

tariff rates represent, in fact, our normal trade relations.

Mr. President, this legislation in no way intends to alter our fundamental international obligations. The term "most-favored-nation" has a long history of application and interpretation, and that will stand. This legislation is not intended as a substantive change in our trade policy. Rather, it is intended only as a change in nomenclature with the sole purpose of making our trade policy more comprehensible.

Mr. President, it is rare that legislation before the Senate has the cosponsorship of the entire membership of the committee of jurisdiction. That is the case with S. 1918, which strikes a bipartisan blow for clarity in our trade laws.

Mr. SHELBY. I ask unanimous consent the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1918) was deemed read for a third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1918

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Since the 18th century, the principle of nondiscrimination among countries with which the United States has trade relations, commonly referred to as "most-favored-nation" treatment, has been a cornerstone of United States trade policy.

(2) Although the principle remains firmly in place as a fundamental concept in United States trade relations, the term "most-favored-nation" is a misnomer which has led to public misunderstanding.

(3) It is neither the purpose nor the effect of the most-favored-nation principle to treat any country as "most favored". To the contrary, the principle reflects the intention to confer on a country the same trade benefits that are conferred on any other country, that is, the intention not to discriminate among trading partners.

(4) The term "normal trade relations" is a more accurate description of the principle of nondiscrimination as it applies to the tariffs applicable generally to imports from United States trading partners, that is, the general rates of duty set forth in column 1 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(b) POLICY.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the language used in the United States laws, treaties, agreements, executive orders, directives, and regulations should more clearly and accurately reflect the underlying principles of United States trade policy; and

(2) accordingly, the term "normal trade relations" should, where appropriate, be substituted for the term "most-favored-nation".

SEC 2. CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY.

(a) TRADE EXPANSION ACT OF 1962.—The heading for section 251 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1881) is amended to read as follows: "**NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS**".

(b) TRADE ACT OF 1974.—(1) Section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2432) is amended by striking "(most-favored-nation

treatment)" each place it appears and inserting "(normal trade relations)".

(2) Section 601(9) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2481(9)) is amended by striking "most-favored-nation treatment" and inserting "trade treatment based on normal trade relations (known under international law as most-favored-nation treatment)".

(c) CFTA.—Section 302(a)(3)(C) of the United States Canada Free-Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1988 (19 U.S.C. 2112 note) is amended by striking "the most-favored-nation rate of duty" each place it appears and inserting "the general subcolumn of the column 1 rate of duty set forth in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States".

(d) NAFTA.—Section 202(n) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332(n)) is amended by striking "most-favored-nation".

(e) SEED ACT.—Section 2(c)(11) of the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5401 (c)(11)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(commonly referred to as 'most favored nation status')", and

(2) by striking "MOST FAVORED NATION TRADE STATUS" in the heading and inserting "NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS".

(f) UNITED STATES-HONG KONG POLICY ACT OF 1992.—Section 103(4) of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5713(4)) is amended by striking "(commonly referred to as most-favored-nation status)".

SEC. 3. SAVINGS PROVISIONS

Nothing in this Act shall affect the meaning of any provision of law, Executive order, Presidential proclamation, rule, regulation, delegation of authority, other document, or treaty or other international agreement of the United States relating to the principle of "most-favored-nation" (or "most favored nation") treatment. Any Executive order, Presidential proclamation, rule, regulation, delegation of authority, other document, or treaty or other international agreement of the United States that has been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective and that is in effect on the effective date of this Act, or was to become effective on or after the effective date of this Act, shall continue in effect according to its terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law.

G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1669, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1669) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am privileged to have introduced S. 1669, along with Senator THAD COCHRAN, to name the VA medical center in Jackson, MS,

in honor of our friend and colleague, Representative SONNY MONTGOMERY. A companion bill, H.R. 3253, was introduced by Representative MIKE PARKER, and it has already passed the House.

As many of you know, Congressman MONTGOMERY is retiring at the end of his current term after 30 illustrious years in the House. He has had a distinguished career and served under seven Presidents. "Mr. Veteran," as many of us have affectionately called SONNY, led efforts to obtain Cabinet-level status for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He introduced and guided to passage a peacetime GI education bill which provides incentives for both recruitment and retention of qualified young men and women for the Armed Forces. This landmark legislation bears his name as the Montgomery GI bill.

Congressman MONTGOMERY has strongly championed the State Veterans Affairs nursing homes. He has done yeoman's service for veterans as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and as a distinguished member of the House National Security Committee. Veterans throughout the Nation have benefited greatly from the outstanding resources provided by VA facilities established and improved under SONNY's watch. In particular, veterans from Mississippi, and neighboring States, are well served by the Veterans Benefits Administration Southern Area Office, the VA Regional Office, and two VA medical centers made possible by the chairman's able hand.

