

known as the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, which has grown its assets to just under \$200 million since 2000. She is the foundation's president and chief executive officer. Through it all, Sue has also managed to serve as an adjunct clinical associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Sue Gladhill for her dedicated service and consummate leadership at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She has contributed greatly to the success of the excellent education and services provided by the University of Maryland's prestigious graduate schools and medical center, and she will be missed. Please join me in wishing her well in her retirement. She certainly has earned it.●

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Aroostook County in far northern Maine has long been a thriving center of farming and logging. In the early years of the 20th century, it seemed that the only barrier to growth and prosperity was a shortage of modern health care facilities and trained medical professionals.

Two local citizens took it upon themselves to remove this barrier. By horse and wagon, Frank White, an attorney, and Charles E. Hussey, a farmer, traveled through the countryside calling on their neighbors and collected \$2,500 to establish a center for health care. In the spring of 1912, Presque Isle General Hospital opened with 20 beds, an operating theater with the latest equipment, four physicians, and a training school for nurses.

Much has changed during the past 100 years. What began in one three-story converted house as Presque Isle General is known today as the Aroostook Medical Center, TAMC, with facilities in Presque Isle, Mars Hill, and Fort Fairfield, an ambulance service, and outreach services, such as a dialysis center and primary care clinics, throughout the northern part of the largest county east of the Mississippi. It has a medical staff of more than 60 trained professionals and a workforce of more than 1,000, making it the region's largest employer.

What has not changed is the spirit of service that is the foundation of this remarkable organization. As one who was born and raised in Aroostook County, I am proud of what has been accomplished there and grateful for the contributions and dedication over the generations that have made this invaluable community resource possible.

The commitment that established the region's first public hospital in 1912 was not a one-time event. Less than a decade later, the growing population created the need for a larger hospital. Another, even more successful fund drive led to the opening in 1921 of a facility with more than twice the beds and vastly expanded services. In 1960, a capital campaign of unprecedented size

for this area established the A.R. Gould Memorial Hospital that continues to grow and serve Aroostook residents.

The namesake of today's hospital is of special significance to my Senate colleagues. Arthur Robinson Gould was a Presque Isle entrepreneur who built a lumber mill, powerplants, and an electric railroad. In 1926, he was elected to the U.S. Senate to fill the term of Senator Bert M. Fernald, who died in office. Senator Gould is best remembered for the courageous stand he took against the Ku Klux Klan at a time when that hateful group was gaining prominence in American politics. Despite the esteem in which he was held, Senator Gould chose not to run for reelection in 1930, saying, "I want to get back to my railroad and the pine forests of Maine."

That simple statement describes the affection the people of Aroostook County have for their home and helps to explain how they could join together to create, sustain, and grow a modern health care organization. By proclamation of the Governor of Maine and the city of Presque Isle, June 9, 2012, is the official day of celebration for this great centennial. I am honored to commemorate the occasion by congratulating the men and women of the Aroostook Medical Center and the people of Aroostook County for 100 years of accomplishment, and I wish them the best in the years to come.●

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE B-52

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the men and women of our United States Air Force on the 60th anniversary of the B-52 Stratofortress strategic bomber.

On April 15, 1952, 60 years ago, America's first B-52 lifted off on its maiden flight. This year also marks 50 years since the last B-52, tail number 61-040, rolled off the assembly line in Wichita, KS, and was delivered to Minot Air Force Base in the great state of North Dakota. Through its unwavering service during and after the Cold War, the B-52 has shown itself as a time-tested and proven solution for the long-range strike and nuclear deterrence missions and become an iconic symbol around the world of America's dedication to "peace through strength." Half a century after this jet was developed and fielded to guarantee nuclear deterrence of the Soviet Union, it played a critical role in military operations after September 11. No other airframe in the history of the Nation has done more to keep this country strong and safe than the B-52.

The Boeing Company originally built 744 B-52s. As the global environment evolved, many of these have since been retired. Nonetheless, 74 aircraft remain in the fleet—more than any other bomber. I sponsored legislation, later signed into law, which requires the B-52 fleet to be maintained at no less than 74 aircraft and preserves the fleet

through 2018. With appropriate funding, we expect the remaining 74 B-52s to serve the Nation honorably until 2045.

The fact that the B-52 is still serving the United States today is a testament to the innovation and dedication of the men and women all around this Nation who designed, built, maintained, supported and employed the B-52 for over 50 years. In fact, these aircraft have been so thoroughly and effectively upgraded and modernized that they are projected to continue to play a critical role defending our country for the foreseeable future and beyond.

During this time of ever-tighter budgets, the B-52 is more important than ever, because it is the most cost effective bomber in our inventory. Or, as the military would say, the B-52 provides great "economy of force," which means the B-52 brings a tremendous amount of "bang" for the taxpayer's dollar. B-52 modernization must be a top priority to ensure that "the best bomb truck for the buck" and its airmen can continue to meet emerging strategic challenges now and well into the future.

The longevity, cost-effectiveness, and adaptability of the B-52 are a testament to the quality of its design and procurement. In many ways, the B-52 is the last great success story of American bomber design and procurement. As the development of the new Long Range Strike Bomber moves forward, we must demand the same innovative thought and dedication that led to the development of the B-52 in the 1950s. Our new bomber must be cost-effective, reliable, and versatile. And it must be produced on schedule, on budget and in quantity. Anything less would be mismanagement we cannot afford, either fiscally or strategically.

2012 has been coined the "Year of the B-52." This year, more than ever, we celebrate the American innovation and dedication that produced this time-tested and tireless workhorse for the Nation. We also celebrate and give our whole-hearted thanks to the men and women who keep these great aircraft flying and keep our Nation safe.●

RECOGNIZING THE 2011 SLOAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator HERB KOHL joins me today in congratulating the 2011 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Excellence in Workplace Effectiveness and Flexibility, which recognizes companies that have successfully used flexibility to enhance both business results and employee goals. The Sloan Awards are presented by the When Work Works initiative, which is a project of the Families and Work Institute and the Society for Human Resource Management. In 2011, the When Work Works initiative was sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

We want to draw your attention to the Sloan Awards because these organizations are to be commended for their