

came home from the hospital, he went to work for a few hours.

Garry Moreland is a co-owner of the pharmacy down the street from Dr. Dohner, and he said: "Healing is more than a dedication or a commitment, it's a calling."

Tim Ward, director of the foundation for Culbertson Memorial Hospital, said of Dr. Russell Dohner: "He's the closest thing we have to a saint."

Dr. Dohner's staff was just as dedicated as he was. His sister Clarice, who died in April, helped him set up his practice in 1955. She helped him buy his first car so he could make house calls and she managed his office for more than 40 years.

Edith Moore, his office assistant, died last July at the age of 85, working right up to the day of her death.

Rose Busby, one of Dr. Dohner's two nurses, retired about a year ago in her late eighties.

Nurse Florence Bottorff worked for Dr. Dohner for 50 years until he closed his office. She finally quit her nursing career at age 90.

Russell Dohner grew up on a farm just north of Rushville, outside the little town of Vermont, IL. He says he inherited his work ethic from his parents, who taught their seven kids the importance of working hard and taking care of others.

He was inspired to become a doctor by the town doctor who treated him for seizures when he was a child. After he served in the Army in World War II, he went to Western Illinois University on the GI bill and then, in the early 1950s, Northwestern University in Chicago, where he went to medical school.

He thought he was going to stay in Chicago and be a cardiologist. Instead, he became the heart of a small town. The long-time family doctor in Rushville was retiring and persuaded the newly minted Dr. Dohner to come home for just a year or two to fill the void. Well, the years stretched into decades and Doc Dohner found he just couldn't leave. There was always somebody who needed a helping hand.

The decision to stay in a small town cost him his marriage, but that was all right. Dr. Dohner said his patients were his family.

Similar to George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life," it seems Dr. Dohner has touched and enriched the lives of almost everyone in this small town. He estimates he has delivered 3,500 babies, more than the entire current population of the city of Rushville. Among those he brought into the world are Rushville's mayor and half of the staff at the local hospital. He once climbed down into a coal mine to help rescue four men.

Lynn Stambaugh is the CEO at Culbertson Memorial Hospital. Her younger sister suffered seizures as a baby. She remembers Doc Dohner coming to their house and sitting beside her sister's crib all night long to make sure she was going to be OK.

Carolyn Ambrosius recalled for a local reporter that her mom became

pregnant at the age of 41, and a doctor in Springfield told her that either she was going to survive or the baby would survive but not both of them. She went home to Rushville in tears, and then she met with Doc Dohner. She remembers the Doc told her mother: God's going to take care of us, and I am going to help. Doc Dohner came to the house every day to check on Carolyn's mom and often stayed to have dinner with the family. Today, Carolyn Ambrosius's baby brother is a healthy middle-aged man.

Family doctors such as Doc Dohner are a disappearing breed. Only 2 percent of all medical students in a recent study expressed interest in practicing primary care as a general internist. Most medical students choose a more lucrative specialty field. In the United States, we are now short approximately 9,000 primary care doctors. The situation is not getting any better. In the next 15 years we are going to face a shortage of more than 65,000 primary care doctors.

Stephanie LeMaster is one of that special 2 percent, though. Stephanie grew up in Rushville. As a little girl, she wanted to be a nurse like her mom and her grandmother. At her mother's suggestion, she interviewed Doc Dohner for a fourth grade—fourth grade—school project. Listening to him talk about his love of doctoring, she changed her plans. Stephanie LeMaster is now a second-year medical student at Southern Illinois University. She says:

They tell me I should be the next Dr. Dohner, but I'm not sure I can live up to him. He's the only one like him.

Dr. Dohner has been recognized by State and national organizations as one of the best country doctors in America. He has been profiled in People magazine, featured on the "Today Show," and he was the grand marshal for the Illinois State Fair parade this year. In September, the town of Rushville unveiled a bronze statue of Dr. Dohner in the town's Central Park. It is about 200 feet from his old office. The statue depicts Dr. Donor seated on a park bench with a child listening to his heart through a stethoscope.

Besides doctoring and a little bit of fishing and the Rotary Club meeting, Doc Dohner also loves trees. Rushville mayor Curt Lunt estimates the doctor has donated thousands of trees to the town over the years.

It has been said you have to have faith in the future to plant a tree. The trees of Rushville symbolize not just Doc Dohner's faith in the future but also his love for that community that became his family.

