

of the Fort Knox Chapter, Association of the United States Army in Fort Knox, KY. As a former member of the Elizabethtown City Council, he holds his community very dear to his heart. He has made sure to give back to the place he calls home in just about every way possible.

If you ever have the chance to sit down and talk with Bill Swope, you would quickly learn his passion for cars. Starting a company that has sold over 500,000 automobiles is just the beginning of his immersion in the industry. Bill likes to collect and restore antique and classic cars. Over the years he has become so good at this that in 1999, he opened Swope's Cars of Yesterday Museum in Elizabethtown, KY. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, and admission is free. The attraction houses every type of classic car you could imagine, and people from around the world have made a trip to the Commonwealth just to take a look.

Bill is very proud of his accomplishments in the business world, not because of the success he himself acquired, but for the opportunities he has helped to provide for so many other Kentuckians. Bill is a sensitive and thoughtful individual, and a natural-born leader. And he is first and foremost a loyal family man, a husband, father, foster-father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Bill is a joy to be around, he has a great sense of humor, and he always knows how to make you smile. He is an instrumental part of the economy of Hardin County, he is a vital part of the success of the State of Kentucky, and I am proud to say he is my good friend. I extend to him my heartiest congratulations on his lifetime of accomplishments, and I look forward to his future endeavors, wherever they may lie.

I would like to ask my U.S. Senate colleagues to join me in paying tribute to all Bill Swope has achieved for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

An article was recently published in Hardin County's local newspaper, the News-Enterprise, which highlights the life of Mr. Bill Swope, and also follows Bill as he looks back on over 60 years of success in the private sector. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the News-Enterprise, Jan. 29, 2012]
SWOPES CELEBRATE 60 YEARS IN BUSINESS
(By Sarah Bennet)

Nearly 60 years ago in March of 1952, Swope Dodge-Plymouth was celebrating its grand opening at the corner of College and Mulberry streets. The dealership already had been open for a couple months, but people crammed into the one-car showroom for the event.

As Bill Swope remembers, two competitors, Buick and Pontiac dealers, were there that day and were overheard to make the following exchange: "I'll give them six months," one dealer said about Bill Swope and his brother Sam.

The other replied, "I think you're being pretty generous."

This year marks 60 years in business for Elizabethtown's Swope Family of Dealerships and Louisville's Sam Swope Auto Group.

Combined, the two Swope businesses have sold more than 500,000 automobiles, Bill said.

"We're kind of proud of that," the 89-year-old said during a phone interview.

"We think the 60 years have given us pretty good practice, and we're pretty well set for the next 60 years," he said.

Today, Bill is retired and his sons are managing the family business. Bob, 64, is president of Bob Swope Ford, while Carl, 54, is president and CEO of Swope Family of Dealerships. Their brother, Dick, is CEO of Sam Swope Auto Group.

As the second generation closes out the family's first 60 years, Carl said the "dynamic third generation" is getting involved with the business, which will continue to be a local, family-owned company.

"As the successive generations get involved, there's more of them," Carl Swope said. "There's certainly an increased capacity to do things. We're very excited about the next 60 years and think that the growth of the family business will be even more fantastic than what we've seen."

"I think that's very important," Bill added about keeping the Swope Family of Dealerships both local and family-owned. "We're very proud of our family. Our family seems to be well-adapted to the automobile industry. We're very proud of the products that we're selling and certainly of the people that we have, our associates, that help make our business successful."

But as the Swope men point out, the 60 years in business hasn't been a cake walk. The automobile industry has had its ups and downs throughout the years, and in January 1966, the Swope's second location at the corner of St. John Road and U.S. 31W burned down.

The building was a total loss, and the Elizabethtown Swope dealership was without a home for nearly 12 months.

"We ran an ad in the paper at the time—a picture of the building totally destroyed," Bill said. "Here it is, winter time. I'm standing in the rubble of the building and there's still smoke billowing up from the ashes. We ran a full-page ad and the headline of that ad was, Low overhead? We have no overhead."

But, somehow, with help from some competitors and their hard-working employees, the Swope family stayed in business, he said, and they began building where the Swope Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram building is today.

"January to December 1966, we were kind of operating out of the backseat of our cars and out of briefcases and various stalls that were loaned to our technicians," Bill said. "We moved out to what was then out in the country, and we dubbed that part of Dixie 'The Miracle Mile.' It wasn't much of a miracle at the time, but we thought it would be. Certainly it has turned out that way."

