

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

improve people's lives through innovation in patient care, education, and research.

This project put more than 5,000 Ohioans to work constructing the facility and is expected to create 10,000 full-time jobs by 2014.

The University of Cincinnati Cancer Institute is another Ohio institution making strides in combating cancer.

UC's Division of Experimental Hematology and Cancer Biology is partnering with the Cancer and Blood Diseases Institute at Cincinnati Children's Hospital to explore gene therapy for the treatment of pediatric cancers and blood disorders.

I applaud the groundbreaking work conducted every day in Ohio and across the country to increase prevention, improve treatment, and extend life expectancies—for all constituencies.

Even though National Cancer Research Month has come to an end, I urge my Senate colleagues to continue to support cancer research. While researchers have made incredible strides in cancer research, only a mere 5 percent of Americans with pancreatic and other cancers have a 5-year survival rate. Now is the time to strengthen the investment in the revolutionary work of cancer researchers across the country.●

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG COLORADANS

● Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to honor two young heroes from Colorado who received 9-1-1 for Kids' Medal of Honor this week. The medal is bestowed upon young people who distinguish themselves by calling 911 in an emergency and help to save someone's life or report a crime. An award is also presented to the dispatcher who processed the call and provided the appropriate emergency response.

Last year, 7-year-old Alisha Fetz and 12-year-old Matthew Diaz, both of Thornton, each found themselves in difficult situations in which they needed to protect their family members.

Alisha called 911 on June 1, 2011 when her mother was having difficulty breathing. Alisha answered dispatcher Ashley Bettschen's questions clearly and calmly, even providing her mother's cell phone number and information on her mother's medical condition. Following all of dispatcher Bettschen's instructions, Alisha ensured that her mother was treated quickly and efficiently.

On August 15, 2011, Matthew called 911 while his house was being burglarized. He locked himself and his younger sister in a bathroom and managed to whisper answers to Dispatcher Rhonda Halsey in a calm and clear manner. Because of his great descriptions of both the burglars and their vehicle, the suspects were apprehended only minutes later. The burglars were both prior convicted felons, and several other open cases were cleared because of Matthew's call.

Both of these kids knew exactly what to do. They didn't panic, and they

helped ensure the safety of their family members through their actions. They and the dispatchers who helped them serve as a great example of how important it is for kids to know what to do when trouble arises.

The organization, 9-1-1 for Kids, is working to ensure that kids of all ages understand the importance and proper use of 911. It does so by raising awareness through conferences, media outreach, training activities, school events, and by highlighting the stories of kids like Alisha and Matthew.

I join all Coloradans in offering our gratitude to dispatchers Ashley Bettschen and Rhonda Halsey for their service to their communities and congratulating Alisha and Matthew for this award as well as their bravery and ability to remain calm in the face of an emergency.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL L. PARETS

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS, Congressman JOHN CARNEY and myself in recognition of Mr. Paul L. Parets upon his retirement from 36 years of exemplary service at A.I. duPont High School as a nationally-recognized high school band director and 46 years as a music educator. His enthusiasm and leadership over the years has won him the respect of educators, musicians, community leaders, co-workers and students alike, and his passion for teaching music has inspired generations of Delawareans.

Growing up in Michigan, Paul Parets was not raised in a musical family. In fact, his parents expected Paul to become a doctor. But Paul had a keen interest in music from an early age, and once he joined the band in his grade school, he was hooked. Following his graduation from Melvindale High School in Melvindale, MI, Paul received a Bachelor's of Music Education from Central Michigan University and continued his graduate education at the University of Michigan and the University of Maryland. For the first 10 years of his career, Paul led the band at Croswell-Lexington High School in Michigan. Fortunately for those of us in the First State, though, he moved to Delaware in 1976 and became the Band Director at A.I. duPont High School in Greenville. There, over the course of the next 4 decades, Paul developed one of the foremost high school band programs in the country.

Under Paul's leadership, band membership rose from 90 students to well over 300, and from one band sprouted five: the Freshman Band, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and The Tiger Marching Band.

Paul's unique approach to music education has made the A.I. duPont band program a standout in Delaware and in America. Through a student-elected executive board for the band, students—not teachers—are empowered to make major decisions about music and

band activities. By allowing students to decide the arrangements they would like to perform, the drills they want to execute or the trips they want to take, Paul gave his band members an important opportunity to learn how to lead, to make decisions and to become better musicians. Paul's approach also expanded the prospect of band membership to every student—from novices to the classically-trained, from football players to after-school waiters—giving all Tigers exposure to the power of music.

Paul once said in an interview with School Band & Orchestra Magazine that he has two objectives as a band director. The first is to make sure his students play "some great music by some great composers." The second is that the students recognize that "there is only one purpose for music, and that is to thrill people. Nobody listens to music that doesn't do something to them emotionally." And for the past 36 years, our State—and the world—has been thrilled by Paul Parets and his A.I. Tigers.

Beyond A.I. duPont and Delaware, the rest of our Nation—and other countries beyond our borders—began taking notice of Paul Parets and his talented musicians at A.I. duPont years ago. Since 1989, his bands have received first place awards in almost every category of every festival competition they have entered. Paul is the only band director, and his Tiger Marching Band is the only high school band outside California, ever to be invited to the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade an unprecedented five times: 1990, 1995, 1999, 2004, and 2008. The Tigers have appeared in the Orange Bowl twice, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Hall of Fame Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl twice, the 6ABC Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia every year since 1987 and the inaugurations of three U.S. Presidents, the most recent being Barack Obama.

Internationally, Paul's Tigers have represented the First State with honor at the London New Year's Day Parade seven times, the Rome New Year's day Parade twice, the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin 4 times, and played for two of the world's most recognizable figures: Queen Elizabeth in London and Pope Benedict in St. Peter's Square. The talents of his bands have filled the music halls and legendary stages of the Ireland National Concert Hall and The Royal Albert Hall in London.

Paul was named Delaware Teacher of the Year in 1987 and was a recipient of the Ruth M. Jewell Outstanding Music Educator Award from the Music Educator's National Conference at Indianapolis in 1988. In 1989, my friend and former colleague, then-Governor Mike Castle, conferred on Paul the Order of the First State, as well. While Paul's accolades have made him legendary in the sphere of public education, his legacy will undoubtedly remain with the thousands of students—many of whom are second generation Tigers—that he has taught in his nearly 50-year career.