

A confessed recovered drug addict, Gray, now 27, first met former Knox County Attorney Charley Greene Dixon six years ago in drug court.

Gray said without Dixon and the drug court program, he'd "probably be dead."

"He was good to me," Gray's voice quivered as he spoke. "He went beyond his job to help me."

Gray came to "check on" staff members and offer tight hugs, his tears contagious and shared among the group. His story is only one of the many dozen that include some selfless act or shattered belief that work should end at 5 p.m. Dixon, as most have said, was different.

Dixon, who helped hundreds, like Gray, win battles against drugs, poverty, and domestic violence, lost his own battle to colon cancer early Monday morning.

The former county attorney first learned he was ill while on vacation in May 2013. Not long after, on June 30, he resigned his position to then assistant county attorney Gilbert Holland, to focus on getting better. The community he had served so valiantly came together in prayer vigils around the courthouse square, hoping for a miracle.

"The loss will be felt by this community for a long time," Holland said. "Charley dedicated his life to bettering the lives of the people of Knox County. His efforts were never contained by the traditional role of his office. He invented ways to reach out to the community."

Along with Dixon's successful drug court program that has graduated thousands, he was well-known for a long list of community-minded projects—many of which he initiated. Reaching youth was at the forefront of his vision for a successful Knox County—Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, Faith-Based Basketball Cheerleading, Anti-Drug Abuse Poster Contest, a Car/Bike Show for Youth, and a Prevention Camp.

A new youth-related program will take place next fall one of the last requests Dixon made of long-time friend and colleague Claudia Greenwood, who worked with Dixon on grants and public relations.

"He's already told me that next year he would like for us to do a pumpkin patch event and have a pumpkin decorating contest and display the pumpkins in the banks," Greenwood said. "He was always so creative, coming up with things to do with the kids and the community," Greenwood said. "He thought of that while he was sick and wanted to make sure he told us about it."

Finding time to grieve in a busy office hasn't been easy for Dixon's staff. The phone calls keep coming—clients and the public are priority as usual. Among the foot traffic, phone calls, and full email boxes, "it hits" them that Dixon's guidance is gone. And though the quiet moments are few, that's when the staff members feel the waves of emotion and loss wash over them.

"Yesterday, when the media wanted statements, it hit me hard," Greenwood said. "My first thought was that I needed to ask Charley what to say."

Dixon, expected to do great things for his community, succeeded in filling the large shoes of his grandfather John Dixon who served as Knox County attorney for several decades. When elected, the younger Dixon brought his grandfather's legacy and one of his employees into office with him.

"I've worked for Charley this October will be 19 years," Sherry Vaughn said. "I worked for his grandfather five and a half years before that until he passed away. I went to school with Charley; he's been just like a brother to me."

"He loved kids," Vaughn said. "He did everything he could for the children in Knox County. His own children were his whole world. Words can't describe how we feel about the situation. He has struggled for a

year and now he's a lot better off. He's up there now looking down at us."

Dixon's wife, Marcia, like her husband, is active in community service. Often, the couple worked together and at times involved the entire family—the children, Callie Ann and Charleston Arthur, included. The late Dixon's wife knows her community, their hometown, is better off for having had her husband as a leader.

"Charley was very dedicated not only to our family but to our Knox County community as well," Marcia Dixon said. "His goal was to help others, and he believed that if he could make one life better he was a success. I feel blessed to have shared many joyful years with him and want everyone to be able to say as an old Hebrew proverb says, 'Say not in grief: He is no more,' but live in thankfulness that he was."

Knox County's Chamber of Commerce members named Dixon Knox County's Man of the Year last fall and tagged him a "hometown hero."

Dixon's introduction as Man of the Year heralded a long list of community-minded projects that he participated in, implemented, or, in some cases, created.

Dixon served as the chair of the Knox County UNITE (Unlawful Narcotics Investigation, Treatment, and Education) Coalition since May 2005. The former county attorney was also instrumental in securing grant funding through the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky; a grant from PRIDE; a Coal Severance Grant; a Fatherhood Grant and a EUDL Grant to fund programs for young people that promoted prevention for underage drinking.

Dixon made sure his office staff actively participated in Back to School Expos, PRIDE Pick-Up, Relay for Life, the Child Identification Program, the Knox County Reading Celebration, the local August Arts Adventure, and the annual Redbud festival.

Dixon was an active military advocate—photos of local service men and women lined the hallways leading to his office. He called it "Faces of Freedom."

Funeral services for Dixon are at Barbourville First Baptist Church, Friday, June 27 at 2 p.m. Burial will follow in the Barbourville Cemetery.

Visitation is at Barbourville First Baptist Church, Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Friday after 10 a.m. until the funeral hour at 2 p.m. Hopper Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Dixon's family requests contributions be made to the Knox County Chapter of the American Cancer Society in loving memory of Charley Greene Dixon, Jr.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM SHARPE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Jim Sharpe. Now retired, Mr. Sharpe opened his first business in Somerset, KY, in 1947. Since that time he has opened several more, pioneered the houseboat business, and has become an irreplaceable fixture in his community.

Lake Cumberland is known by many as the "houseboat capital of the world"—a designation that is owed in no small part to Jim Sharpe. Jim was one of the first to pioneer the industry—building his first houseboat in 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 up Somerset's first fried chicken restaurant, Kettle Fried Chicken, and in 1974 he bought a car dealership, Pulaski Motor Company.

Although he's now retired, Jim still has plenty to keep him busy. Jim has four children and nine grandchildren, and he has also found time to pick up golf and travel the country. Jim's family is all the stronger for the influence of Jim's dear departed wife, Mary Jo, who left us in 2008. Married in 1950, they were one of the most thriving and generous entrepreneurial couples that Kentucky has ever seen, with distinguished careers in the grocery and food retail business, automobile dealerships, marinas, restaurants, and most notably the houseboat industry which I have already mentioned.

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. Jim is also a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, and we are grateful for his service. I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this upstanding and patriotic Kentucky citizen and veteran.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO BRUCE BLACKWOOD

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Bruce Blackwood, a 2013 summer intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Bruce is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, having majored in history. Bruce is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Bruce for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ALEX CARAMES

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Alex Carames, a 2013 summer intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Alex is a rising senior at Columbia University in New York, NY. Currently, Alex is majoring in economics