Asked about the recent downturn in the automobile industry, the Swopes stay optimistic.

Americans love their automobiles and will always need a way to travel from Point A to Point B, they say. That fact always will remain true regardless of how cars evolve in the future.

"Over that 60 years, we've seen a number of ups and downs in our industry," Bob Swope said, "and we certainly learned to make adjustments that were necessary for getting through those slow periods. It seems like each time we've experienced slow periods, the industry then comes back very robust."

The recent downturn was difficult for the entire industry, Carl said, but the Swope

family made it through without making any layoffs.

"I would give a lot of credit to our associates for how they responded to (the downturn)," he said. "Our people rose to the occasion. They became more efficient and effective in what they do."

Bob said over the years the Swope Family of Dealerships has developed a culture in its stores that values its associates and makes them part of the family, a business practice that has contributed to the company's longevity.

"One of the things that we learned very early on was to make sure our associates were also very happy with their working experience," he said. "So we work very hard to try to make sure that they feel like they're just an extended part of the family."

In 2011, the Swopes were up 20 percent compared to the previous year, Carl said, partially because of activity at Fort Knox. The Hardin County locations sold 4,538 retail vehicles, which was "a pretty steady mix" of both used and new cars.

Combined, the Elizabethtown and Louisville locations sold more than 22,000 vehicles in 2011, he said.

As they celebrate 60 years in business, the Swope family is expanding. Later this year, the business will hold grand openings for a new Nissan dealership as well as the expansion of its museum, which is one of Bill's projects.

Bill referred to it as a tribute to the Hardin County community and the customers who have supported the Swope family over the years. Open each Monday through Saturday, admission is free.

Reminiscing about the early years in the business, Bill recalled one of the first business deals he and Sam made in January 1952, not long after they opened the Swope Dodge-Plymouth doors for the first time. An Elizabethtown cab company, Dixie Cab, wanted to increase its fleet.

"So one of the first orders we got was a big order," he said. "They increased their fleet from two cabs to three, which is 50 percent. That was one of our first sales, and it was a Plymouth Cranbrook for Dixie Cab."

Bill recently located a 1952 Plymouth Cranbrook with some 15,000 miles on it which he plans to detail.

"You don't see many of those anymore," he said. "You will see that car parked out in front of the museum when it is completed."

TRIBUTE TO FRANCE CORDOVA

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. France A. Córdova, Purdue University's 11th president and the first woman to head that institution.

Dr. Córdova became president of Purdue on July 16, 2007, and has overseen a strategic plan that emphasizes student success, research deliverables and global engagement. During her presidency, she has led Purdue to record levels of research funding, reputational rankings, and student retention rates; championed diversity among students, staff and university leadership; and promoted student success, faculty excellence, education affordability and programmatic innovation. Under her leadership, Purdue has expanded its role as a top research institution on the global stage and raised more than \$1 billion through private philanthropy.

President Córdova will retire from Purdue at the end of her 5-year term,

July 2012. She leaves a legacy of excellence at Purdue and in the field of higher education. Among the numerous national boards she serves, she is currently the chair of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, a three-year term which began in January 2012.

That Purdue is the cradle of astronauts—with 23 astronaut alumni—is significant to Dr. Córdova, who first dreamed of exploring space as she watched Neil Armstrong take the first human footsteps on the moon in 1969. She has served Purdue University honorably and with a great commitment to students, research innovation and global outreach.

It is my honor to recognize Dr. France A. Córdova as an outstanding scientist, educator and administrator, who has given so much to Purdue University and the State of Indiana, and I wish her every continuing success in her future endeavors.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier today, the Supreme Court concluded three days of oral arguments about the affordable care act, the law Congress passed 2 years ago to provide millions of Americans with access to affordable health care while bringing the spiraling costs in this area under control.

I was fortunate to be able to attend yesterday's argument about the constitutionality of the provision requiring individuals to take personal responsibility for paying for their health care, and to watch in person and in real time. Hundreds of thousands of Vermonters and millions of Americans across the country who benefit from the affordable care act did not have that access. The Supreme Court's decision in this landmark case will affect every American. I think every American should have had a chance to see it and the Supreme Court should open its proceedings to television and radio.

