goma—to help rape victims pursue justice against their attackers. The country virtually has no judicial system. It is the only facility offering services to an

area population of 8 million people. Eight million people—I try to imagine one hospital in metropolitan Chicago, and that is what Heal Africa is in Goma.

In a moving "NewsHour" interview, Lyn Lusi said:

I have no illusions that we're dealing with major issues that are pulling Congo apart. There is so much evil and so much cruelty, so much selfishness, and it is like darkness. But if we can bring in some light, the darkness will not overcome the light, and that's where faith is, if you believe that. I don't think Heal Africa is going to empty the ocean, but we can take out a bucketful here and a bucketful there.

That sentiment and that hope—amid such cruelty and devastation—summed up Lyn Lusi's heroic work and the work of her husband.

As I reflect on what I saw in my first trip to Goma and what I saw when I returned, there was a dramatic change in just a few short years. This Heal Africa, which was barely existing, with a handful of surgeons, now has become a training hospital, with American universities taking part.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Goma and Heal Africa—this very hospital—to focus the world's attention on the region. The violence in eastern Congo is part of an ongoing conflict and about 3 million to 5 million people have died there so far—and it continues.

As I said, the roots of the conflict go back to the Rwandan genocide, the fight over minerals, elements of the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army—this Kony fella, who now people are starting to take notice of, a butcher in his own right—and elements of the Congolese Army who have been involved in human rights abuses.

There is a 20,000 member United Nations peacekeeping force in the region. It has been there for more than 10 years. I do not know how they can maintain any semblance of order without them. I salute the United Nations and those who are on the ground trying to keep a peaceful situation.

We saw sprawling refugee camps on broken lava, human rights workers who bravely documented horrific sexual violence, and dire poverty and warlords amid any semblance of a functional national or local government. Stopping at Lyn and Jo Lusi's hospital was the highlight of the trip.

When I was at Heal Africa on the second visit, I looked and saw a classroom filled with doctors. In fact, standing in front of them was a doctor from the University of Wisconsin. He was wearing a T-shirt which had the Wisconsin Badger on it. That is how I noticed it right off the bat. That is where my daughter went to college. He said: Yes, these are all students from medical schools around the United States, coming here to learn and to help.

Today, the hospital has trained 30 young Congolese doctors and many other health workers. They will have an important job for many years to come.

The reason I come to the floor is because we received sad news. Lyn Lusi—whose picture I show here in the Chamber with her husband Jo—was truly the heart and soul of Heal Africa in Goma. The two of them gave their lives for the poorest people on Earth. They struggled and persevered and conquered so many obstacles that many of us never ever see in life.

We just got word this morning that Lyn passed away from cancer. I wished to come to the floor and remember her and the great work she has done, which I am sure will be carried on by Jo her husband and all those who have been inspired by our visit.

To think that this woman would go to one of the poorest places on Earth and dedicate her life to help others should inspire every single one of us.

Lyn Lusi was like a mother to 400 employees of Heal Africa and to thousands and thousands of women, children, and even men, for whom Heal Africa was their only source of quality, professional medical care.

Her death this weekend due to cancer is a terrible loss for Goma, it is a terrible loss for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for Africa, and it is a terrible loss for every single one of us.

We need to make certain that what she gave her life to does not end but continues. We have to make certain her heroic efforts continue through her husband Jo and through all who have participated in making sure this lonely, tragic corner of the world is never forgotten.

I come to the floor to salute Lyn Lusi, her memory, her legacy, and her inspiration.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE MORTIMER FAMILY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to a family who has built their lives around the legacy of their heritage but has not turned a blind eye toward progress in their pursuit for a better future: the Mortimer family of the town of Salyersville, in Magoffin County, KY. Doug, his wife Sue, and their son Ritter have spent the greater part of their

lives investing in the future of their local community, to make it not only a better place for themselves, but for all of the residents of their beloved town.

The Mortimer family is active in several different areas of the business world, but they got their start in the media industry. Doug and Sue were photographers for WSAZ-TV in Huntington, WV, for quite some time. But what they found was that Huntington was too far away to be covering Magoffin County news. One day when Ritter told his parents that he wanted to do something “creative” instead of return to school, it sparked a crazy idea in Sue. She thought of the potential that a local TV news station could have, and she proposed her idea to her husband and son. They were sold. And YNT, “Your News Today,” took off.

Ritter is the sole proprietor of the 30-minute news show that started in 1998. He operates virtually every part of the show that airs every weekday. The family has found that the town cherishes their local news. Ritter believes its success comes from the fact that the material his news show covers can't be heard anywhere else in the world. The show covers serious topics such as fatal accidents as well as happier topics like Little League softball games, making it really local news for local people.

