

healthcare costs without increasing risks to patients and stimulate the growth of American ingenuity and U.S.-based jobs.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, we are finished with business for today. We do have some more amendments to be called up and voted on tomorrow. I understand we are coming in—I do not know exactly what time has been set for the morning, but after the leaders' time has been used, we will be back on this bill.

Again, I remind Senators and their staffs that we have until 2 p.m. for their amendments to be brought up and to be debated. The sooner we get to those in the morning, the better off we will be.

So as soon as the leader time is exhausted tomorrow morning, we will be back on our bill.

So, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time in the quorum call not be taken off our bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF USDA

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, last week we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the United States Department of Agriculture, also known as the USDA. On May 15, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation to create the USDA. Since this day, the USDA has made major contributions to agriculture that have benefited the people of the United States.

Hawaii has a historic relationship with the USDA that began during Hawaii's territorial days. Our very own University of Hawaii at Manoa campus began as a land-grant college of agriculture and mechanic arts in 1907. John Washington Gilmore, the first president of the College of Hawaii, the predecessor of the University of Hawaii, was the son of a farmer who was tasked to build Hawaii's first agricultural school. During the past 100 years, the University helped Hawaii diversify its economy, sustain its environment, and build stronger families and communities.

Hawaii faces unique challenges when it comes to food security. Hawaii depends on imported food for approxi-

mately 85 percent of its food supply. For the United States as a whole, imports make up about 15 percent of total food consumption. In addition, higher energy-related transportation costs, and rapidly escalating commodity prices translate into very high food costs for Hawaii consumers. Further, if there is a shipping disruption of any kind, it is estimated that Hawaii has a 4 to 7 day food supply.

The magnitude for Hawaii of this potential and unprecedented food security crisis has prompted a restructuring of Hawaii's agriculture, with a move from large-scale plantation agriculture to smaller scale, more diversified agriculture, with an initial emphasis on import substitution. This process has been occurring over the past 20 years with many large scale plantations either closing or shifting to overseas locations. Our situation remains a struggle. There is only one sugarcane and one pineapple operation remaining in the State. There are no dairies on the Island of Oahu and the only two remaining in the State are on the Big Island. There are no slaughter or meat processing facilities on Oahu. A major employer on the Island of Molokai is gone and, with it, agricultural production and water supplies for residents. Finally, the only poultry operations remaining are four egg producers on Oahu.

The rapid closures of these farming and farm-related operations continues to pose a serious challenge for our agriculture industry in Hawaii as these operations were attempting a transition to agriculture supportive of local consumption through import substitution. Accordingly, efforts to support those remaining in agriculture to make the transition to an agriculture supportive of Hawaii food security is also critical to the continued sustainability and viability of our agriculture industry in the State of Hawaii.

The USDA plays a major role in preservation. The U.S. Forest Service, part of the USDA, protects and manages our Nation's forests and grasslands. Hawaii's rainforests contain numerous plant species that are not found anywhere else in the world, and they are part of a unique, delicate ecosystem consisting of countless native Hawaiian animal species. The Forest Service has helped protect the beauty of Hawaii's rainforests by fighting invasive species and destructive human practices.

The USDA hopes to protect the environments of Hawaii and the rest of the United States with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, also known as APHIS. The mission of APHIS is to protect our Nation's agriculture and animal and plant resources from diseases and pests. APHIS plays a major role in the protection of Hawaii's environment. Invasive species such as fruit flies, coffee berry borers, and Varroa mites have been devastating to Hawaii's agriculture and fragile ecosystem. If Hawaii fails to

stop potential invasive species including the Brown Tree Snake, the results will be catastrophic. Even though Hawaii may be small compared to the continental United States, our islands contain one the most diverse ecosystems in the world. It is in our country's interest to keep these protective programs. APHIS also protects the continental United States from potential destructive invasive species that can wreak havoc on our Nation's agriculture. Programs such as APHIS protect both Hawaii and the continental United States and are vital for economic and environmental security for everyone.

In addition to preservation, the USDA helps with innovation. The Agricultural Research Service is responsible for conducting basic, applied and developmental research on: soil, water, and air sciences; plant and animal productivity; commodity conversion and delivery; human nutrition; and the integration of agriculture systems. Through research, development, and other federal programs, the USDA has helped farmers produce food efficiently and sustainably. The United States is a world leader in agricultural production, and our agriculture research infrastructure continues to give our country a competitive edge.

