

the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. In a time of continual wrangling over the appropriations process, tight budgets, veto threats, and differences between the House and Senate, Chuck has been a steady leader and a working dynamo. We have been extremely fortunate to have the right man as staff director in very difficult times.

Chuck also serves as the chief clerk of the Homeland Security Subcommittee which funds the agencies that merged to form this cabinet level department. In the aftermath of September 11, Chuck provided key advice and direction about the wisest ways to protect against future terrorist attacks and address the staggering destruction in New York State and at the Pentagon. He has worn the two hats of staff director of the full Appropriations Committee and clerk of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, which I continue to chair, with grace and with ease.

This really should come as no surprise. Despite his youth and unassuming demeanor, Chuck has served five Presidents, beginning with President Carter.

Before he joined my Appropriations staff, Chuck worked at the Office of Management and Budget during the Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush administrations.

In 1978 Chuck began his government service as a Presidential management intern at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. From 1978–1985 he served as a budget analyst for the Department of Health and Human Services. From 1985–1990 Mr. Kieffer was special assistant to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. From 1990–1995, he served as chief appropriations analyst for the Office of Management and Budget, and from 1995–2001 he was acting associate director of legislative affairs at the OMB until he joined my staff as deputy staff director of the Appropriations Committee in 2001. In 2001, Chuck Kieffer won the Robert G. Damas Public Service Award.

As I step aside as chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the coming days, I am thankful that Chuck has agreed to stay by my side as the chief clerk of the subcommittee on Homeland Security. We can all sleep a little more soundly knowing that such a talented person as Chuck Kieffer is helping to adequately and effectively fund the Department charged with keeping Americans safe from harm here at home.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SENATOR BYRD'S SWEARING IN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today we begin the 111th Congress. As it is every two years, this is a moment for new beginnings, but also an opportunity to bid farewell to some dear friends of ours as they move on to the next chapters in their remarkable lives.

While it is always a joy to see this moment—to see the pride visible in not only the Members' faces, but their families' as well—this year's is especially poignant for me.

Each of the men and women who have taken this oath during my time in this institution has made an impression on me—influencing my life, my work—in one way or another.

But 50 years ago this week, two Members were sworn in—one who is here today and another who remains here in spirit—each of whom had a singularly important impact on me:

My father, Thomas Dodd, who represented my State of Connecticut, and our esteemed colleague and friend from West Virginia, ROBERT C. BYRD.

I was only a boy then, but I remember that moment as if it were yesterday, seated with my family in the gallery above, as we looked down on my father, as he began what would turn out to be the final chapter in a public life—a life that had already taken him from Norwich, CT, to Washington, DC, as an FBI agent and lawyer at the Department of Justice; to Germany where he served as a prosecutor at the famous Nuremberg Trials, before returning to our Nation's Capital to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Fifty years later, I take no small amount of pride in noting that in each of these endeavors, my father proved to be ahead of his time—an advocate for universal health care, a proponent of sensible gun safety laws, an early voice warning of the effects of violence on TV and the dangers of drug addiction; and an insistent defender of those whose human rights were being denied.

Indeed, it would not take long before a fellow freshman made his own mark, becoming not only this body's President pro tempore and the longest-serving Member in its history, but the undisputed master of this body's arcane parliamentary procedures, an award-winning author and historian and the foremost champion of sunlight in government.

Today, as the whole world watches these historic moments, we should note that it was ROBERT BYRD who staved off the threat that the Senate might become “the invisible branch of government” by ensuring that our proceedings be televised.

Some two-and-half decades ago, when I was sworn in myself, it was my colleague from West Virginia who handed me a small book—a pocket-sized Constitution. For all I know, he did this for every freshman Senator.

His message was simple: as a Member of the Senate, you are a temporary custodian of this document.

And so, I kept that book. For 28 years, I have carried it with me in my back pocket—Saturday, Sunday, every day of the week to remind myself how important this document is, the values and the principles that are incorporated in it.

Senator BYRD has put it better than anyone: “The limits that the Constitu-

tion places on how political power is exercised have ensured our freedom for more than two centuries.”

Each of these men taught me, in different ways, that we cannot defend and protect the vision of the Framers if we are ignorant of the Constitution's history and the rule of law.

And so today, as we look forward to the 111th Congress and all that we hope to achieve, may we also remember this gift that was given to all of us in the 86th Congress all those years ago. May it continue to shine for many, many more.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant, particularly in light of our economic times. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

My wife and I are retired with fixed retirement incomes and our IRAs and annuities. We live about six miles from Moscow. We are now limiting our trips to town and will reduce/eliminate the travel we had planned this summer. We use our Ford 500 that gets about 29MPG instead of our pickup as much as possible. Our home is heated with wood pellets, but we wonder if wood pellets will be available next fall because of the failing timber industry.

We have little hope that gas prices will decrease. Both of the Presidential candidates have bought into the global warming hoax and do not want to develop our oil resources. We expected it of the Democrat candidate but are very disappointed in John McCain's position. It is difficult to believe that he thinks the liberal environmental industry will vote for him because he claims to be an “environmentalist”.

We feel that [the candidates] should visit ANWR and see that it is not like the Grand Canyon. It is a frozen desert where the oil resource could be developed with little impact. We encourage you to help change positions on oil development. [Our country] will miss a golden opportunity if they do not use the “drill here, drill now, pay less” position. Thank you for asking for our opinion.

NED and ARLEEN, *Moscow.*