The VA medical center in Jackson definitely needs an official name. Others have distinguished names such as the Sam Rayburn VA, the Jerry Pettis VA, and the James Haley Veterans Hospital. Unquestionably, Representative SONNY MONTGOMERY, Congress' "Mr. Veteran," truly is well-deserving of having the Jackson VA Medical Center named in his honor.

It is very appropriate that this legislation comes before us now because of several events that are occurring to pay tribute to SONNY. Representative MONTGOMERY is being honored this week by his colleagues on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for his dedicated service. Also, Mississippi State University, the chairman's alma mater, is hosting a benefit dinner for him. Proceeds from this benefit will establish the Sonny Montgomery Scholars Program at MSU. Furthermore, House colleagues have made arrangements to plant a magnolia tree on the southeast corner of the Capitol Grounds as a living testimony of SONNY's many years of service and outstanding achievements.

Mr. President, SONNY is one of the most outstanding, revered, and beloved Members of Congress. Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman ALAN SIMPSON is a cosponsor of S. 1669, and strongly supports this measure. I urge my colleagues to join with me in this fitting tribute to our friend and colleague, Representative G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a "Dear Colleague" letter dated May 9, 1996.

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

U.S. SENATE,
RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING,
Washington, DC, May 9, 1996.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: I am privileged to have recently introduced S. 1669, along with Sen. Thad Cochran, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Jackson, MS, in honor of our friend and colleague, Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery. A companion bill has been introduced in the House.

As many of you know, Congressman Montgomery is retiring at the end of his current term after 30 illustrious years in the House. He has had a distinguished career and served under seven presidents. "Mr. Veteran", as many of us have affectionately called Sonny, lead efforts to obtain cabinet level status for the VA. He introduced and guided to passage a peacetime G.I. education bill which provides incentives for both recruitment and retention of qualified young men and women for the armed forces. This landmark legislation bears his name as the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

Additionally, Congressman Montgomery has strongly supported veterans programs such as the State Veterans Affairs Nursing Homes. He has done yeoman's service for veterans as chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee and as a distinguished member of the House National Security Committee. Veterans throughout the Nation have benefited greatly from the outstanding resources provided by VA facilities established and improved under Sonny's watch. In particular, veterans from Mississippi, and neighboring states, are well served by the Veterans Benefits Administration Southern Area Office, the VA Regional Office, and two VA Medical Centers made possible by the chairman's able hand.

The VA Medical Center in Jackson needs an official name. Others have distinguished names such as the Sam Rayburn VA, the Jerry Pettis VA, and the James Haley Veterans Hospital. Rep. Sonny Montgomery, Congress' "Mr. Veteran" truly is well-deserving of having the Jackson VA Medical Center named in his honor.

I would appreciate your joining me in support of S. 1669. Please call Ney Williams of my staff at 224-4553 to cosponsor. Thank you for your consideration, and with kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

TRENT LOTT.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague in honoring our friend, the gentleman from Mississippi, SONNY MONTGOMERY, who is retiring from the House of Representatives at the end of this Congress. We have joined in sponsoring this bill to name the VA medical center in Jackson, MS, the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Throughout his career, as a senior member of the House National Security Committee and as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, SONNY has demonstrated genuine concern for the health, education, and well-being of our Nation's veterans. He firmly believes that we should treat veterans with dignity and compassion, and he has worked hard as chairman of the

Veterans' Affairs Committee to enact programs and provide facilities to meet that obligation.

SONNY's concern for and attention to the men and women of our Armed Forces is firmly rooted in his own experiences, having served in the Army and Army National Guard for a total of 38 years. SONNY served in World War II and during the Korean War. As a dedicated member of the Mississippi Army National Guard, he was promoted to the rank of major general before his retirement in 1981.

SONNY's political career began as a member of the Mississippi State Senate from Lauderdale County. He served with distinction for 10 years, from 1956-1966. In 1966, he ran for and won the seat in Congress from the Third District of Mississippi. SONNY has proven to be a very capable, productive, and popular Representative. He was overwhelmingly reelected each term since the 90th Congress.

During that 30-year period of service he has earned the reputation of a champion of national defense and veterans' issues, and he often is referred to by his colleagues as "Mr. Veteran" or "Mr. National Guard."

When SONNY was elected to Congress in 1966, American soldiers were fighting in the war in Vietnam. He demonstrated his concern for those who were involved in that dangerous and deadly region by spending Christmas each year in Vietnam with the soldiers.

On these trips, SONNY would carry blank cards with him and when he ran into young soldiers from Mississippi, he would ask them to write the names and addresses of their families on these cards. When SONNY returned home he would take the time to call each soldier's family to let them know that he had seen their son or daughter and relay any stories or news that might interest them. Today, people still thank SONNY for these phone calls.