Agriculture has been, and remains, an important pillar of the American economy. The USDA touches all Americans and will continue to contribute to our society far into the future. I wish nothing but the best for the USDA in the years to come.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN U.S. PRISONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the human rights issue of sexual assault in U.S. prisons, jails, and detention centers—and the historic release of our country's first-ever national standards to eliminate prison rape.

When the government takes people into custody, and puts them behind bars, their human rights become our responsibility. And we are accountable for the results. In studying this issue for nearly a decade, we learned that sexual assault in detention has become an epidemic. It is occurring at the hands of other inmates, and it is occurring at the hands of prison officials whose job it is to protect.

We learned that hundreds of thousands of inmates are victims of sexual assault every year. According to a Bureau of Justice Statistics report released this month, approximately one out of ten former state prisoners reported incidents of sexual victimization during their most recent stay behind bars. Approximately a third of former inmates reported other types of sexual harassment or victimization. Many say these are conservative estimates of those brave enough to report.

It is also disturbing that "prison rape" has become an accepted part of our culture. We hear people make light

of it in jokes, in movies, in television shows. It is a common pop culture reference. This is unacceptable, and it sends the message that this brutal, terrorizing conduct is actually part of a United States prison sentence. As our Supreme Court has said, it is not. The Court stated, in the 1994 case of *Farmer v. Brennan*, that being violently assaulted in prison is not part of the penalty offenders should pay for their offenses against society.

Winston Churchill declared in 1910:

The mood and temper of the public in regard to the treatment of crime and criminals is one of the most unfailing tests of the civilisation of any country.

We are utterly failing the test when it comes to prison rape. Our status quo is intolerable for a country that prides itself on its commitment to civil liberties, to civil rights, and to human rights.

And this issue affects so many individuals and their families so deeply. We have more than two million people incarcerated in America today. We incarcerate more individuals, and at a higher per capita rate, than any other country on earth.

Congress passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act, "PREA," in 2003. This was a bipartisan effort so important that its champions included unlikely bedfellows like Senators JEFF SESSIONS and Edward M. Kennedy. I was an original cosponsor of this legislation. Just last week, the Department of Justice finally issued the first-ever national standards to prevent, detect, and respond to prison rape, which are required under PREA.

These are historic regulations that aim to eliminate sexual assault in all federal, state, and local facilities. I applaud President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder on their achievement. This nearly 300-page document represents one of the most comprehensive and challenging rulemaking processes the Department of Justice has undertaken in decades.

In particular, I want to thank the Attorney General for incorporating my concerns and suggestions into the Justice Department's final standards. As an original cosponsor of PREA, I have been following the progress of these long-delayed standards for nearly 9 years. The Department's proposed standards, released early last year, were missing important protections. I sent a letter to the Attorney General, emphasizing the need for stronger provisions in certain key respects. For example: The sea change we need requires, above all, accountability. In my letter, I expressed concern that the proposed standards did not require regular audits of detention facilities by external, objective auditors. The final standards require external audits every 3 years to ensure the regulations are being implemented.

One of the biggest problems with custodial sexual assault is underreporting and fear of retaliation. I learned it was key that inmates have access to "out-

side reporting"—a way to report abuse to someone entirely separate from the facility and agency holding them. According to one Illinois inmate, this "could make all the difference." Heeding these concerns, the final standards now require this outside reporting.

I expressed concern about imposing short timelines for reporting abuse and hampering the ability of victims to seek appropriate redress. I also asked the Department to ensure inmates weren't chilled from reporting emergency situations due to fear of reprimand for false reporting. I am pleased that the final rule made these changes.

I commented on the need for increased protections related to certain staff practices we know can contribute to instances of sexual abuse—so-called "cross-gender pat-downs and cross-gender viewings." I am pleased that many of the critical protections were added.

I have long been concerned about the use of solitary confinement, where some inmates spend prolonged periods in extreme isolation. I learned one reason some do not report abuse is a fear of placement in solitary confinement. Placing those who report abuse in extreme confinement can make a "victim" even more of a victim. I asked the Department to impose important safeguards in this regard, and I am pleased to see these changes were included in the final standards.

Finally, I am concerned about younger inmates who are especially vulnerable and easily victimized—namely, children serving time in adult prisons. The final standards include important protections for this population.

I am grateful to Attorney General Holder for considering my input and for making these changes to the Justice Department's historic national standards.

Of course, the standards are not perfect. I look forward to working with the Department of Justice on remaining issues like ensuring that inmates have access to confidential reporting and services—and making sure that staff practices, like cross-gender pat-downs, with regard to male inmates are appropriate.

