

to organize freely, bargain collectively, and live safely is not just good for workers abroad, but it helps workers in the United States as well.

The United States simply cannot compete in a global race to the bottom when it comes to labor standards. Our workers are some of the most highly skilled and productive workers in the world. But they simply cannot compete against countries that make things more cheaply because they don't respect the rights of their workers, have safe workplaces, or pay their workers a living wage. Unfortunately, this agreement will not help us further that goal.

I would like to raise a second significant concern I have about the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. As many of my colleagues know, I have been working on reducing abusive and exploitative child labor around the world for nearly two decades. I first introduced a bill on this issue in 1992. According to the best estimates by the International Labor Organization, ILO, there are 215 million child laborers between the ages of 5 and 17 who are engaged in today's global economy.

Of these 215 million child laborers, 115 million are engaged in hazardous work. These 115 million powerless children are working in mines, in fishing operations and on coffee plantations. It is appalling that this is still occurring in the 21st century. These children are robbed of their childhoods. Many are denied an education and any hope for a brighter future. They will grow up illiterate and exploited, creating a wellspring of future social conflict and strife.

We have made some progress over the years by funding programs for the remediation of child laborers through our contribution to the ILO's International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor, IPEC. In 2000, I successfully amended the Trade and Development Act with a provision directing that no trade benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences, GSP, be granted to any country that does not live up to its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. I required that the President submit a yearly report to Congress on the steps being taken by each GSP beneficiary country to carry out its commitments to end abusive and exploitative child labor.

I want to explain clearly to my colleagues what I mean when I refer to abusive and exploitative child labor. It is not children who work part-time after school or on weekends. There is nothing wrong with that. That is not the issue. What I am referring to is the definition set out by ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. This is not just a Western, or a developed-world, standard. It is a global standard that has been ratified by 174 countries. It has been ratified by Colombia. The United States was the third country in the world to ratify this convention.

Unfortunately, the Department of Labor's Findings on the Worst Forms

of Child Labor that was released this month, states up front that Colombia, "has not provided adequate resources to the National Strategy to Eradicate the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Children continue to work in agriculture, including forced coca cultivation, and in mining." The report further finds that children are forced to work in domestic service, are sexually exploited, transport illegal drugs, and even are used by armed militants as child soldiers.

In addition to these shocking practices, eight Colombian products appear in the 2011 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor, also released by DOL this month. These products include coffee, sugarcane, and gold.

Unfortunately, the implementing legislation now before the Senate for free trade with Colombia actually would take us, and the world, a step backward when it comes to protecting children. That is right. This free trade agreement with Colombia, which replaces GSP provisions in governing trade between our two countries, will take us backward with respect to abusive and exploitative child labor.

Under GSP, the President now must report to Congress annually regarding Colombia's child labor practices, and if Colombia is not meeting the obligations that it undertook as a signatory to the ILO Convention, if Colombia is not acting to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, then trade sanctions are available to us to require enforcement of internationally recognized standards. That is so that our companies, and our workers, are not subjected to the unfair competition that abusive labor practices allow. Under this new implementing legislation for free trade with Colombia, on the other hand, if it is enacted, neither of those things I just mentioned will be true.

Our trade negotiators should not be weakening protections that we in Congress put in place to ensure that free trade can be consistent with respect for international child labor standards. Supporting abusive and exploitative child labor abroad does not help create jobs in America. Just the opposite, it hurts that effort. Our workers and our local businesses should not be competing with the worst forms of child labor abroad.

As a result, I strongly believe that we need to put the break on this flawed trade agreement. It is time for us to begin passing fair trade agreements that promote good quality jobs both here and abroad and work to end the worst forms of child labor. This agreement does not meet that test.

#### PRESIDENTIAL COIN PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my letter dated October 17, 2011, to the minority leader regarding S. 1385.

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

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, October 17, 2011.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL: I respectfully request that the Senate not enter into any unanimous consent agreement pertaining to S. 1385, a bill to terminate the \$1 presidential coin program. I have concerns about the impact of this bill, including whether taxpayers will benefit from ending the \$1 presidential coin program.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,  
United States Senator.

#### REMEMBERING ELOUISE COBELL

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor this weekend's passing of my friend Elouise Cobell—an extraordinary Montanan, American and American Indian. I am proud to have nominated her for the Congressional Gold Medal. As a role model for every American child, she deserves that highest honor.