Americans are already beginning to see some of the benefits of insurance reform. Seniors on Medicare who have high-cost prescriptions are starting to receive help when trapped within a coverage gap known as the "doughnut hole." The affordable care act completely closes the coverage gap by 2020, and the new law makes it easier for seniors to afford prescription drugs in the meantime. In 2010, more than 7,000 Vermonters received a \$250 rebate to help cover the cost of their prescription drugs when they hit the doughnut hole. Last year, nearly 6,800 Vermonters with Medicare received a 50-percent discount on their covered brandname prescriptions, resulting in an average savings of \$714 per person. Since the affordable care act was signed into law, more than 4,000 young adults in Vermont have gained health insurance coverage under these reforms, which allow young adults to stay on their parents' plans until their 26th birthdays. The improvements we are seeing in Vermont go on and on:

81,649 Vermonters on Medicare and more than 100,000 Vermonters with private insurance gained access to and received preventative screening coverage with no deductible or copay. These are just a few of the dozens of consumer protections included in the law that are benefiting Vermonters and all Americans every day.

Now that the law is in effect, many of the essential antidiscrimination and consumer protections of the affordable care act are being implemented, allowing consumers to take control of their own health care decisions. Going forward, insurance plans can no longer deny children coverage because of a preexisting health condition; insurance plans are barred from dropping beneficiaries from coverage simply because of an illness; dozens of preventative care services must be covered at no cost and with no copay; and Americans will have access to an easier appeals process for private medical claims that are denied.

I attended Tuesday's argument with Senator GRASSLEY, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. He and I disagreed about the affordable care act when we debated it extensively in the Senate and passed it 2 years ago. But we both respect the important role the Court plays in our constitutional system. I hope that as the Supreme Court considers its decision in the coming weeks, it respects the important role of Congress, the elected representatives of the American people.

For years, we have heard Republican and Democratic Senators rightfully say that judges should not make law from the bench. For the sake of the health and security of our nation, the Supreme Court should not cast aside this landmark law and Congress' time-honored ability to protect the American people.

After watching the arguments and following the debate closely, it is as clear to me now as it was when Congress debated and passed the law more than 2 years ago. The Supreme Court should uphold the affordable care act. Looking at Article I of the Constitution and a long line of Supreme Court precedents dating back to the Nation's earliest days, there is no question Congress acted well within its time-honored ability to protect the American people.

Every Member of Congress takes an oath of office to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States." We take this oath seriously. As Justice Scalia said at a Judiciary Committee hearing last year, we take the same oath that the Justices take.

During the course of Congress' extensive consideration of the affordable care act, we considered untold numbers of amendments in committees and before the Senate. That is what Congress is supposed to do. We consider legislation, debate it, vote on it, and act in our best judgment to promote the general welfare. Some Senators agreed and some disagreed, but this was a matter

decided by the democratically elected Congress.

Among the arguments expressly considered and rejected by Congress before passing the affordable care act were arguments that the law was not constitutional. We considered and rejected arguments that the part of the law now being challenged in the Court—the individual mandate—is not constitutional. In fact, those arguments were considered on the Senate floor when Senator HATCH raised and the Senate formally rejected a constitutional point of order claiming that the individual responsibility requirement was unconstitutional. During the Senate debate on the affordable care act, I responded, publicly and on the record, to arguments about the constitutionality of this requirement. No Justice could say Congress did not consider the constitutionality of the affordable care act.

The individual mandate is about personal responsibility. Throwing out this requirement that Americans be responsible for their necessary health care costs will result in tossing aside the provision that bans insurance companies from denying Americans coverage based on pre-existing conditions. The personal responsibility requirement is necessary to ensure that Americans who do have health insurance are not stuck with paying the \$43 billion in health care costs incurred by millions of Americans who do not buy health insurance, instead relying on expensive emergency health care when inevitably faced with medical problems. Congress concluded this after extensive study and debate.

I joined with congressional leaders in filing an amicus brief defending the affordable care act in the case now being considered by the Court because I am convinced that Congress acted well within the limits of the Constitution in acting to secure affordable health care for all Americans. I believe we must defend the enumerated powers given to Congress by the Constitution so that our ability to help protect hardworking American workers, families and consumers is not wrongly curtailed by the courts.

Partisan opponents of the affordable care act want judges to override these legislative decisions properly made by Congress, the elected representatives of the American people. They want to challenge the wisdom understood by generations of Supreme Court justices from the great Chief Justice John Marshall in upholding the constitutionality of the national bank nearly 200 years ago to Justice Cardozo in finding Social Security constitutional early in the last century.

The difference between the role of Congress and of the courts is not a partisan one or a controversial one. In his opinion upholding the affordable care act, Jeffrey Sutton, a conservative, President George W. Bush's appointee to the Sixth Circuit, understood the importance of courts not substituting