But the bottom line is that the Department's strong standards make clear that the federal government will not tolerate this conduct, and that a culture change is necessary.

My work on this issue has been inspired by hearing from sexual abuse victims. For example, I received an account from one Illinois inmate who was incarcerated for a non-violent offense. He described multiple threats he received in jail, and how he tried to get help from prison officials, to no avail. He explained how he was knocked to the floor, choked, and raped in the shower. He now wants to spend his life putting an end to prison rape.

I received a report from another survivor in Illinois, a father of two who explained how he contracted HIV after being sexually assaulted in prison. He

talked about the stress, hyperventilating, nightmares, and shame. He explained that he wakes some nights and can "smell the soap from the washcloth that had been crammed in [his] mouth to silence [the] screams."

Criminal detainees aren't the only detainees at risk. Last week, the White House made another important announcement. It confirmed that Prison Rape Elimination Act standards will apply to all federal confinement facilities, including immigration facilities. This is an important step that speaks to the Administration's commitment to ending sexual assault in all forms of detention.

The Department of Homeland Security will be promulgating its own regulations that will apply to immigration detainees. I have long been concerned about the sexual assault of immigration detainees. We have heard about truly horrific instances of assault occurring in immigration detention facilities. A troubling episode of *Frontline*, the PBS program, detailed one woman's story in great detail recently. But that was hardly an isolated incident.

When we drafted and passed PREA, it was always our intent that it would apply to all those in detention—including immigration detainees. I discussed this issue with Secretary Napolitano at a recent Judiciary Committee hearing. And I also—working with Senator LEAHY—included a provision in the current Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act to clarify that standards to prevent rape must apply to all immigration detainees.

I am disappointed that nearly 9 years after PREA was passed, our immigration detainees still do not have the strong protections they deserve. But I look forward to working with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that its forthcoming regulations effectively address this issue. It was never our intention to have those accused of violating civil immigration laws left with fewer protections than those serving criminal sentences.

Again, I applaud President Obama and Attorney General Holder for their efforts to end this serious human rights abuse. I also give special recognition to the bipartisan Prison Rape Elimination Commission, whose impressive work, expertise, and strong proposed standards were the lynchpin of this effort.

I want to recognize my former colleague, the late, great Senator Ted Kennedy, for his leadership on this issue, as he led us on so many civil rights issues over the years.

I also want to thank my colleague Senator SESSIONS for his leadership as the lead sponsor of the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Senator SESSIONS and I often disagree, but we have been able to come together across the political divide to work on civil rights issues like prison rape and the sentencing of nonviolent drug offenders. As Senator Kennedy stated about prison rape:

It is not a liberal issue or a conservative issue. It is an issue of basic decency and human rights.

Finally, I thank the organizations that worked with me and my office to address this issue: Just Detention International, the ACLU, the National Immigrant Justice Center, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, Campaign for Youth Justice, and so many others.

I look forward to confronting what may be the most challenging part of this process ahead—ensuring that these standards protect the rights of all detainees, and that they are adopted and enforced expeditiously. I look forward to working with my colleagues to put an end to one of the more alarming criminal justice and human rights crises in our country today.

REMEMBERING EDDIE BLAZONCZYK, SR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on Monday morning, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., passed away in Palos Heights, IL. He was known in the greater Chicago area as the Polka King. Eddie was born in Chicago in 1941 to Polish immigrant parents—both musicians. It is no surprise, then, that Eddie started playing the accordion at the age of 12. Eddie's first love was rock and roll, but, influenced by his mother's fondness for the music of her homeland, he was soon playing polka music.

In 1962, Eddie Blazonczyk joined a local polka band called the Versatones, a union that would last for the rest of his life. His son, Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr., still plays with the band. Today, the Versatones are the most sought after polka band in the music industry. While they are popular in communities all over the country, Chicago has always been home to the band, and Chicago knows polka.

The Chicago metropolitan area is steeped with Polish customs and heritage. It has the largest Polish population outside of Poland, and the Polish language is the third most commonly spoken language in the greater Chicago area. In Illinois, the first Monday of March is Casimir Pulaski Day, a day when all State government buildings are closed in remembrance of "the father of the American cavalry." The International Polka Association moved to Chicago in 1968. We even have a Chicago style of polka music, distinguished by heavier clarinet and trumpet and, of course, the button-box accordion. Eddie Blazonczyk helped define Chicago style polka, even as he grew into his unofficial role as polka royalty.