As the news station continues to grow, so do the other projects of the innovative Mortimer family. The family opened up two restaurant franchise locations, a Dairy Queen and a Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, on the city's new parkway. The location on the parkway was necessary to bring in business because of the heavy traffic flow in the area. But Doug and Sue remember a time when downtown Salyersville was the place to be. The downtown area has been slowly decaying in the town of Salyersville as businesses move to the parkway, downtown buildings get older, and times change.

Sue, however, believes that downtown still has a lot more potential than one may think. She has headed up a movement called Renaissance on Main that is devoted to renovating and restoring the historic buildings of the once-popular downtown area. The movement has already made major headway in the downtown area, thanks to the superb leadership of Mrs. Mortimer.

Whether it is delivering the news, serving up the day's meal, restoring a building to its former glory, or taking wonderful photographs, the Mortimers have a driving force behind every move that they make, and that force is family. The good of the family is at the heart of every decision they have made, the greatest of these probably being the decision to stay in the small town of Salyersville despite their many chances to move away. Doug, Sue, and Ritter believe they have an obligation to stay and serve the town in which they were born and raised, and they are

saddened when young and talented residents move away. The Mortimers are constantly fighting to better their community so that young ones are motivated to take a stake in their heritage and invest in the future of their hometown.

The Mortimer family treasures the past and embraces the future. They have come to understand the importance of their heritage and to respect the legacy of those before them. They have also realized that change is necessary, and if you embrace the future and prepare for it, you can be more in control of the changes brought on by time. The Mortimer family is passionate about bettering their local community, providing jobs, delivering information, and beautifying their surroundings—all things that contribute to helping their fellow residents of Salyersville. That is why I would like to take the time today to give them the credit they most assuredly deserve.

Mr. President, I would ask my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing the Mortimer family of Salyersville, KY, for honoring and preserving the past, as well as preparing and embracing for the future.

In 2011, an article was included in a publication released by the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce that highlighted the many accomplishments of this remarkable family over the years. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, 2011]

#### THE MORTIMERS—A GOOD PLACE TO CALL HOME

Spending time with Salyersville's Mortimer family—Doug, Sue, and their son, Ritter—is almost like being in two time periods simultaneously.

Doug and Sue live in the same home Doug's mother's parents lived in, and Ritter lives in the previous home of Doug's father's parents. Doug and Sue have decorated the first floor of their home with the charming period furnishings; they even have a family tree on display they've created from their study of Doug's North Carolina genealogy. They are enthusiastic supporters of the Magoffin County Historical Society and have recently bought two buildings downtown which they are planning to restore.

Then there's Ritter. Ritter owns his own television news broadcast, YNT (Your News Today), and is getting ready to stream his news show online. The innovative technology of today is something that was not even dreamed about in the era when the homes were built. The Mortimers have seamlessly embraced respect for the past and enthusiasm for the future.

Perhaps the most impressive dynamic among the family is their obviously deep love and admiration for one another, and not just among the three of them, but towards all their family. When asked why, with their talent and business acumen, they chose to stay in Magoffin County, Doug says without hesitation, “It's family first—nothing would matter if we couldn't be near family.”

Sue continues, “My siblings had left here and when we married, Doug said, ‘Look,

there's not going to be anyone here to take care of our parents when they get older. I've tried working away and I don't like it. It'll be hard, but I think we just need to stay here,’” she laughs. “Whatever it takes, he's going to stay here.”

So how did they make it in a small town in eastern Kentucky? “Sue and I have been photographers for 40 years,” Doug says, “since just after we were married. My dad was a photographer, too, so it was an outcrop of that.”

“Besides photography, we've been in the restaurant business about 25 years with the DQ and Lee's Famous Chicken on the Parkway,” Sue continues. “We've tried the oil business, an outcrop of my dad's business, which was always boom and bust. This whole area has been a big part of our success, especially our photography—it's not just our town and county.”

Years ago, both Doug and Sue were stringers for WSAZ-TV in Huntington, West Virginia. “During that time,” Sue explains, “if something newsworthy happened here, I'd grab a camera, cover the story, and stick it on a Greyhound bus to Huntington. Then when the bus service stopped it finished the whole thing because it wasn't worth the effort to drive it to Huntington—but we still had those connections. They'd call and say, ‘We're going to be up there next week and do three or four stories. Can you set something up for us?’ Well, then Ritter came around one day and said, ‘I'm not going back to school. It might sound crazy, but I know I have to do something creative, and I want to stay here.’ I thought, ‘Oh, gosh, if we try something and it fails, he could go into a tailspin and never find his way—that can be typical of young people. What could he do that was ‘guaranteed’ to succeed?’ Then I thought of the news thing. They both thought I was crazy.”