Retirement is taking some adjustment for Doc Dohner. The last time he took a full day off he was in the Army in World War II. He refused to let the folks of Rushville hold any kind of retirement reception for him or run a story about him in the local newspaper. He said plenty of people retire every day and nobody makes any fuss

over it. But few people touch a town as deeply as Dr. Dohner—Dr. Russell Dohner. He touched Rushville and the other small farm towns around it in such an amazing way.

You can be sure this holiday season, as they have for so many years, there are many people who count among their blessings that great Dr. Dohner, who served Rushville, IL, and America for so many decades.

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I, along with several other Senators, will be meeting with EPA Administrator McCarthy concerning a proposal from EPA to waive the renewable fuel standard, or RFS. If the proposed rule is made final, it would undermine one of the biggest policy tools we have to support energy independence, to lower greenhouse gas emissions, and stabilize our rural economy.

The renewable fuel standard was created in 2002 to drive growth in the biofuels industry. Why is that so important? When biofuels are contributing to our domestic fuel supply, we use less petroleum-based energy. Gasoline blended with ethanol burns more cleanly, so cars are generating less greenhouse gas; And with a steady, predictable market for biofuels, there is now a healthy biofuels industry that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Each year the Environmental Protection Agency sets volume standards for renewable fuels that requires refiners to blend certain levels of biofuels into the fuel supply. RFS levels have been steadily increasing by law since Congress updated the renewable fuels effort in 2007.

The renewable fuel standard has worked well. The United States needs to be less reliant on other countries for its energy. Growth in the use of biofuels—particularly corn-based ethanol—is one of the few, meaningful steps we have taken. And it is working. Last year, we used 13.3 billion gallons of ethanol to displace 465 million barrels of oil. That is 12 percent of the total U.S. crude oil imports.

Not only do biofuels play an important role in energy independence, they have the added benefits of being good for the environment. The renewable fuel standard promotes the adoption of biofuels explicitly because they reduce greenhouse gas emission.

Many of my colleagues may know that in Illinois we grow a lot of corn. Not surprisingly, we also happen to be one of the largest producers of corn-based ethanol—the biofuel most often cited as not being as "green" as other biofuels. But even ethanol is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent.

A recent study by Argonne National Lab found that, on average, ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 24 percent. In 2012, ethanol reduced emissions from cars and trucks by 33.4 million tons. That is the equivalent of taking 5.2 million cars off the road.

But it is not just ethanol. Advanced biofuels reduce greenhouse gas emissions even further. They are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent. That is why groups like the American Lung Association have supported the development and use of biofuels. And while many advanced biofuels are just beginning to come online, others—like biodiesel—are getting closer to really hitting their stride.

An added benefit of growth of biofuels in States like Illinois is the effect it has had on our rural economy. The use of biofuels has helped create an additional market for crops, but it also has created an emerging industry in rural communities. There are now 14 ethanol plants and 5 biodiesel plants operating in Illinois. Steady biofuels production in Illinois means new jobs in communities that were having trouble economically even before the recession. Those 14 ethanol plants have led to 5,400 direct jobs in Illinois and payroll exceeding \$250 million.

EPA issued a draft rule last month that would waive the statutory RFS levels for 2014 below levels even required in 2012. By waiving the standard as proposed, the rule not only threatens the current biofuels industry, but it will significantly slow or stop more advanced biofuels coming to the market. In effect, what EPA has proposed would stop any new growth in the industry.

Today, most gasoline is blended with 10 percent ethanol, more commonly referenced as E-10. Some think of this level as a “blend wall” because to increase the blend ratio, we need more investment in infrastructure like gas pumps that deliver it. But if we get stuck at E-10, that effectively shuts down for many biofuels. Corn-based ethanol already is produced at levels to completely saturate the market at E-10, leaving little room for growth advanced cellulosic ethanol.

Part of the reason for creating the RFS was to help create incentives to push past barriers like the blend wall. EPA has already approved a pathway to doing just that in the form of E-15. But instead of using RFS to help push through infrastructure hurdles to biofuel growth, EPA’s proposal would enshrine this market barrier as the true ceiling for much of our biofuels growth.

