

between 2002 and 2007. The U.S. development assistance to African agriculture fell from its peak of about \$500 million in 1988 to less than \$100 million in 2006. We can do a lot better than that.

The USAID has been hardest hit during this period. The USAID once considered agricultural expertise to be a core strength but today operates under diminished capacity. That is an understatement. Here is what I mean. In 1990, USAID employed 181 agricultural specialists, but in 2009 just 22—from 181 to 22 in just those years, less than 20 years. That number has gone up from 22 recently, with the new administration, but it is still far too few to work on this problem.

In the 1970s, the U.S. Government sponsored 20,000 annual scholarships for future leadership in agriculture, engineering, and related fields. Today, that number has fallen to less than 900. So we are not developing the workforce and expertise we need.

We simply don't currently have adequate infrastructure in our government to respond to this crisis. The administration is making progress, though. The administration's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, known by the acronym GHFSI, is a comprehensive approach to food security based on country- and community-led planning and collaboration. I welcome this opportunity to hear directly from the administration about this effort. While I know the Obama administration has worked assiduously to coordinate an interagency process and selection criteria for country participation around the world, questions remain in terms of overall leadership of the initiative, as well as its plan to develop internal expertise and capacity that is sustainable over the long term.

In the Senate, we have worked to bring attention to the world's hungry. Senator LUGAR, as I mentioned before, a respected leader in this field for decades, and I have joined together to introduce the Global Food Security Act. I will highlight three provisions before I conclude.

First, the Global Food Security Act would provide enhanced coordination within the U.S. Government so that USAID, the Department of Agriculture, and other agencies are working together and not at cross-purposes.

Second, this bill would expand U.S. investment in the agricultural productivity of developing nations, so that other nations facing escalating food prices can rely less on emergency food assistance and instead take steps to expand their own crop production. Every dollar invested in agricultural research and development generates \$9 for every dollar worth of food in the developing worlds.

Third, this bill, the Global Food Security Act, will modernize our system of emergency food assistance so that it

is more flexible and can provide aid on short notice. We do that by authorizing a new \$500 million fund for U.S. emergency food assistance.

This is one of those rare occasions—unfortunately, too rare—where a serious crisis was greeted with substantial response by an administration—in this case, the Obama administration—as well as bipartisan collaboration in the Senate and the House. I am encouraged that there has been positive movement toward fundamentally changing how we look at food security issues. Such support, however, is not permanent, and we should enact this multiyear authorization bill to ensure that such congressional support exists in the future, many years from now. We cannot wait for another massive food crisis before taking action on this legislation. This is the right thing to do, and we will ultimately enhance the security of the United States and our allies.

Mr. President, this isn't just a matter of being summoned by our conscience. That we know is part of the reason we are doing this. This is also a grave national security issue for us and our allies. For that reason and so many others, we need to pass the Global Food Security Act and support the administration's efforts on the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN DUFFY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to honor Mr. Brian Duffy of Louisville, KY, for his hard work and support on behalf of Kentucky's World War II and terminally ill veterans. Mr. Duffy founded the Bluegrass Honor Flight chapter in 2007. Through his leadership, and the support of numerous donations and volunteers, the Bluegrass Honor Flight chapter has been able to fly nearly 600 veterans from Kentucky to Washington, DC, providing these brave patriots the opportunity to see their memorial firsthand.

Today, I wish to congratulate Mr. Duffy, himself a veteran, for recently being named 2010's official "Thunderator" responsible for starting the "Thunder over Louisville" firework show. He was so named because of his dedication to the Bluegrass Honor Flight organization.

I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Duffy for his tireless advocacy on behalf of veterans.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAYS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to speak about a resolution designating April 23 through 25, 2010, as "Global Youth Service Days." S. Res. 493 recognizes and commends the significant community service efforts that youth are making in communities across the country and around the world on the last weekend in April and

every day. This resolution also encourages the citizens of the United States to acknowledge and support these volunteer efforts. S. Res. 493 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on April 20, 2010. This sends a very strong message of support to the thousands of youth across our great Nation who contribute positively to their communities—your efforts are recognized and appreciated.

Beginning this Friday, April 23, youth from across the United States and around the world will carry out community service projects in areas ranging from hunger to literacy to the environment. Through this service, many will embark on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement.

This event is not isolated to one weekend a year. Global Youth Service Days is an annual public awareness and education campaign that highlights the valuable contributions that young people make to their communities throughout the year.

The participation of youth in community service provides an opportunity to identify and address the needs of their communities and make positive differences in the world around them, learn leadership, organizational skills, and gain insights into the problems of their fellow citizens.

High-quality service-learning activities help young people make important connections between the school curriculum and the challenges they see in their communities. Youth who are engaged in volunteer service and service-learning activities do better in school than their classmates who do not volunteer are also more likely to avoid risky behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse. Service within the community contributes positively to young people's character development, civic participation, and philanthropic activity as adults.

It is important, therefore, that the Senate encourage youth to engage in community service and to congratulate them for the service they provide.

In an effort to recognize and support youth volunteers in my State, I am proud to acknowledge some of the activities that will occur this year in Alaska in observance of National and Global Youth Service Days:

Anchorage's Promise, which works to mobilize all sectors of the community to build the character and competence of Anchorage's children and youth, has sponsored the annual KidsDay events in Anchorage again this year. Youth provided significant service to their peers and to adults who attended KidsDay activities:

The Spirit of Youth Teen Action Council's Herb Project provided youth with the task of building organic hanging gardens for local elders who are unable to get out and garden this year. The Alaska Botanical Garden also supported this project with important tips