Elouise Pepion Cobell was a star—truly a guiding light that will always lead the way for all Americans who fight for justice and fairness. Elouise's tireless leadership set this Nation on a new course, and what she accomplished reminds us that any person in any part of this country has the power to stand up and right a wrong, no matter how difficult it may be.

Sharla's and my thoughts and prayers are with Elouise's husband Alvin, her son Turk, and her entire family. We join the Blackfeet Nation and all Montanans in mourning, honoring and celebrating the life of an extraordinary Montanan. Future generations will learn about Elouise Cobell's legacy and they will be inspired to follow her lead. She will always be remembered as an American hero.

I have many memories of Elouise. I first met her when I was a State Senator. I knew what she was working on but I never imagined she would ever get as far as she did. Not many people in this world have the determination in them that Elouise had. From those early days, until just a few weeks ago, I talked to her numerous times. She had been fighting the Federal Government in court for a decade, and wouldn't take "no" for an answer. She knew what she wanted, and wanted it yesterday.

After I finally convinced her I wanted to help, our relationship changed. We became friends working together on a common goal; a settlement that was fair and balanced. And believe me, as my friend, she was not afraid to call me and tell me what she thought and how to get things done.

But I will never forget talking to her on the afternoon of November 19, 2010. The Senate had just approved the Cobell Settlement. Our bill paved the way to send her settlement to President Obama for his signature. She

knew it would mark the end of her historic battle. I called to make sure she knew the good news. That tougher-than-nails woman was sitting inside her home in Browning, while fierce Montana winds dropped the temperature to 17 degrees below zero. Thirty years of determination flowed through the tears in her eyes. She was happy. She was relieved. She was thankful.

It was in 1996 that she took a deep breath, gritted her teeth, and filed an historic lawsuit seeking justice on behalf of herself and 500,000 individual American Indians. At that time, all she wanted was an accounting for what they were owed. Her decision changed her life and the lives of every American Indian for generations to come. Her 15-year court battle resulted in the largest settlement with the government in American history.

Throughout the years, through painful criticism and generous support, she relentlessly led the charge against government mismanagement. She was unyielding in her pursuit of justice for one of this Nation's most vulnerable populations. After battling the Federal Government for nearly 30 years, President Obama signed into law the \$3.4 billion settlement of the lawsuit that Congress approved earlier that year. At the signing ceremony, President Obama said, "It's finally time to make things right."

After all, the government had mismanaged the lands in question for 123 years.

Above everything else, history will remember Elouise Cobell for bringing justice to her community. She demonstrated perhaps the greatest strength—and asset—in Indian Country: kinship. As the years wore on, she fought harder for her family community.

When Montana elected me to the U.S. Senate, Elouise wasn't far behind me in Washington. She told me that many of the members she represented were elderly. The longer this case drags on, fewer of them will see the justice they deserve.

That is why I was disappointed earlier this month when a Washington court allowed several appeals of the case to move forward.

For many reasons over the years, Elouise Cobell earned recognition as a respected leader and role model. She walked in two worlds. Born on the Blackfeet Reservation on November 5, 1945, she was one of eight children. She was a great granddaughter of Mountain Chief, one of the legendary leaders of the Blackfeet Nation.

She and her husband operated a cattle ranch, and she founded the first Land Trust in Indian Country. For 13 years, she served as co-chair of the Native American Bank and as a trustee for the National Museum of the American Indian. She served as trustee for the Nature Conservancy of Montana.

She was executive director of the Native American Community Development Corporation. In 2004, the National

Center for American Indian Enterprise Development bestowed upon her the Jay Silverheels Achievement Award.

Elouise remained true to her local community and to her cultural identity. But she also achieved success at the highest levels of non-Indian society. Elouise graduated from Great Falls Business College and attended Montana State University, where she received an honorary doctorate. In 2011, Dartmouth College awarded her an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. The President of Dartmouth told her: "You fought a David and Goliath battle and won."

Her story of courage is an inspiration to Native people and indeed to all Americans. She demonstrated that our legal system is strong enough to protect even the most vulnerable, and this nation, the most powerful on earth, keeps the promises we make.

She was a remarkable woman. Montanans and I will miss her dearly.