Doug agrees. “We both thought it sounded crazy, but Sue was right. She knew the potential.”

“Well,” Sue explains, “we had done videos of weddings, so we had a lot of the basic equipment.”

When asked why he decided to pursue TV, Ritter laughs and says, “Because my mother pushed me! It really was her idea.” He continues, “I had a camera and a VCR and a few pieces of equipment and just started doing it.”

YNT News, referred to locally as RittTV, first aired on November 2nd of 1998. It's carried on local cable network Howard's Cable, which goes into Magoffin, Morgan, and Johnson counties and averages 3,500 to 3,700 subscribers. The show is 30 minutes long and airs at 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. every weekday. It is now approaching 4,000 broadcasts.

Sue says, “When it started out, the local cable advertised it was coming maybe the week before it started, and people were already like, ‘When's the new show going to start?’ It was the buzz around here.”

“I don't really know what got it off the ground,” Ritter says, “but I think it's successful today because it's material no one can see any other way. I'll cover a court meeting or a child doing well in school. One family has told us they have a 92-year-old grandmother who lives where she can't get TV cable, so they record the show every night and take it to her so she can watch the show.”

Ritter does it all—covers and prepares the stories for the air, sells and produces the commercials, everything needed to get the story on and make a living doing it.

“No two days are alike,” Ritter says, “and that makes it interesting. One day I might do a reconstruction of a fatal accident. I'm also on the rescue squad, so Thursday I was up helping with emergency service. Then

after that's over, I do pictures and get back to the news. Another day, I'll cover a city council meeting, an ATV story, the softball championship game, or someone knocking down mailboxes!"

"He's very versatile. He's like his daddy—he can do just about anything," Sue says proudly. "All the new technology has made Ritter's station possible. The change from tapes has allowed him to work with less manpower."

The Mortimers' devotion to where they live goes beyond lip-service. They are very involved with the Renaissance on Main program, as well as personally investing in restoring downtown Salyersville.

"We bought a couple of buildings downtown that we're in the process of restoring," Sue says. "When Doug's parents were young, they had the Tavern Restaurant, and people would come and just sit and visit."

"Downtown was a hopping little place then. We'd like to see that again. It does make you stop and think about the need to revitalize downtown."

"The second floor of one of our buildings is going to be the Mortimer Inn—a B&B without the breakfast. There's no place here at all for families to stay who have sold the homeplace and want to come back for a visit, or whatever reason. Paintsville or Prestonsburg are the closest. So we'll try it and see how it works."

Doug explains, "The first floor in one building is rented to a gas company. The other—which we bought just about four months ago—we haven't done much with yet. We couldn't do a lot with the first as far as restoration, but the second one, we may be able to take it back to the original '30s when it was built; it's in good enough shape, we think, to do a true restoration. It was originally a grocery store—the oldest business in town—run by a woman named Grace Howard for as long as she could breathe. She owned the building and lived upstairs."

Sue continues the story. "Eight or 10 years ago, I put together the local Renaissance on Main group and I guess I took myself too seriously. When we saw the building, I thought, 'Oh, we can do something with that.' We put two businesses on the Parkway, but they had to be there to get the traffic. The strip is in the city limits, and the business and restaurant taxes do help different things in the city. Still, we've helped pull things out of the downtown area, so maybe what we're doing now will help bring it back."

"One of the greatest things downtown, I think," says Doug, "is the Pioneer Village, a project of the Magoffin County Historical Society led by Todd Preston. It's just amazing what a handful of people have done. Those are original homes and schools from out in the county that have been dismantled and reassembled. It's very active—open to tourists. At Christmas, we have a beautiful parade, and on that night the cabins are opened up, with fires in the grates, and people come in with banjos. It is really nice."

Sue talks further about the Renaissance on Main program. "Our headquarters are in an old stone building, probably the second location of Salyersville National Bank, and they donated it to Renaissance. They had already made some changes on the first floor added—sheetrock and took out tin—but now we've got it and we're looking at restoring it. We've gotten the money to finish the second floor. Behind the building, there's a garden area that we've had put in using stone from a two-story, hand-carved stone drug store that was being torn down. Renaissance saved all that stone and used it for the garden area and will use the rest for the base of the stage of a theatre."

"Behind the Judicial Center, there's a mural you can see on your way out of town."