In 1975 he was appointed chairman of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia. In 1977, President Carter named him to the Woodstock Commission, which traveled to Hanoi to investigate further, those Americans missing in action. More recently, SONNY was a member of the delegation that brought back the first returned remains of United States personnel missing in North Korea during the Korean war.

SONNY MONTGOMERY stands as an example of a true patriot, and for this he has been recognized by his colleagues many times. In 1984, the Speaker of the House asked that he lead the House contingent to the commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the D-day Invasion at Normandy, a particularly appropriate designation because SONNY fought in the European theater during this war. In 1988, when the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance was instituted as daily practice by the House of Representatives, SONNY was asked by the Speaker to be the first Member to lead this body in the Pledge.

Throughout our time together as members of our State's congressional delegation, I have had the opportunity to observe SONNY in many situations. A most recent instance was during the last round of base closure and realignment. Two of the bases in his district were considered for closure, one of which had been on the closure list in two previous rounds. SONNY was most persuasive and successful in convincing the Base Closure Commission that Naval Air Station Meridian and Columbus Air Force Base are essential to the pilot training in both of those services. SONNY was willing to do everything he could to keep these bases open. Today, these bases remain open, largely due to the efforts of SONNY MONTGOMERY.

As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, now named the National Security Committee, SONNY MONTGOMERY has been a tremendous influence on our national defense policy. He has consistently supported the maintenance of a strong force.

SONNY was one of seven Democrats who in early 1994 paid a visit to President Clinton to insist on increased defense spending by his administration, particularly in the area of military pay, and to urge him to reduce non-defense spending by the Department of Defense. SONNY has always considered the protection of our freedom to be the highest priority of our Government, and he has done his best to ensure our national security.

Because of SONNY MONTGOMERY, the National Guard and Reserves are different services than they were 25 years ago. As a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard SONNY saw untapped potential in the Guard and Reserve forces, and as a senior member of the National Security Committee, he has strengthened our reserve component forces in significant ways. Over and over again, SONNY insisted that in order for the Guard and Reserves to be truly ready reserve forces, they must have first-line equipment, top facilities, and more serious training. As we saw in the gulf war, our Guard and Reserves have now been transformed into an essential component of our total forces. In addition, SONNY has always emphasized the need to keep the missions of each Guard unit relevant.

Recently, SONNY negotiated with officials at the Pentagon in order to reassign the duties of a National Guard battalion in east Mississippi, which might have been considered for closure. Instead, this battalion will be the first Guard unit in the Nation to be equipped with and train on the high-technology Avenger air defense system, a key weapon in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Our active forces will be better supported by contributions from National Guard units in the future because of SONNY MONTGOMERY.

Another high priority for him has been the recruitment and retention of soldiers; and out of this concern came

the GI bill which bears his name. SONNY considers this legislation to be his greatest accomplishment. Under the Montgomery GI bill, active duty, National Guard, and Reserve personnel are entitled to educational assistance benefits which would enable them to pursue their educational goals while serving our country. Since being passed into law in 1985, approximately 2 million military personnel have participated in the program, and over 550,000 have already attended schools with its assistance. The Montgomery GI bill has significantly improved recruiting efforts for all of the services, and it has provided much-needed training to veterans and retirees preparing to enter the work force.

In addition to protecting our national security, SONNY has consistently sought proper recognition and benefits for veterans. In the 100th Congress, SONNY fought to have the Secretary of Veterans Affairs elevated to a Cabinet-level position. When SONNY saw a need to improve the review of veterans' claims, he sponsored a bill to establish the Court of Veterans' Appeals in order to ensure the complete judicial review of each claim. Within a month, this bill was signed into law, and right away veterans saw needed changes in the claims process. Also, he has worked to streamline the services offered at regional service centers and hospitals, aiming toward providing, in effect, one-stop shopping for our veterans.

During the last Congress, SONNY authored legislation to extend compensation to our most recent veterans, those who fought in the Persian Gulf war. The Veterans' Persian Gulf War Benefits Act, now law, requires the VA to give priority to veterans suffering from undiagnosed illnesses after their service in the Persian Gulf region. The bill also established new research and outreach programs to further the identification of this disease. This legislation is just another demonstration of his belief that we have a moral obligation to care for and compensate those who have suffered disabling injuries during their service to our country.

While in the Army and for his efforts in service to military personnel and veterans of our country, SONNY has received many awards, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Army Commendation Medal, a Bronze Star for Valor, and Mississippi Magnolia Cross Award, and the Harry S. Truman Award, which is the highest award given by the National Guard Association of the United States. In addition, he has been recognized by the American Red Cross, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, and AMVETS of World War II. He is past president of the Mississippi National Guard Association, and he remains an active member of the American Legion and VFW Post 79 in Meridian, MS. Veterans' organizations across the country are saddened to see SONNY retire.

