

himself as an institution in our television news. Over his 46-year career in the TV business, Dick has proven himself to be a professional newsman—a reporter with no motive other than to give his viewers an insight on the news.

Dick's distinguished career began modestly. A high school dropout at the age of 14, he worked to support himself. He once said, "the experience of those years taught me the most valuable lessons of my life: that I would never achieve any real success without an education." He enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17, earning a GED certificate. After his discharge, Dick realized his dream of an education by graduating from Bradley University in Peoria through the GI bill, receiving a B.S. in speech education in 1962.

Dick remained in Peoria to work on TV and radio programs before getting his big break as the news director of WFRV-TV in Green Bay, WI. After 3 years in the "Dairy State," he relocated to Chicago in 1968 as a producer and writer for WMAQ-NBC 5. He was tested immediately, as one of his first assignments was the tumultuous 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Within 2 years, Dick had worked his way up to full-time reporter and eventually political editor. He became host of the weekly news show "City Desk." This Sunday morning broadcast became a Chicagoland staple—a "must-see" for everyone following the political scene. Dick's questions were often tough but always fair. Political guests knew that a visit to "City Desk" would always be memorable.

Dick's achievements include a long list of honors and awards. His 1984 9-month investigation of the Illinois General Assembly's so-called Legislative Study Commissions earned him the George Foster Peabody medallion, the most prestigious honor in television broadcasting. The report also won him a National Headliner Award and the Jacob Scher Award for investigative reporting. Dick's numerous accolades include 11 Emmys; induction into the Television Academy's Silver Circle Hall of Fame; Commentator of the Year from the Joint Civic Committee of Italian-Americans; as well as multiple awards courtesy of the Associated Press, the Chicago Headline Club, and the Society of Professional Journalists. Perhaps one of Dick's proudest moments was being honored as a Bradley University Distinguished Alumnus. He has surely come a long way since shining shoes at the age of 14 in Evansville, IN.

Mr. President, after nearly a half century of reporting the news, Dick says that he is ready to "smell the roses," and he has certainly earned it. Dick Kay has played an important role in reporting the exciting news stories of our time and has left his mark on the "Land of Lincoln." I wish a restful and happy retirement to Dick Kay, one of Illinois' and Chicago's premier newsmen.

W. RALPH BASHAM,
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today President George W. Bush witnessed the swearing-in of W. Ralph Basham to serve as Commissioner of Customs in the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Basham's nomination was favorably reported out of the Finance Committee on May 18, 2006, and he was confirmed by the Senate on May 26, 2006.

The President nominated an outstanding individual to be Commissioner of Customs. Ralph Basham has served as Director of the Secret Service and is a 29-year veteran of the Secret Service. He has also served as chief of staff for the Transportation Security Administration and as director of the Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynnco, GA. His demonstrated commitment to public service is admirable. And the breadth of his experiences will be an important asset as he assumes his new responsibilities.

The Commissioner of Customs serves in a critical and demanding role. The Commissioner of Customs must ensure that the dual demands of securing our borders and facilitating the smooth flow of international trade are each fully met. As part of his confirmation process Mr. Basham appeared before the Finance Committee, which I chair. During his hearing, I was impressed with Mr. Basham's appreciation of the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance in meeting those dual demands.

More broadly, the Commissioner of Customs heads a bureau of over 40,000 employees. Those Government employees are on the front line for enforcing laws related to over 40 agencies. At the same time, they process \$1.7 trillion worth of imports and collect about \$28 dollars in duties and fees. This trade is critical to our economy. For example, the 10-day strike at the port of Long Beach a few years ago is estimated to have cost our economy between \$1 billion to \$2 billion each day. That illustrates why maintaining an appropriate balance between trade security and trade facilitation is so important.

As chairman of the Committee on Finance, with jurisdiction over customs and international trade, I look forward to working with Mr. Basham to advance a robust customs and trade agenda now that he's taken over as Commissioner of Customs.

DARFUR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, while the Senate, with the encouragement of a White House in full campaign mode, debates a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage—a debate which will consume days of the Senate's time and is all about scoring political points in an election year—the disaster in Darfur rages on.