In 1967, a congressional committee awarded 26-year-old Eddie Blazonczyk and the Versatones the title of "The Nation's #1 Polka Band." In 1970, Eddie was elected into the International Polka Association Polka Music Hall of Fame. The Versatones also have 16 Grammy nominations and a Grammy award in 1986 for their "Another Polka

Celebration" album. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton presented him with the National Endowment for the Arts 1998 National Heritage Fellowship for preserving Polish Heritage Music.

I extend my sympathies to Eddie's wife Christine—Tish, as many know her; his daughter Kathy; his sons Eddie and Tony; his grandchildren Cayle, Anya, and Anthony; and his many nieces and nephews. Eddie took a traditional sound and infused it with rock and roll, Cajun, zydeco, and country, creating something both familiar and entirely different. The Polish American community lost a music hero this week, but his legacy will live on at weddings, celebrations, and parties for generations to come.

RYAN CROCKER DEPARTURE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a statement released yesterday by Senators GRAHAM, LIEBERMAN, and myself on the decision of Ambassador Ryan Crocker to depart his post in Kabul, Afghanistan.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The recent announcement by Ambassador Ryan Crocker that he will be departing his post in Kabul is a great loss to the United States and Afghanistan, but we fully understand his decision. We are grateful beyond words to Ryan for his decision to come out of retirement at the President's request to serve our country one last time in one of the most challenging jobs in the world. When the history of the past decade is written, Ryan Crocker will rightly be recognized as one of the genuine American heroes of this era. We have never met a finer, more capable, or more dedicated diplomat than Ryan Crocker.

Ambassador Crocker arrived in Afghanistan at a critical moment in the relations between our two countries. Thanks to his efforts, we believe that the Afghan-U.S. relationship is now on a much better path. In the last year, Ambassador Crocker and General Allen, working with our Afghan and NATO partners, successfully negotiated a Strategic Partnership Agreement. If properly implemented, this Agreement could be the ultimate guarantee that Al-Qaeda and the Taliban will never again control Afghanistan. For this, and for so much else in his long and distinguished career, Ryan Crocker deserves the respect, gratitude, and admiration of all Americans. We will miss him greatly, and look forward to welcoming him back home to the United States.

REMEMBERING STEPHEN DAGGETT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death on April 17 of Stephen Daggett, a highly respected defense expert at the Congressional Research Service and an authority on the U.S. defense budget.

Mr. Daggett provided Congress with authoritative analysis on many aspects of defense spending in the overall context of defense policy and U.S. national security strategy. His briefs to Members of Congress and his written reports captured the complexity of issues

ranging from the Department of Defense's Quadrennial Defense Review to the budget priorities of the Armed Services.

Very few "defense experts" could do what he could do. Mr. Daggett was admired by his professional colleagues in CRS and earned many awards for his dedication and outstanding performance. His appraisals were sought-after by Members of Congress and their staffs, by others in the Department of Defense, and by industry. Mr. Daggett's particular interest in providing an unbiased, unvarnished assessment to diverse constituencies, especially outside Congress, was laudable.

In an era of wide political gulfs, he supplied irrefutable ground truths—which often became the basis for common understanding and problem solving. His accounts of the interrelated nature of defense policy, strategy, and budgets continue to be the standards of the discipline. Thought leaders on and off the Hill, in industry, associations and think tanks, on the right and the left, will feel his absence.

Mr. Daggett was a national asset who provided the Congress with invaluable expertise on defense issues for over 20 years and during three U.S. wars. He will be sorely missed by his professional colleagues and friends, by his wife, Diana, his sons Thomas and Sam, and by the many in Congress who depended on him.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES HANLON

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Mr. James A. Hanlon, who is retiring this month after nearly 40 years of Federal service at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Jim has spent his long and distinguished career at EPA focusing on water quality issues and helping States and communities comply with Federal clean water requirements. He began his career at EPA as a staff engineer in September 1972, 1 month prior to the passage of the Clean Water Act, and has served in a number of senior positions within the Office of Water and Office of Research and Development.

Although he has many accomplishments, I want to particularly acknowledge Jim's role in managing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program, a program that has been so important to my home State of Rhode Island.

Jim was there at the program's inception, working for several years to design and lead the implementation of the program after it was first created by Congress in 1987. A decade ago, he was appointed Director of the Office of Wastewater Management, where he has continued to manage the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program and to oversee EPA's broader wastewater regulatory portfolio. Thanks in large part to his leadership, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program has successfully provided more than \$90 billion nationwide to date to fund critical