And EPA’s proposed rule is already reverberating through the market. Investments in biofuels, particularly advanced biofuels, are already starting to slow, based on the proposed rule. I heard from a company in Illinois that had recently announced new investments in their plant. They are now rethinking their expansion plans. That means if EPA’s proposed waiver is adopted, we may never realize the full benefits of RFS that Congress intended. We will freeze our progress on reducing greenhouse gas emission. We will limit a tool in securing our energy independence. And we will stymie the

growth of an industry that is playing an important role in rural economies.

That is why I am working with like-minded Senators on both sides of the aisle to urge the EPA to reconsider this rule before it is finalized. We have come too far to take this giant step backward. Biofuels are an important part of our energy future and the right path for our country.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RICHARD D. ROOT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, our men and women in uniform sacrifice much to keep our Nation strong and free. They are well-trained, extraordinarily capable and are some of our country’s best and brightest. One of them is a man I want to help recognize today as he retires from the U.S. Army.

COL Richard D. Root, from Hartford, MI, has served our country in uniform for a quarter of a century and I am delighted to congratulate him on a long and distinguished military career. In 2007, Colonel Root came to the Senate as the Deputy for the Army’s Senate liaison office. He was then selected as the Director of legislative affairs for GEN John Allen, the commander, International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, during the critical period in Afghanistan from 2011 to 2013. In this capacity, Colonel Root escorted over 70 congressional delegations visiting Afghanistan and Pakistan. During these congressional delegations, Colonel Root masterfully balanced both the interests of Senators with the priorities of his commander to ensure that Members of Congress received a clear and accurate picture of the strategic military and political situation in Afghanistan.

Prior to his service with congressional liaison, Colonel Root performed with great distinction in all of his assignments throughout his extraordinary career, including command of the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment “Red Knights” during Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005 to 2006. Additionally, he served as an executive officer for the 4th Infantry Division Artillery and a variety of other tactical and operational assignments from platoon to brigade while deployed for the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and for Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield in 1991.

In his final assignment as the executive officer to the chief of army legislative liaison, Colonel Root worked tirelessly to expand relationships between the Army and the 113th Congress.

Our military personnel do not shoulder the stress and sacrifice of military service alone, and Colonel Root is no exception. His wife, Diann, and his daughter, Lexi, have stood proudly by his side, sacrificing time with their husband and father while he fulfilled his military commitments. To them also, we offer a truly heartfelt thanks.

As he retires, Colonel Root leaves behind an impressive record of military

service and his counsel, professionalism and expertise will surely be missed by the Army and Congress alike. We offer him our sincere thanks for his service to our Nation and the example he has set for those under his command and colleagues with whom he served. I know my colleagues join me in wishing Colonel Root and his family all the best as they begin this next exciting chapter in their lives.

ITALIAN HALL TRAGEDY IN CALUMET, MICHIGAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, a century ago on December 24, 1913, hundreds of miners and their families had gathered for a Christmas Eve celebration in the small Upper Peninsula town of Calumet, MI. Their community was under tremendous stress; the miners of what is known to this day as “Copper Country” had been on strike for 5 months. But they had come for a brief holiday respite from the trials and struggles of those difficult days.

What began as a joyful day ended in tears and wails and inconsolable grief. While no one will know for certain what sparked the families’ rush to the doors at the bottom of the stairs leading from the hall, most believe that someone yelled “Fire!” even though there was none. What resulted in the rush to the exit is almost unimaginable: 59 children and 14 adults were dead, having been trampled or suffocated.

This dreadful disaster has forever brought back painful memories on December 24, Christmas Eve, for the community of Calumet, MI. On the centennial anniversary of this event, the anguish is still real. The sadness is only overshadowed by the senselessness of the event.

The families celebrating in the Italian Hall were hard-working immigrants, struggling through the labor strike to fight for better wages, hours and working conditions. They came to Copper country for the promise of work, even though mining was difficult and dangerous. This area was home to the largest known deposits of pure elemental copper in the world, drawing hundreds of thousands of people from around the world. It was here that the lives of immigrants shaped our nation, with their successes and their struggles.

So many reminders of the copper mining heyday remain in the quaint town. From the historic architecture to the Yooper accents; from the variety of ethnic foods to the hard living work ethic that exists today, the Copper Country communities are reminded every day of their heritage. The historic buildings, landscapes and museum collections of the area are protected and preserved by the Keweenaw National Historical Park, working collaboratively with local and State governments, historic organizations and private property owners. The park brings to life the multi-faceted story of