

1953. Much has changed since he sold that first 10-by 24-foot steel boat, and Jim has been there for it all, often leading the way. Houseboats are now much bigger—up to 20 by 100 feet—and are made of aluminum and have on-board heating and cooling systems. One thing that never changed, though, is Jim's passion for building his customer's "dream boat."

Despite being one of the founding fathers of the industry, houseboats do not constitute the totality of his life's work. Jim has owned and operated several other businesses in Somerset in addition to Somerset Marine. In 1966, he developed Food Fair groceries, which he grew into a chain of 13 stores. Two year later, he opened Somerset's first fried chicken restaurant, Kettle Fried Chicken, and in 1974 he bought a car dealership, Pulaski Motor Company.

Although he is now retired, Jim still has plenty to keep him busy. Jim and his wife of nearly 65 years Mary Jo have four children and nine grandchildren, and he has also found time to pick up golf and travel the country.

Jim Sharpe's drive and determination in his business, his commitment to his community, and his love of his family can serve as an example to us all. I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this upstanding Kentucky citizen.

#### CLINICAL LABORATORY FEE SCHEDULE

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I would like to engage my colleague, the distinguished ranking member of the Finance Committee, in a short colloquy regarding Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule payment reform provisions included in the SGR patch bill, Protecting Access to Medicare Act.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Senator. I would be happy to engage my distinguished colleague in a colloquy. Further, many thanks to him for his leadership over the years on this issue.

Mr. BURR. I thank my colleague and commend his work and the work of his staff in the development of this proposal. Reform of the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule is an important priority. The current system does not allow for changes in reimbursement for specific tests and instead, cuts to lab reimbursement have been broad reductions to the fee schedule overall. This imprecise approach has hampered the ability of labs across the country to continue to innovate and improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease. The Protecting Access to Medicare Act reforms this outdated approach and establishes a system requiring laboratories to report market rates to establish Medicare reimbursement. It is my understanding that the intent of this provision is to ensure that Medicare rates reflect true market rates for laboratory services, and as such, that all sectors of the laboratory market should be represented in the reporting

system, including independent laboratories and hospital outreach laboratories that receive payment on a fee-for-service basis under the fee schedule. I ask my distinguished colleague if this is his understanding of the intent of this provision as well.

Mr. HATCH. The Senator is correct. And I thank my good friend from North Carolina for raising this issue. I concur; the intent of the provisions of the bill reforming the Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule is to ensure that Medicare rates reflect true market rates, and that commercial payment rates to all sectors of the lab market should be represented, including independent laboratories and hospital outreach laboratories.

Mr. BURR. I thank the Senator for his insights and his work on reform of the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule.

#### WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I am filled with so much pride every time our military veterans visit our Nation's Capital and have the opportunity to stand before the memorials built to honor them.

This weekend, 93 veterans from North Central West Virginia, escorted by 55 guardians, will be traveling to Washington, DC, to see the memorials that commemorate their sacrifice and valor. This will mark the very first Honor Flight from North Central West Virginia—which is my hometown region of the "Mountain State."

Fifty World War II veterans, 42 Korean war veterans and one terminally ill Vietnam war veteran will fly from the small town of Clarksburg, WV, to Reagan National Airport, and before they lift off on a truly memorable and moving day, I look forward to greeting our vets bright and early at the local airport to wish them a safe trip to our Nation's Capital. I also will express my deepest gratitude to these special men who helped keep America free and made the world a safer place for liberty-loving people across our country and beyond our borders.

Upon their arrival, 30 Active-Duty sailors from the National Naval Medical Center and 8 marines from the USS *West Virginia* submarine will accompany the Honor Flight entourage during their daylong adventure.

These heroic West Virginians will travel to Washington to visit the World War II, Vietnam, Korean, FDR, Air Force, and Iwo Jima Memorials as well attend a ceremony at Arlington Cemetery.

While their step has slowed, their spirit is keen, their pride is undiminished, and their patriotism is immeasurable.

No matter the war, no matter the rank, no matter the duty, every one of these 93 veterans answered America's call and served our great country with the utmost valor. In our time of need, they stepped forward and said: I will do it—I will protect this country.