It has been nearly 4 weeks since a peace agreement was signed between

the Sudanese Government and one of the rebel groups, but violence, hunger and disease continue to claim innocent lives.

Jan Egeland, United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, recently described the humanitarian situation in Darfur as being on the verge of collapse.

In the midst of this calamity, the Senate is focused on other matters. Gay marriage. Next it will be flag burning. And then full repeal of the estate tax, to benefit the wealthiest of the wealthy. Solutions in search of a problem, while whole villages burn, their inhabitants are slaughtered, and relief organizations in Darfur struggle to cope without adequate resources.

Between a quarter of a million and half a million people have perished in Darfur—mostly civilians whose villages have been reduced to ashes. Many, who escaped being shot or hacked to death, have died from hunger and disease.

The Sudanese Government has obstructed the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur. The African Union has done its best, but with only 7,000 troops, inadequate resources, and a weak mandate to patrol a vast area with few roads, it has been unable to provide civilians with the protection they need.

I am so very proud that two high school students in Vermont are setting a moral example for all Americans. Ben Rome and Brian Banks, seniors at Essex High School, outraged over the tragedy that is unfolding half a world away, felt compelled to do something about it. They have organized a public rally in Burlington, VT, for this coming Sunday to bring Vermonters together to speak out about one of the worst human disasters in recent memory. I look forward to joining Ben and Brian and other concerned Vermonters this weekend.

The supplemental appropriations bill for Iraq, Afghanistan, Hurricane Katrina recovery, and Sudan, which should be completed this week—and I hope we can find the time to pass it—contains additional funds to support the current level of peacekeepers in Darfur through the remainder of this year. This will help, but twice that amount is needed.

The supplemental also provides additional funds for food and other humanitarian aid. It should shame the White House and the Congress to reflect on the fact that we know we are not doing enough.

We also provide funds to support a Presidential special envoy for Sudan, to work in pursuit of peace in Darfur and stability throughout Sudan, northern Uganda, and Chad. We need someone of the caliber of Senator Danforth to be working continuously to help solve the Darfur crisis.

A tragedy like this is bigger than any of us as individuals, but it is not too big if we join together in constructive action—as individuals, as private relief organizations, and as nations.

America is a great and good nation with the power to help stop this. But it will take sustained attention, and it will take the efforts of committed citizens like Brian Banks and Ben Rome who, one by one, are opening the world's eyes to a tragedy that must be stopped.

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today is National Hunger Awareness Day, and it is an opportunity for all of us to pledge a greater effort to deal more effectively with this festering problem that shames our Nation and has become even more serious in recent years. Surely we can all do more to care for neighbors and fellow citizens who fall on hard times.

The number of Americans living in hunger or on the brink of hunger now totals 38 million—5 million more than when President Bush took office. That total includes almost 14 million children, 972,000 more since 2000.

America's Second Harvest, the nation's largest network of emergency food providers, recently conducted a series of interviews with its clients, and the report is astounding. Its emergency food providers serve 4.5 million different people a week—and 24 to 27 million people a year.

Over 36 percent of its clients are children under 18 years old, and 10 percent are elderly. Another 36 percent of its clients live in households with at least one employed adult.

These statistics are shameful. Our Nation's neediest individuals should not be forced to choose between paying for food and paying the rent or paying for medicine.

In Massachusetts, the Greater Boston Food Bank serves over 320,000 people a year—34 percent of them are under 18. All of us in the Commonwealth are grateful that we have food providers like the Greater Boston Food Bank, but they should not have to wage the battle alone. Government can't stand idle in the face of this great tragedy. We have programs in place to fight hunger, but they continue to be underfunded and underused.

Day in and day out, the needs of millions of Americans living in hunger are ignored, and too often their voices have been silenced. Their battle is a constant ongoing struggle. It undermines their productivity, their earning power, and their health. It keeps their children from concentrating and learning in school. We all need to do more to combat it. Government, corporations, communities, and citizens must work together to develop better policies and faster responses.

In 1996, the Clinton administration pledged to begin an effort to cut hunger in half in the United States by 2010, and the strong economy enabled us to make significant progress toward that goal. Hunger decreased steadily through 2000. We now have 4 years left to fulfill that commitment.

