

For example, one of the products eligible for preferential treatment under this agreement is apparel made of U.S. combed-cotton yarn, much of which is made by workers in North Carolina.

In fact, one North Carolina company, Parkdale Mills, exports 1 million pounds of cotton yarn annually that is valued at \$2 million.

These exports support more than 100 jobs in North Carolina.

Earlier this week I received a letter from the CEO of Parkdale Mills. He wrote, "a lapse of duty free benefits, even if a short period of time, is catastrophic to our business."

Over the last 4 years, the Andean program has been extended or renewed three different times, often at the last minute.

American firms doing business in the Andean region do not know from year to year whether they will pay duties or not. That is no way to run a business.

So I agree with my colleague, the senior Senator for Arizona, that a long-term extension of this program is important.

I believe we should be able to extend both of these programs, TAA and ATPA, together. I know that my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, made a number of unanimous consent requests last week to do just that. The bill that Senator BROWN asked consent to pass earlier would provide an 18 month extension of both programs.

Mr. President, these programs have bipartisan support. Workers and businesses need the certainty and support they provide. We should extend them as soon as possible.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAKOTA TERRITORY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the formation of the Dakota Territory. It was on February 26, 1861, that the Senate passed the legislation creating the territory. In the year of the 150th anniversary, I would like to honor the dedication of those who made this status a reality.

Dr. J.M. Staples of Dubuque, IA, paved the way to develop the Dakota region, leading the new settlers to desire territorial status.

When Minnesota became a State on May 23, 1857, the Dakota area was left without a form of government. Therefore, the settlers unprecedently created a provisional government in October of 1858, including electing Henry Masters as Governor and in the autumn of 1859 nominating the Honorable J.P. Kidder as delegate to Congress.

Congress continued to thwart desired territorial status as U.S. Senator Fitch in December 1858, Senator James I. Green on January 29, 1859, and House Representative Alexander II Stevens on February 4, 1859, assertively introduced bills, all of which failed.

Senator Green would not be deterred and continued to push for the creation of the territory, introducing another

bill on February 14, 1861. His persistence resulted in the passage of the act. This bill successfully passed in the Senate on February 26, the House on March 1, and President James Buchanan signed it into law less than 48 hours before his term ended on March 2.

After taking office, President Abraham Lincoln had the honor of appointing the first Governor to the territory, Dr. William Jayne of Springfield, IL, a personal friend of his. General J.B.S. Todd, a relative of Mrs. Lincoln, became the first officially recognized territorial delegate to Congress.

I would like to posthumously recognize the efforts of those who worked to secure the designation of the Dakota Territory. For it is through their labor that eventually on November 2, 1889, the Dakota Territory became, in part, the State of South Dakota of which I am proud to be a citizen.

SPECIAL AGENT JAIME J. ZAPATA AND SPECIAL AGENT VICTOR AVILA

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I rise to express my deepest sorrow about a tragic attack on American law enforcement that happened earlier this week in Mexico.

On Tuesday afternoon, two agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement were attacked by unknown individuals while driving between Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico. Today, I honor the incredible sacrifice of Special Agent Jaime J. Zapata, who lost his life in service of our country, and Special Agent Victor Avila, who is recovering from injuries from the shooting.

Special Agent Zapata joined ICE in 2006. He joined one of ICE's offices in Laredo, TX, where he served on the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Unit, as well as the Border Enforcement Security Task Force. He was most recently detailed to ICE's Attache office in Mexico City. He began his Federal law enforcement career with the Department of Homeland Security as a member of the U.S. Border Patrol in Yuma, AZ. A native of Brownsville, TX, Special Agent Zapata graduated from the University of Texas at Brownsville in 2005 with a bachelor of science in criminal justice.

My thoughts and prayers are with Special Agent Avila as he recovers.

These two brave agents gave their all to shield others from harm. They worked tirelessly against dangerous criminal elements. They bravely took dangerous assignments, ultimately making a profound sacrifice.

They were two of the hundreds of ICE personnel around the globe. Honorable agents like these two individuals collaborate with their counterparts in joint efforts to dismantle transnational criminal organizations. Agents like them give their all day in and day out

on fighting money laundering, contraband smuggling, weapons proliferation, forced child labor, human rights violations, intellectual property violations, child exploitation, and human smuggling and trafficking.