This trip to our Nation's Capital is just one way to say thank you.

But the West Virginia's North Central community has much more planned to show their gratitude for these devoted and courageous veterans. Upon the Honor Flight's return Saturday evening, hundreds of West Virginians will welcome home our returning vets, including National Guardsmen, Civil Air Patrol volunteers, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and our famous West Virginia University Mountaineer, Mike Garcia.

In addition, more than 155 band members from the Busy Bee Band and Honeybees of East Fairmont High School will perform a medley of patriotic songs, led by their band director and former marine, T.J. Bean.

I want to express my gratitude to my hometown community for their tireless efforts to make this Honor Flight a reality. I especially thank Butch Phillips and all the people who have been instrumental in planning and fulfilling this truly special experience for our 93 West Virginia veterans.

This generation of Americans was united by a common purpose and by common values—duty, honor, courage, service, integrity, love of family and country, and their triumph over oppression will be forever remembered.

Let us remember that these Honor Flights show tribute to all who have served this great country, so may God bless the United States of America and all the men and women who keep us free.

#### LOUISIANA GRAY DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I wish to honor Louisiana Gray Day, this Friday, May 9, and the thousands of Louisianians and Americans with brain cancer and their families. Brain cancer is one of the most incurable forms of cancer and has an average survival period of only 1 to 2 years. It does not discriminate—striking men, women, and children of any race and at any age. Over 688,000 Americans are living with a primary brain tumor and each year over 69,700 people are diagnosed with primary malignant and nonmalignant tumors. Brain tumors are the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in children under age 20, the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in males ages 20 to 39, and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths in females ages 20 to 39.

More so than any other cancer, brain tumors can have life-altering psychological, cognitive, behavioral, and physical effects. To help increase awareness and advance medical research for the various forms of brain cancer, the month of May is recognized nationally as brain cancer awareness month. My State has adopted May 9 in particular as the day when the citizens of the State are encouraged to wear the color gray to raise brain cancer awareness.

Brain cancer has unfortunately affected many in my State. Today I

share just one of these stories to increase awareness around this devastating disease. Gary Leingang was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, in June 2008. At the same time Gary was fighting his cancer, his wife Mona was battling breast cancer. Gary stood by her side and took care of Mona when she was on chemo and recovered. Unfortunately, Gary's fight with brain cancer ended on March 9, 2010. Before he passed, he said he wanted to make sure something good come out of his cancer. So, in his honor, his wife and children have shared his story to advance scientific research and increase awareness within the medical community in supporting patients, their families and caregivers afflicted with brain cancer. Last year, Mona worked with Louisiana lawmakers to establish Louisiana Gray Day on May 9—Gary's birthday.

It is my hope that in recognizing May 9 we will honor Gary's legacy and all help to bring greater awareness for all those affected by brain cancer, and perhaps even prevent some brain cancer-related deaths in the future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING MYSTIC AQUARIUM

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am proud to recognize that today, First Lady Michelle Obama presents Connecticut's Mystic Aquarium with the Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Medal for Museum and Library Services for 2014. This medal is the Nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to their communities, and I wish to convey my deepest congratulations and admiration for Mystic Aquarium on this auspicious occasion.

Since 1973, Mystic Aquarium has showcased the wonders of the world's oceans through exhibitions, tours, classroom programs, and partnerships with scientific organizations. In addition to worldclass offerings like its diverse collection of more than 4,000 animals ranging from sea lions to penguins, the aquarium boasts New England's only beluga whale habitat, as well as an innovative exhibit that showcases underwater exploration through a partnership with famed explorer Dr. Robert Ballard.

The aquarium maintains a laudable commitment to making a difference for marine environments around the globe through research and direct involvement. The Marine Animal Rescue Program rehabilitates dozens of injured seals every year, and a penguin task force has provided similar help to African penguins in South Africa. The aquarium's extensive research includes field observations on wild belugas in the Arctic and closer to home, the aquarium enlists visitors in beach cleanup and marine animal stranding and rehabilitation programs.