#### COMMENDING SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I had the distinct privilege to participate in a ceremony recently in Topeka, KS, to honor our dear friend and longest serving Republican leader here in this Chamber, Senator Bob Dole. Kansas Governor Sam Brownback conceived of the Kansas Walk of Honor, located right outside the Kansas Capitol, to commemorate and honor important Kansans. It is only fitting that the plaque that bears Bob Dole's name is the first to christen the Walk of Honor. Senator Dole's contributions and history is interwoven in the hallowed halls of the Senate. With that rich history, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD his comments, along with mine, from the Walk of Honor event.

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

#### REMARKS OF SENATOR PAT ROBERTS

##### KANSAS WALK OF HONOR

(Sept. 30, 2011)

I am honored and privileged to be here with you today to celebrate the Kansas Walk of Honor and to commemorate my good friend, Kansas Native Son, and WWII hero, Bob Dole. Bob Dole is a living legacy. As a member of the Greatest Generation, his incredible history is well known to fellow Americans nationwide. It is only fitting that he is the first honoree of the Kansas Walk of Honor.

As a statesman, Bob Dole's reach is far and wide. His legislative achievements are legion and in many cases, unknown and unheralded. On Bob's list of accomplishments are some big ticket items such as, the 1983 Social Security Reforms, the Americans with Disability Act, the Voting Rights Act, just to name a few. He also worked across the aisle with the likes of liberal George McGovern, as seen by their bipartisan work on nutrition programs.

Bob set the bar high as the longest serving Republican Senate Majority Leader. He was known as a pragmatic Midwesterner who was respected on both sides of the aisle and a master consensus builder. He led by example,

encouraging fellow members to express their convictions without hostility and allow for disagreement without declaring war on the floor of the Senate.

But his work didn't stop there. After his service in public office, Bob served our nation in a different capacity; honoring our nation's veterans. Simply put, the World War II Memorial would not exist were it not for Senator Bob Dole. I was proud to be a part of the ceremony to recognize Bob's tireless support of America's veterans and the World War II Memorial. It is largely through his efforts, advocacy, and fundraising that the World War II Memorial stands proudly on the National Mall.

The man was and is amazing; his record of public service, this memorial, the Honor Flights and Wounded Warriors programs. The World War II Memorial has become wonderfully unique; a Mecca not really expected or predicted—where veterans whose heroic efforts and sacrifice preserved our freedoms—now come by the thousands.

Bob, your record is unmatched. We thank you.

But, hold on, I've got another job to do and that is to move this ceremony along at a fast clip. As we all know, the now Governor Brownback's previous job was riding shotgun with me in the Senate. Sam followed in the footsteps of today's honoree to continue the level of commitment and service to our great state.

Sam, I remember the first campaign rally we attended together. The featured guest speaker, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas introduced me as one who made significant changes in the House of Representatives and then introduced Sam as: "One who not only wants to change things but to make the right changes."

That remains true as you've taken the reins back here in the heartland. And now it is my pleasure to turn over this lectern to the indomitable Kansas Governor, Sam Brownback.

#### REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

##### KANSAS WALK OF HONOR, KANSAS STATE CAPITOL, TOPEKA, KANSAS

(Sept. 30, 2011)

Over the years I've had all sorts of recognitions but nothing that means as much as this one. Hollywood may have its Walk of Fame, but in Kansas we have a Walk of Honor. That tells you a lot about this place and its values. Fame is fleeting, unsubstantial, first cousin to celebrity. Fame gives you five minutes on the Today Show or maybe—if you're sufficiently mobile—a shot at Dancing with the Stars. I'm still waiting for my invitation. In the mean time I've been telling Elizabeth to work on her Fox Trot.

Fame comes like a prairie squall, and lasts as long. Honor, on the other hand, is the work of a lifetime—more, it's the seed of character planted in one generation and bearing fruit for as long as there are people who practice the old virtues of decency and self-denial, love of country and the neighbor's concern for those in distress. Sixty years have passed since I first entered this building the greenest of lawmakers—a somewhat banged up 2nd Lieutenant studying law at Washburn and hoping that my hero Dwight Eisenhower could be persuaded to run for president.

Now there's a definition of honor. In fact, honor is a quality that often goes unrecognized. It exists outside the headlines. It thrives quietly in our classrooms and church pews, on our playing fields, and, yes, in these halls where our democracy plays out—wherever Kansans put service before self, keeping faith with all those who have made this the