An incident like this serves to remind us all as a nation how grateful we are for the sacrifices made by these brave men and women every day. The work they do serves to make the public safe and protect the Nation's security.

I have been in contact with law enforcement, and I know that they are working closely with the authorities in Mexico to ensure that the perpetrators of this horrible attack on American law enforcement are brought to justice as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, I offer my deepest condolences to the family of Special Agent Zapata. He died for a just cause and will forever be remembered as a man of courage and honor.

And a message for Special Agent Avila. I think I speak for a nation when I say that I hope, and pray, for your recovery. Words cannot express our thanks for your service.

HONORING THE USS "MOUNT HOOD" (AE-11)

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, on August 21, 1944, laden with precious cargo for the Pacific theatre, the USS *Mount Hood*, the lead ship of her class for the U.S. Navy, departed Norfolk on her first mission. On board were 296 sailors and 22 officers.

The USS *Mount Hood* reached Manus Island, a province of Papua, New Guinea, on September 22 and commenced with dispensing ammunition and explosives to ships preparing for the Philippine offensive. On the morning of November 10, 1944, a young Naval Reserve lieutenant and 17 enlisted men climbed over the side of the USS *Mount Hood* and boarded boats to go ashore. After reaching the beach, they saw an enormous flash followed by two explosions, and the men were knocked to the ground. They scrambled back to the boats and headed to where the *Mount Hood* had been anchored, but found only debris where the ship had once been. The entire ship, and all aboard, were gone.

Over 400,000 Americans lost their lives in World War II. In the deserts of North Africa, the jungles of the Pacific islands, on the beaches in Normandy, and everywhere in between, these brave men and women sacrificed their lives to preserve the freedom and individual liberties we all enjoy. We owe them all an immense debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they made to defend our Nation. They should never be forgotten.

The only surviving officer of the USS *Mount Hood*, LT Lester Wallace, is now 95 years old and resides in Pensacola, FL. While we mourn those who gave their lives to the cause of freedom, we must also remember to celebrate the service and sacrifice of those who survived. I am extremely proud of the

service Lieutenant Wallace rendered to our country as a Navy officer, and later as a civilian. On behalf of the people of Florida and our Nation, I thank Lieutenant Wallace—and all those who have served and continue to serve—for their sacrifice and service.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, today I recognize the distinguished military service of MG General Gregory L. Wayt who recently retired from military service after nearly four decades of preserving our Nation's safety and security.

A strong leader with an unyielding call to service and duty to State and Nation, Major General Wayt embodies the character, discipline, and humility that rank him among Ohio's great adjutant generals.

For more than 6 years as the Adjutant General of Ohio, he commanded five brigade-size Army units with more than 11,000 troops and four flying wings and seven nonflying units from Ohio's Air Guard with more than 5,000 additional troops.

During some of the Guard's most challenging times, Major General Wayt's leadership ensured the preparedness of the more than 18,000 Ohio National Guardmembers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan during his tenure, as well as those preparing for overseas contingency operations.

His command also meant Ohio Guardmembers were first on the ground for State emergencies and disasters including flood and winter storm relief from Toledo to Belmont, and in the relief efforts on the gulf coast following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and Gustav and Ike in 2008. The Ohio National Guard also had the first C-130 cargo plane on the ground providing critical relief after the Haitian earthquake in 2010.

Under his day-to-day management of the Ohio National Guard—from ensuring the readiness of Guardmembers and weapon systems to the securing fiscal and property resources—Major General Wayt ensured Ohio remained at the top of readiness ranks for our country's National Guards.

Maintaining one of the Nation's premier National Guards also required Major General Wayt's professionalism to maintain the relationship between our military command and civilian leaders. Throughout his service as the Adjutant General of Ohio, he was a trusted national security advisor for two Governors from both parties. He was a valuable resource for all members of the Ohio congressional delegation—always just a phone call away to provide his counsel and recommendations.

As a result of his tireless leadership, Major General Wayt helped save two Air National Guard bases in Ohio and the communities that rely upon them. The Springfield and Mansfield Air Na-

tional Guard Bases remain critical to our national security and to their local economies because of Major General Wayt's fierce loyalty to those he represents and leads under his command.