What I find most meaningful about Mystic Aquarium's work, however, is its consistent focus on inspiring and serving the people of Connecticut and visitors from around the world. Of the Aquarium's 700,000 yearly visitors, one in seven is a Connecticut K-12 student, and because school budget constraints too often limit learning opportunities outside the classroom, the aquarium regularly offers complimentary admission to students and teachers from economically disadvantage communities. The aquarium's deep investment in promoting scientific and environmental understanding among students of all ages and backgrounds is similarly reflected in its innovative programming for Native American high school students and for young people with intellectual disabilities. Having attended numerous events at Mystic Aquarium, I can personally attest to the dedication of everyone there in serving Connecticut and improving animal habitat across the world. I know how hard Dr. Stephen M. Coan, Dr. Ballard, and all of the aquarium's staff members and volunteers work to support these goals. For its legacy of community-focused education and environmental stewardship, I am proud to congratulate Mystic Aquarium on its receipt of the great honor.●

##### SAMUEL J. HEYMAN SERVICE TO AMERICA MEDALS FINALISTS

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, people often wonder why they pay taxes. Well, the short answer, former Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. famously wrote in a 1927 Supreme Court decision, is that "taxes are what we pay for civilized society," (Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas v. Collector of Internal Revenue. The longer answer is that people pay taxes for government goods and services that make their families, businesses, communities, and the United States of America stronger, safer, and more prosperous. The people who provide government goods and services are public servants.

This week is Public Service Recognition Week, an opportunity to acknowledge and thank the 21.9 million men and women who work in local, county, State, and Federal Government. Each day, these people teach our children; patrol our borders and ports; protect our food, land, air, and water; care for our veterans and senior citizens; develop treatments and cures for illness and disease; fight fires and respond to natural disasters; make our communities safer; help domestic manufacturers compete abroad; enforce our laws and administer justice; advance human understanding of the smallest particles, the vastness of the universe, and the origin of life; and promote and defend American values and ideals abroad.

The knowledge, expertise, skill, and commitment of our public sector workforce is one of America's greatest as-

sets. No other nation can match our public workforce's professionalism and level of accomplishment. Yet, too often public servants are disparaged and denigrated. Too often public servants bear the brunt of deficit reduction. Too often, public servants are asked to do more and more with less and less. We need to strengthen and encourage our public workforce. We should always strive to make government better, more responsive, more efficient.

On May 6 I had the honor of delivering brief remarks at a breakfast organized by the Partnership for Public Service to announce the finalists for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals. These individuals and teams have been chosen for their commitment to public service and because they have made "a significant contribution in their field of government that is innovative, high-impact and critical for the nation," according to the partnership.

I would like to take a few moments to talk about the finalists. If Americans want to see their tax dollars at work, what follows are a few examples.

Call to Service Medal finalists are Federal employees whose professional achievements reflect the important contributions that a new generation brings to public service.

Jonathan Baker, Delta IV launch systems deputy chief engineer, U.S. Air Force Space & Missile Systems Center Launch Systems Directorate, El Segundo, CA saved taxpayers more than \$4 billion on the purchase of 40 new rockets and led the engineering team responsible for launching 13 Air Force satellites into orbit.

Anthony Cotton, Amanda Femal, Jason Fleming, J.P. Gibbons and the Development Credit Authority Transaction Teams, Africa team leader, Cotton; Asia and Middle East team leader, Femal; Latin America/Caribbean and Eastern Europe team leader, Fleming; and Strategic Transactions team leader, Gibbons, U.S. Agency for International Development, Development Credit Authority, Washington, D.C. generated nearly \$1 billion in aid for 60 projects in 42 developing countries during the past 2 years through an innovative, public-private loan guarantee program.

Sofia Hussain, senior forensic accountant, Division of Enforcement, Securities and Exchange Commission, Boston, MA, helped Federal investigators crack intricate securities fraud cases and return hundreds of millions of dollars to investors by introducing cutting-edge technology and data analysis.

Sara Meyers, director, Sandy Program Management Office, Department of Housing & Urban Development, Washington, DC, created sophisticated data analysis systems to evaluate the performance of Federal housing programs and set up processes to track \$13.6 billion in economic stimulus and \$50 billion for Hurricane Sandy disaster recovery;