

long, harsh winter season, Maine's heating oil providers not only sell a product, they serve as barrier between Mainers and the biting cold.

Relationships and care are at the heart of the Hometown Energy service structure, where, in true neighborly spirit, it is more crucial to ensure that customers are taken care of than to adhere to a stringent payment plan. Hometown Energy will often waive service fees and structure payments to give as much leeway as possible during the coldest months when resources are at a premium and ability to pay the high costs of energy may be scarce. It is this devotion to a customer-first philosophy that embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of Maine small businesses. The flexibility and understanding exhibited by Hometown Energy has proven vital to many in these difficult economic times.

Hometown Energy's efforts to assist Mainers was given national attention this year when they were featured by the New York Times article "In Fuel Oil Country, Cold That Cuts To The Heart," which detailed the difficulties of home heating during the trying northern winters. Since the article ran, donations have been pouring in to Hometown Energy to assist in covering the costs of heating oil. More than \$250,000 in donations have been sent by contributors from around the world. The kindhearted response and outreach has been so great that Hometown Energy has developed a Web site specifically dedicated to receiving these contributions.

For his immeasurable compassion and commitment to serving the people of his community, Mr. Libby has been recently recognized by Dixfield's Board of Selectmen as Dixfield's Distinguished Citizen for 2012. There can be no doubt that this honor is well-deserved by Mr. Libby, who has generously given his time, energy, and very self. Through his efforts, he has profoundly touched the lives of so many in his community.

Congratulations to Ike Libby on being named Dixfield's Distinguished Citizen for 2012. Mr. Libby and everyone at Hometown Energy's kindness and selfless dedication to assisting the most vulnerable truly warms my heart. I extend my most sincere gratitude for their steadfast service and offer them my best wishes for continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO KEN DUNLAP

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember a man who had significant impact on the lives of hundreds, maybe thousands of Kansans.

Kansans very rarely live idle lives. We are an active hard-working State, always in motion, quick to rise to a challenge. The bigger the obstacle, the faster a Kansan will be there to remove it. Our Founders seemed to know that would be the case when they chose for our State motto, "ad astra ad aspera"—"to the stars through difficul-

ties." Kenneth Orville Dunlap, who grew up and lived in and around Wichita, KS, lived up to the motto.

A little less than 40 years ago, this Nation made a commitment to disabled children—or "differently able" as Ken liked to say—that we were going to provide them the best possible education in the least restrictive environment. Some people saw that commitment as an obstacle. Ken saw that commitment as an opportunity to help people live fuller lives.

Ken had been a teacher and coach in Kansas public schools for a couple of years when he decided to fully commit himself to special education. In the early 1970s, Ken established Wichita Public Schools' first Adaptive Physical Education curriculum at Levy Special Education Center. He went on to teach special education for 18 years at Wichita East High School, where he developed the first community-based instruction program, assisting special students with job readiness and placement.

Some folks might have looked at those accomplishments and called themselves a success. Ken, however, wasn't done yet. He went on to serve as a special education coordinator for the Wichita School District for 5 years and as principal of three special education programs at Starkey, Ketch, and Heartspring.

Still not finished, in 1996, Ken established one of the most innovative special education programs in the country—the Chisholm Life Skills Center. Ken had a vision for a school that would serve the community of Wichita, and at the same time teach its students the skills they would need to live independently. Chisholm students care for the yards of area seniors on their way to full-time paid jobs with landscaping companies. Students cook in the school cafeteria on their way to a career in food service. The school itself contracts with local businesses like Cessna/Textron Aviation, Intrust Bank and the United Way and students go on to work at several of those businesses. Chisholm is more than just a school; it is a bridge for "differently able" kids from education to the workforce and community. The staff, faculty and parents still strive for every student at Chisholm to be fully equipped with the skills needed upon graduation to live the most independent life possible in the local community.

In 1999, a Kansas storm put a different obstacle in Ken's way, when a deadly tornado ripped the roof off of Chisholm. Again, Ken saw the opportunity, transitioning from his role as educator and administrator to foreman. While most educators were enjoying their summer vacation, Ken was overseeing the cleanup and rebuilding of the school. He rallied the whole community. Teachers, parents and alumni all pitched in, clearing debris, cleaning and rebuilding Chisholm. The school today stands as a testament to Ken's leadership and the whole community's persistence.

