and the balance drowned. It was the Navy’s worst naval disaster."

Earl was transferred to Oregon, where he was joined by his wife, Jean Moore. Earl and Jean were high-school sweethearts and got married when Earl went home on 30 days’ leave. After a lifetime of marriage, sadly, Jean passed away in 1989.

Earl was reassigned again, this time to the USS Buitteau APA 233, a troop carrier. He went to Japan that month, after the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They received occupation troops from Honshu, Japan. Earl earned another battle star for an encounter with a Japanese suicide plane in Okinawa Bay. After 2 years, 8 months, and 9 days of faithful service, Earl was discharged in 1946.

Looking back nearly 70 years later, Earl recalls the lessons he’s learned. "I was only 17 when I entered service," he says. "I had no idea what I was facing . . . I had no reason to be scared."

"I saw men put in LCVP vessels and sent to do battle on the beach to take the island back from the Japanese. I saw ships blown up, men blown up, and bodies scattered everywhere when I went over the Island of Tarawa. We lost 8,000 Marines of our own. This was my first battle."

Madam President, I am grateful heroes like Mr. Edward Earl Gidcumb are still able to transmit their wisdom and share their stories with the rest of us. The life story of Mr. Gidcumb is certainly inspiring. I know my colleagues share their stories with the rest of us.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, July is National Lake Appreciation Month. This nationwide initiative is sponsored by the North American Lake Management Society, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, and the Peace Officers Research Association of California, to the American Academy of Pain Management and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores. I urge my colleagues to support the Combating Prescription Drug Abuse Act.

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In addition to recreational uses such as boating, fishing, and swimming, lakes provide a variety of environmental and health benefits. They absorb rainfall and runoff from land, help prevent floods, provide drinking water, regulate the climate, and provide habitat for species of concern. The Environmental Protection Agency’s National Lake Assessment, conducted in 2007 and again in 2012, revealed that many of our lakes are imperiled due to poor nearshore habitat, too many nutrients, invasive species of plants and animals, and other threats. By protecting the health of our lakes, we defend the vitality of the animals and plants that depend on them and ensure that we can enjoy them for years to come.

This year, Maryland has joined 23 other States in celebrating National Lake Appreciation Month and in affirming the importance of lakes for our drinking water, energy production, food production, and recreational value. Maryland boasts 60 large lakes over 5 acres in size, and over 100 lakes in total. We use these lakes for fishing, boating, and other outdoor recreation, as well as for energy. For example, Deep Creek Lake, our largest inland lake in Maryland, consists of 65 miles of shoreline, 18 species of fish, and a wide variety of other animal and plant species, some of which are endangered. The lake also powers the Deep Creek Hydroelectric Power Plant, which provides energy not only to Maryland, but also to communities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. So far we have been able to keep this and other Maryland lakes healthy. In a recent test, it was found that Deep Creek Lake’s water clarity was still at a level similar to that of 1957. As factors such as pollutants and runoff increasingly threaten the health of our lakes, it is important that we continue to work to fight against them.

I am pleased to celebrate National Lake Appreciation Month, to encourage all of us to do our part to keep our lakes clean and healthy. Lakes are a very important part of our ecosystem in Maryland. We must continue to increase our efforts to care for our lakes and show our appreciation for all that they provide us.

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Steve Schorr, the chief operating officer of BroadCom, Inc., a division of Cox Communications. Born in Baltimore, and a graduate of the University of Maryland, Steve Schorr joined Cox in 1990 as a member of the accounting department. In 1998, he was named senior vice president of Cox Business, which later became BroadCom, Inc. Steve has been a long-time advocate for broadband access in the State of Maryland, where he is currently the vice president of Cox Business, providing a variety of services to businesses and consumers alike. He has played a key role in ensuring broadband access for all Marylanders.

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