He also prioritized the retention of talented officers to ensure the organization developed qualified servicemembers for senior leadership positions. One of the ways Major General Wayt accomplished this was by improving the retirement benefits available to Guardmembers.

Because of his input and that of other Guard leaders, the National Guard and Reserve Retirement Parity Act was signed into law by President Obama to restore parity in retirement benefits. This bill is law because Major General Wayt understood that talented Guardmembers should have the resources and benefits deserving of their sacrifice.

He also understood the importance of international collaboration and coordination. He continued the success of the State Partnership Program with Hungary and Serbia, which was created to link National Guard States and territories with partner countries to foster long-term relationships across all levels of society and to establish the importance of the rule of law in nations seeking the highest democratic values and ideals.

As a leader of Ohio's citizen-soldiers and citizen-Airmen—war fighters, peacekeepers, and guardians of America's ideals of democracy and freedom—Major General Wayt received the admiration of his peers as President of the Adjutants General Association of the United States.

Yet regardless of medals earned and awards received, this great son of Ohio remained grounded in a classic Midwestern work ethic. From his early education in Columbus public schools and Columbus Northland High School to formative years at the Ohio State University as an ROTC student to the University of Dayton, Army Command and General Staff College, and Army War College as a graduate student and senior commander—Greg Wayt symbolizes a dedication to service and sacrifice, and to State and country that deserves a heartfelt thanks from all Ohioans.

But he would be the first to tell you that any professional accomplishment was made possible only by the personal sacrifice of his wife Deborah and daughter Lindsey. The sacrifices of military families deserve our Nation's highest praise—my deepest thank you to Deborah and Lindsey and the Wayt family for sharing their husband, father, and patriarch with a grateful State and Nation.

For all the achievements throughout his career, Major General Wayt will always be first and foremost a field commander and remembered by his troops as one of their own. Congratulations, MG Gregory L. Wayt for 35 years of service to our Nation.

On behalf of a grateful State, I thank you and wish you well upon your retirement.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR RAYMOND L. FLYNN

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Ambassador Raymond L. Flynn in recognition of the retirement of his basketball jersey at his alma mater, Providence College. On Saturday night, the Friars will pay tribute to Ambassador Flynn, a 1963 graduate of the college. Ambassador Flynn is one of the greatest backcourt players in the storied history of the Providence College basketball program. Over his 82-game career, the Ambassador scored 1,025 points. Prior to the Friars' game against the Cincinnati Bearcats at the Dunkin' Donuts Center on Saturday, the college will unveil a banner bearing Ambassador Flynn's No. 14 jersey hanging from the rafters.

A longtime South Boston resident, Ambassador Flynn compiled an impressive list of achievements during his time as a Providence Friar, including two National Invitation Tournament championships in 1961 and 1963. He earned the Most Valuable Player award for his performance in the 1963 tournament. During his junior season, Ambassador Flynn averaged 12.8 points per game and received All-East honors. A skilled outside shooter, the Ambassador increased his average to 18.9 points per game during his senior year, meriting his second All-East distinction, an All-New England award, and Academic All-America honors. Following his graduation, the Ambassador very nearly joined his hometown team, the Boston Celtics.

Following his noteworthy accomplishments as a collegiate student-athlete, Ambassador Flynn embarked upon a distinguished political career. In 1971, the Ambassador won a seat to represent his South Boston community as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and served at the State house until 1979. Ambassador Flynn subsequently served South Boston as a member of the Boston City Council. After 4 years as a city councilor, Ambassador Flynn ran successfully to become mayor of Boston in 1983. He won reelection in 1987 and 1991. In a 2001 interview, Ambassador Flynn lightheartedly remarked, "As a young kid growing up on the streets of South Boston, everybody wanted to be President of the United States or Mayor of Boston."

Part way through the Ambassador's third term as mayor of Boston, President Bill Clinton called on him to serve as Ambassador to the Holy See. Ambassador Flynn embraced the opportunity to represent the United States at the Vatican. By the time he left this post in 1997, Ambassador Flynn had cultivated a close working relationship with Pope John Paul II, whom he had