And, just as Ken's commitment to his school didn't end with the school year, his commitment to special education didn't end in the schoolyard. Ken and his wife Jan devoted countless hours to volunteering with the Special Olympics. They took students on annual camping trips and chaperoned the Chisholm Prom each year. They went to students' weddings and attended their funerals. Even after he retired from his 37 years in public education, Ken continued to serve on the Sedgwick County Physical & Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board.

For the last year, Ken has battled lung cancer and on Saturday, surrounded by his family, he took his last breath. This remarkable man's life was celebrated and remembered this week by family, friends, colleagues and former students. During the visitation on Tuesday at the funeral home, one of the last people to pay their respects to Ken was a former student. This young man shared with Ken's family that he had caused a lot of trouble to Ken when he was a student. Before he left, he walked over to the casket and put his hand on Ken's shoulder. He said simply, "Thank you for everything, Mr. Dunlap," and turned to leave. Then he stopped. He asked Jan if he could leave something behind. Pulling a Special Olympics Medal from his pocket, he laid it on Ken's chest, thanked him again and left.

We will never know how many lives Ken touched nor the full impact he made—but he leaves behind a great legacy and his life stands as an example to us all. His dedication to others is a powerful reminder of what is most important in life—the people around us. May we learn from Ken's example and make a lasting difference in the lives of others.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPTILE GARDENS

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a very important South Dakota business and visitor attraction that is observing its 75th anniversary this year. Reptile Gardens has been a main focal point for Black Hills area residents and the touring general public since 1937.

It all began in 1935 when 19-year-old Earl Brockelsby discovered people's interest in snakes. As a young tour guide at a local Rapid City attraction, this fearless snake enthusiast would often end his tours by removing his hat and revealing a live rattlesnake coiled on top of his head.

With the help of some friends, Earl built an 18-by-24-foot building at the top of a long hill outside of Rapid City and put a handful of specimens on display. Even then, the young entrepreneur knew the vital importance of location, location, location, as back in the 1930s cars would often overheat as they reached the top of a long hill. Earl's idea was to have the cars stop in Reptile Gardens' parking lot to cool

their radiators and maybe stay to see the gardens.

Admission when the doors opened on June 3, 1937, was 10 cents for adults and 5 cents for children. That first day of operation, Black Hills Reptile Gardens took in \$3.85. For the next 2 days, no one visited, and on the following 2 days, the attraction took in only 40 cents and 50 cents respectively. Fortunately, business would improve quickly, and by 1941 the business had 15 employees and was showing a profit. Today, over a quarter million people visit Reptile Gardens each year.

Brockelsby was an acute businessman and one of the true tourism pioneers of South Dakota. He was also quite the practical joker. One of the many interesting stories prepared by Joe Maierhauser of Reptile Gardens includes Earl propping open the mouth of a dead alligator with the Sunday newspaper inside and setting it outside a friend's home. That friend happened to be the publisher of the Rapid City Journal.

The attraction would go through a move in 1965 with the construction of a new highway and a modernization that would give visitors the rare opportunity to walk amongst free-roaming reptiles and birds. It was one of the first such exhibits in the United States.

Over the many decades, Earl would become well known for his many trips to obtain various specimens to showcase at his attraction. From a one-man show in 1937, Reptile Gardens has expanded into a world-renowned team of animal specialists and conservationists. Their goal is to educate the public about important environmental issues and work closely with facilities worldwide on the preservation and care of rare specimens, not to mention educating school-aged children and the visiting public about various species and how they influence our world.

From crocodiles and alligators, lizards, snakes and spiders, birds, flowers and tortoises, Reptile Gardens offers a truly educational and entertaining experience. Decades of visitors can recall the facility's mascot Methuselah, a giant Galapagos tortoise that was brought to the facility in 1954 and passed away last summer, as well as Mac the Scarlet Macaw, who had been at the facility since the mid-1950s and could recite most of the 20-minute snake show word for word.

Reptile Gardens has a worldwide reputation amongst visitors as well as among animal specialists. In addition to the various shows and specimens on site that entertain, educate, and inform people of all ages, their workers provide important research and preservation of numerous rare species.