The fastest, most direct way to reduce hunger in the Nation is to improve and expand current Federal nutrition programs. Sadly, the current administration proposes to change proven and effective programs such as food stamps and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. The administration also proposes to eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides modest food packages to low-income seniors and to mothers with children up to age 6.

It is time to do more for the most vulnerable in our society. National Hunger Awareness Day is our chance to pledge to eradicate hunger in America—and to mean it when we say it.

HOLD ON S. 2012

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, up and down the coast of Oregon, fishermen, their families and communities are suffering from the actions of the Secretary of Commerce in curtailing the Klamath salmon fishery without offering the assistance they need to cope with this disaster. Months ago the Pacific Fishery Management Council recommended to the Secretary of Commerce that this salmon fishery be drastically curtailed. The Secretary responded to the Council's recommendation by slashing the quotas and limiting the number of days and areas that could be fished. But despite numerous pleas for help from the affected communities, the Secretary has done nothing for months and months to help out the fishers whose livelihood depends on the Klamath salmon stocks.

The Secretary's continued inaction is not acceptable, and so I am objecting to any unanimous consent request for the Senate to proceed to or adopt S. 2012, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2005 until the Senate can consider legislative steps that will help fishermen in Oregon and California survive this disastrous fishing season. I make this objection consistent with my policy of always announcing "holds" I may place on legislation or nominations.

The State of Oregon is seeking a Presidential emergency declaration for those affected by this Federal action, and I intend to work closely with the State and my colleagues here in the Senate to make sure Oregon's fishing communities are not forgotten and that they receive the aid they will require to make it through this year.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST REPORTED AIDS CASE

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a bittersweet occasion: the 25th anniversary of the first reported AIDS case. June 5 will forever be a day to reflect upon the lives that have been impacted by the HIV/AIDS virus and the significant progress we have made in its detection, control, and treat-

ment. While much ground has been gained over the last quarter of a century, there remains a great deal of work to be done. That is why I stand today to pledge a sustained commitment to the global fight against HIV/AIDS—a fight that we cannot abandon until and effective cure is discovered.

Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Michael Gottlieb with the UCLA Hospital reported an extremely rare pneumonia in five young gay men to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. One of these men, named "Chuck," was from Oregon. Unbeknownst to Dr. Gottlieb, this seemingly insignificant incident ultimately evolved into one of the most significant health events of the modern era. It was 3 years later that the cause of this mysterious outbreak of pneumonia was attributed to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, HIV. Sadly, for "Chuck" this discovery was made too late; he passed away shortly after he fell ill.

Since 1981, an estimated 25 million individuals have died from the AIDS virus worldwide. What is even more alarming is that 16,000 new cases of HIV are diagnosed every day, quickly adding to the 40 million people who have already contracted the virus. Statistics such as these are disheartening given the scientific and medical progress we have made since the first cases of the illness were reported.

In the United States, an estimated 1.039 million to 1.185 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2003, a 20-percent increase over the estimated number of cases at the end of 2002. While the number of persons with HIV in Oregon is small relative to other States, we nevertheless saw an 85-percent increase in the number of HIV-reported cases between 2002 and 2003. Not since the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s has there been so many Americans living with this terrible illness.

Congress has a great opportunity to further the domestic fight against HIV/AIDS this year. Reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act currently is underway, and I am confident that the House and the Senate can pass a bill by the end of this Congress that improves the scope and quality of services provided to those living with HIV/AIDS. As deliberations continue, it is important that we focus upon improving the equitable distribution of resources to States, municipalities, and community-based organizations, and that we not arbitrarily restrict their ability to provide the best care possible to those who need it. Nonprofit groups such as Cascade AIDS in Portland, OR, rely upon Ryan White CARE funds to offer a wide-range of both medical and social support services, like emergency housing and nutritional assistance. We must ensure that the changes we make to the CARE Act strengthen—not harm—the ability of organizations like Cascade AIDS to serve those living with HIV/AIDS.

As we move forward with the annual appropriations process, it is important