Above all of SONNY's legislative accomplishments, he must be recognized and appreciated for his patience, congeniality, and compassion. Having maintained so many friendships in both parties, SONNY has often been called to be a mediator. He has been on good terms with Republican and Democrat leaders in Congress and Presidents of both parties throughout four decades, and his friendship with former President Bush goes back to their days as freshmen in the House. His peers regard him as a respected friend, who is wholly dedicated to his purpose in office. A small example of his loyalty is evidenced by the number of hours he has logged in the Speaker's chair, a duty many consider drudgery, but something that SONNY has viewed as an opportunity to serve his fellow Members.

I will miss his good counsel and true friendship. Mississippi's Third District and the entire Nation will miss his strong leadership and clear vision. Members like SONNY are rare, and his leaving signals the end of an era for southern Democrats, and the House of Representatives as well.

I am pleased to join my colleague, Senator LOTT, in offering S. 1669, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Jackson, MS, for SONNY MONTGOMERY, and I urge all of my colleagues to support the renaming of this facility.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, in reflecting on my own lifetime of public service, I can think of no one whose sincere dedication to veterans, combined with the ability to transform that dedication into a concrete reality, exceeds that of my old and dear friend G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY.

We all know why the Montgomery GI bill carries SONNY MONTGOMERY's name. It's not just an honor, it is a clear depiction of reality. What some Members of this body may not realize is that SONNY MONTGOMERY's interests and everlasting impact extend far beyond the veterans' education benefit that carries his name.

There is no path down which a veteran may travel that hasn't been scouted first and smoothed and improved by the Congressman from Mississippi, SONNY MONTGOMERY.

There is no benefit provided to our veterans by a grateful nation that does not bear the imprint of the longtime chairman, and now ranking minority member, of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, SONNY MONTGOMERY.

The rules of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs limit proposals to name VA facilities to the names of individuals who are deceased. As we consider the measure before us today, some may wonder what has occurred to amend that standard.

If such a person were to exist, I could assume that they do not know the stirring 30-year record of service and legislation written by SONNY MONTGOMERY. If such a question is raised, I will only say to the inquirer that exceptional

service calls for exceptional action and that such an action also calls for an exception to the rule. This is such a time. A rule that would prohibit application of the name G.V. SONNY MONTGOMERY to the VA Medical Center in Jackson, MS, is a rule begging to be temporarily laid aside—in sheer gratitude from us all.

In fact, SONNY MONTGOMERY is the dominant presence in the world of veterans' affairs and the genial and generous shadow he casts extends far beyond the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. An honor limited only to his native State of Mississippi is an honor quite inadequate to describe his full legacy.

In reflecting on the full and honest career and commitment of the senior Congressman from Mississippi, I conclude that if honors truly reflected accomplishment, we would likely have to name the whole shooting match of the Department of Veterans Affairs after SONNY MONTGOMERY.

When SONNY MONTGOMERY leaves us in the Congress and returns to his beloved home as a private citizen he will leave behind an unmatched legacy of unselfish commitment and service. He will leave behind shoes that it would take a giant to fill. The only way that veterans may not benefit in the future from the career of SONNY MONTGOMERY will be if the height of the bar he set is up there so high that those who follow him may be discouraged by the fact that it will be so difficult to equal, much less exceed, his remarkable record. SONNY MONTGOMERY will serve as an example to generations of all legislators to come. I am so very proud to join in supporting legislation to recognize an example, and a career, and a wonderful, never tiring, ever focused, lovely, kind, incomparable man, by ensuring that the VA Medical Center in Jackson, MS, will forever carry the name that his actions have made synonymous with love of veterans: G.V. SONNY MONTGOMERY.

I love him. He has saved my skin a time or two. He is my true friend. God bless him.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. SHELBY. I ask unanimous consent the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1669) was deemed read for a third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1669

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

(a) NAME.—The Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Jackson, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center". Any reference to such medical center in any law,

regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take effect at noon on January 3, 1997.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 1996

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 11 a.m. on Wednesday, September 11; further, that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired,

and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate immediately resume H.R. 3756, the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, tomorrow morning the Senate will be resuming the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill. We hope to complete action on that bill during tomorrow's session. Therefore, Senators can anticipate votes throughout the day and a possible late-night session may be necessary.

Also, as a reminder to all Senators, tomorrow at 10 a.m. there will be a

joint meeting of Congress to hear an address by Prime Minister Bruton, of Ireland. Members are asked to be in the Senate Chamber at 9:40 a.m., so they may proceed to the House of Representatives for the address.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. SHELBY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:21 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 11, 1996, at 11 a.m.