Reptile Gardens continues to be operated by the Brockelsby family, maintaining the attraction as one of the must-see sites among the touring public in South Dakota.

I congratulate and commend the Brockelsby family for their many years

of service to the Black Hills and to South Dakota, as well as to the many workers and specialists who have worked there over the past 75 years. Sons John and Jeff Brockelsby and daughters Judee Oldham and Janet Jacobs have preserved the legacy of Earl and Maude Brockelsby with eye-popping displays, hands-on exhibits, and shows with a flair for the dramatic, all the while educating visitors on the importance of preservation and care of various species. I know Reptile Gardens will continue to be one of the most popular visitor attractions in South Dakota for many years to come, and I applaud the Brockelsby family for their lasting contributions to tourism, education, and species preservation. ●

NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

● Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, we recognized May as National Cancer Research Month. This year, more than 1.6 million Americans will receive a cancer diagnosis and more than half a million Americans will lose their battle with cancer. However, due to the discoveries made by cancer researchers, people are living with cancer longer and, increasingly, are beating it.

Cancer researchers—world-class scientists and clinicians—are making invaluable contributions to our health care knowledge. The National Institute of Health, NIH, and the National Cancer Institute, NCI, are the leading funders and conductors of biomedical research in the world—including cancer research. According to Families USA, approximately seven jobs are created per research grant and each dollar of NIH grant money generates about \$2.21 of new business activity.

In fiscal year 2011, Ohio scientists and physicians attracted more than \$710 million in grant funding, including \$104 million dedicated to cancer research.

Ohio is on the cutting edge of cancer research thanks to world renowned medical institutions, including Ohio's two NCI-designated cancer centers: the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

The Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, CCC, brings together the cancer research efforts at Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals Case Medical Center, and the Cleveland Clinic. Through this collaboration, the brightest minds at Case, University Hospital, and the Cleveland Clinic partner on cutting-edge cancer research bringing together more than 300 scientists and physicians to work on research projects supported by more than \$100 million in annual funding.

Case CCC also was awarded a Specialized Programs of Research Excellence, SPORE, grant—to promote translational cancer research.

The Case SPORE grant will allow Case to research gastrointestinal, GI, cancers. GI cancers are a leading cause of cancer deaths in men and women as well as disproportionately affect African Americans. African Americans are more likely to have—and die—from colon cancer. Additionally, the onset of colon cancer occurs at an earlier age for African Americans. Of the four projects that would be funded by the Case GI SPORE, several include a research emphasis on colon cancer in African Americans.

Case is also the lead center for the Barrett's Esophagus Research Network. This multiple center network allows for collaboration to develop a better understanding of Barrett's esophagus disorder and its correlation with esophageal cancer.

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, also referred to as "the James," was the Midwest's first fully dedicated cancer hospital and research institute.

The James researchers are drawn from 12 of Ohio State's 18 colleges to collaborate and study ways to prevent and treat cancer, including the ways genetics influences cancer development and how targeted therapies based on molecular genetics can promote treatment.

Research at the James has expanded our knowledge and understanding of cancer treatment. Researchers at the James found that 1 in 35 people with colon cancer carry a genetic disease called Lynch syndrome. Of the patients who had this gene mutation, each had on average three family members with the mutation.

Thanks to the outstanding research conducted by the James, the early detection of the mutation means that through regular colonoscopies, people with Lynch syndrome will never develop colon cancer. This is remarkable—through genetic advances, people can beat cancer before it starts.

OSU scientists are also developing a medicated patch that releases a cancer-preventing drug onto precancerous oral lesions.

Other scientists are conducting clinical trials for new drugs to treat patients with advanced or recurring breast, colon, lung, or prostate cancer. These drugs may offer new hope to patients who have exhausted most—if not all—existing therapeutic options.

The James and the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center is expanding its cancer research as the result of a \$100 million grant made available from the health care reform legislation.

The funding has spurred the largest construction project in university history, which will expand the Wexner Medical Center, including the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. Slated to be completed by 2014, the expansion includes a new cancer hospital, critical care tower, outpatient center, research laboratories, and classrooms—all designed to advance the medical center's mission to