We raised money through donations and picked out some historic locations to have painted on the wall. Renaissance also did a water feature when you first come into town," Sue finished. "We've really worked hard."

When looking at the future, it's clear to see that to the Mortimers, the history and heritage of the past is an important part of the future.

When Ritter is asked what lies ahead for him, he smiles and says, "I spend so much time getting stories, I don't have much time to look down the road."

Sue adds, "He was offered a top position at a Knoxville station several years ago, but moving doesn't interest him. A regional station called him also—he told them, 'You don't have enough money.'"

Doug says, "From all of us, we couldn't imagine living anywhere else—we just wouldn't. Right now, there are lots of changes happening. It may not happen overnight, but Salyersville and Magoffin County are only going to keep getting better. It's easy for a community to lose its way, but I think people are realizing they need to be involved and to claim it. When young, talented people think about leaving, we need to tell them, 'You're really going to be sorry if you leave; the bright lights of the big city aren't all they're cut out to be.' They need to understand they have a sort of obligation to stay around and help this region get better. After all, you can travel to wherever you want—you're not that far from Lexington or wherever you want to go—but this is a good place to call home."

"We've taken advantage of opportunities here and we've been successful and happy," Sue goes on. "Take Ritter, not many people his age can say 'I love what I'm doing and I'm making a living out of it—and I stayed home.'"

Ritter's sisters, Kim and Cindy, live in Atlanta and Birmingham. "Their growing-up years were in the South, but they and their children share the same enchantment for this area that we do."

In the midst of the Mortimers, it is easy to see they're a family with both roots and wings—and very comfortable with both.

#### TRIBUTE TO GERVIS SINGLETON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to a man who has shown the utmost compassion and care for Kentucky families who are grieving the death of a loved one. Mr. Gervis Singleton of Laurel County, KY, has been established in the funeral and mortuary services business for over 50 years. He has treated each and every family who has had the unfortunate need for his services as if they were his own.

Mr. Singleton owns Cumberland Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum and is a partner, along with his son, Craig Singleton, of Singleton Embalming Service. Gervis has experienced firsthand the grief process thousands of families have gone through during the death of their loved ones; his father passed away when he was only 11 years old. He believes that mourning is a very important part of the grieving process, and he takes pride in knowing that he is doing what he can to help them through such difficult circumstances. As someone who is experienced in an area that is new to many of us, he is more than happy to assist the

deceased's loved ones in whatever way he can.

Gervis knows that his job is very much linked to emotion, but as a mortician, he understands that he must block out his own emotions while working on the important process of restoring the deceased individual to more closely resemble how their loved ones remember them in life. He feels that if he can assist the family during their time of mourning, that they will more likely gain closure on the loss.

During his half century working in the business, he has seen fads come and go. Mr. Singleton remembers the day when it was almost a requirement to wear all black to a funeral, a custom that he has seen almost completely go away. He has also seen families transition to more cremations in the past few decades. Cremation is a cheaper, sometimes more convenient alternative. The increase in number of cremations sparked an idea for Mr. Singleton, and in 1995 he built a signature addition to the Cumberland Memorial Gardens. The result was a 360-crypt mausoleum along with accommodations for 48 cremains.

Mr. Singleton takes a walk through his 16-acre cemetery every day, and reflects on the lives of the many who have passed away and are buried there. It is inspiring to see someone who is so involved and compassionate in an industry that is an uncomfortable topic for some, but still a vital service. Although the passing of loved ones is something we may prefer not to think about, it will most assuredly befall upon each of us at some point in time, which is why knowing there are those like Gervis to help is a comforting thought. There is a need for individuals like Gervis Singleton, who are so deeply convicted to lend a helping hand in whatever way they can.

I would like to ask my Senate colleagues to join me in commemorating Mr. Gervis Singleton. He is a fine Kentuckian who has made many a family feel comforted at a difficult time thanks to his deep respect for those who have passed away.

Recently, an article appeared in the Laurel County-area publication, the Sentinel Echo, that illustrated the contributions of Mr. Singleton to the people of Laurel County, KY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Sentinel Echo, Sept. 5, 2011]

SINGLETON TAKES PRIDE IN HELPING FAMILIES  
(By Magen McCrayer)

Cemeteries are citadels for those who mourn the death of a lost loved one, and treating them with the ultimate respect is Gervis Singleton's calling.

Singleton is the owner of Cumberland Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum, and is partner in Singleton Embalming Service with his son, Craig Singleton. He was the second born of seven children. His father passed away when he was only 11 years old.

"I don't know if it has something to do with my father passing away," Singleton