

and dedication to supporting our farmers and rural communities. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in the Senate to pass a strong Farm Bill that supports vital services at the USDA and gets the job done for our Nation's farmers.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize American agricultural producers on the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln signing legislation establishing the U.S. Department of Agriculture on May 15, 1862.

As President Lincoln said in his last annual address to Congress, "[The Department of Agriculture] is precisely the people's Department, in which they feel more directly concerned than in any other." Many don't realize it, but USDA plays a unique role in the daily lives of every single American, ranging from the programs available that assist rural small businesses to providing the support system that makes it possible for our farmers and ranchers to produce the most affordable and abundant food supply of any country in the world.

As the main economic pillar and No. 1 industry in my State of South Dakota, it is important that we acknowledge and celebrate the economic importance of agriculture and the role that the USDA has played in implementing and supporting policies that have assisted our farmers and ranchers in becoming a leader in feeding, fueling, and clothing the world.

USDA's work on food, agriculture, economic development, science, risk management, natural resources conservation, and a whole host of other issues has enabled the agriculture industry to establish itself as a critical component in our economic success while having an influence on the lives of every single American. The Department, in coordination with our Nation's farmers and ranchers, has helped allow families to put nutritious, healthy food on their tables at a lower cost than almost anywhere else in the world. On average, less than 10 percent of American consumers' disposable income is spent on food.

Moreover, agriculture is the economic engine that drives our rural communities. Without viable family farms and ranches our small towns and Main Street businesses throughout South Dakota and our Nation would face significant hardships. According to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the agriculture industry has a \$20 billion economic impact each year, accounting for one-third of the State's economic activity. The 46,000 agricultural producers on 31,500 farms combine with associated industries to employ more than 143,000 South Dakotans.

But the value of America's farmers and ranchers goes far beyond economic activity. Our producers are also the most productive in the world, providing the food, fuel, and fiber necessary to sustain us and millions of

others throughout the world. Each year, just one South Dakota producer raises enough food to feed 155 people both here at home and abroad. As the world's population continues to grow to a projected 9 billion people by 2050, the demand for our agricultural products will only increase, and we will have to continue improving our productive capacity to double food production on fewer acres.

The increased yields needed to overcome the challenges ahead cannot be accomplished without the full use of sound science and innovative technology. In providing public land for the establishment of colleges to further agricultural research and education, the Morrill Land Grant College Act, which was also signed into law by President Lincoln in 1862, gave us such institutions as South Dakota State University and will remain a lasting achievement for the ongoing progress of production agriculture.

Therefore, on the 150th anniversary of its establishment, I commend USDA, and the American agricultural producers they assist, for providing the food, fuel, and fiber that we each rely on. I congratulate them and wish a happy birthday to USDA and those throughout the food chain.

Senator KOHL. Mr. President, in the fall of 1859, just two years prior to his election to the presidency, Abraham Lincoln spoke to the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society in my hometown of Milwaukee, WI. Lincoln concluded his speech saying, "Let us hope . . . that by the best cultivation of the physical world, beneath and around us, and the intellectual and moral world within us, we shall secure an individual, social, and political prosperity and happiness." Just 3 years later, President Lincoln created the Department of Agriculture with these words in mind.

May 15, 2012 marks the 150th year of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA. Perhaps more than any other department, USDA connects Americans to the land and to each other in ways seen and unseen. From its formation in 1862 through today, the Department has served millions of Americans in a multitude of innovative ways.

From the earliest years of our Nation, agricultural production has been front and center. Today, roughly 1 out of every 12 Americans is employed in an agriculture related industry. Whether a producer, researcher, conservationist, food safety official, or one of many other agricultural professions, each person, including those who work in USDA, plays an important role in producing and delivering a safe and healthy food supply to the United States and the world.

Colleges and universities around the country have produced research that has improved crop yields, plant and livestock health, and soil quality, among others. Research has also led to the widespread use of conservation practices on farmland. While there are

many different types of conservation efforts supported by USDA, they all share the same goal—to maintain the health and vitality of American farmland for future years and future generations. Once research and conservation efforts have been applied it becomes the job of agricultural producers to efficiently harvest and deliver their product to markets around the corner, or across the country. I believe American agricultural producers are the best in the world at what they do.

To help Americans sort through the incredible variety of their food choices at grocery stores or farmers markets, USDA provides critical guidance for nutrition assistance. Through the My Plate program and other nutrition education initiatives, USDA works to ensure that children, low-income individuals, seniors and the disabled not only understand what makes up a nutritious, healthy meal—but they create access to such meals year round, through programs such as the Special Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants and Children, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. These programs and others help feed those who have trouble accessing healthy foods, but they do so in a way that reinvests in agricultural producers and their rural communities.

I believe USDA's most important achievement has been the fulfillment of Lincoln's vision—harmoniously using all the tools, resources and programs at its disposal to contribute to social prosperity and happiness through the cultivation of the American land and its people.

It is with pride and respect that I honor USDA and our Nation's agriculture industry today.

#### HONORING LOST DHS PERSONNEL

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, the mission of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, is broad and diverse. The men and women of DHS protect our borders and modes of transportation; they guard our waterways; they protect U.S. and foreign leaders; they prepare for and respond to disasters; they manage our immigration process; and, they defend us against cyber attack. DHS employees provide selfless service to their nation and they do so with honor and distinction under an ever-present threat. With National Police Week 2012 commencing, I would like to pay tribute to the Department of Homeland Security's agents, officers, and military personnel who lost their lives in the service of our Nation. Fifty-five courageous men and women of DHS have died in the line of duty since the Department's inception in 2003. We owe them more than a tribute on this day, but our gratitude begins with that.

They are:

Lorenzo R. Gomez, Immigration Enforcement Agent, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, El Paso, Texas, End of Watch: November 8, 2003.

James P. Epling, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma, Arizona, End of Watch: December 16, 2003.

Nathan B. Bruckenthal, Damage Controlman Third Class (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Iraq, End of Watch: April 24, 2004.

Travis W. Attaway, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Harlingen, Texas, End of Watch: September 19, 2004.

Jeremy M. Wilson, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Harlingen, Texas, End of Watch: September 19, 2004.

Philip C. Lebid, Special Agent, U.S. Secret Service, Tampa, Florida, End of Watch: November 22, 2004.

George B. DeBates, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Casa Grande, Arizona, End of Watch: December 19, 2004.

David G. Wilhelm, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Atlanta, Georgia, End of Watch: March 11, 2005.

Christopher J. Smith, Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, Atlanta, Georgia, End of Watch: March 25, 2005.

Nicholas D. Greenig, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Tucson, Arizona, End of Watch: March 14, 2006.

Jessica E. Hill, Lieutenant (O-3), U.S. Coast Guard, Arctic Ocean, End of Watch: August 17, 2006.

Steven Duque, Boatswain's Mate Second Class (E-5), U.S. Coast Guard, Arctic Ocean, End of Watch: August 17, 2006.

David N. Webb, Senior Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Ajo, Arizona, End of Watch: November 3, 2006.

Ramon Nevarez, Jr., Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Lordsburg, New Mexico, End of Watch: March 15, 2007.

David J. Tourscher, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Lordsburg, New Mexico, End of Watch: March 16, 2007.

Ronald A. Gill, Jr., Port Security Specialist Third Class, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Puget Sound, Washington, End of Watch: March 25, 2007.

Clinton B. Thrasher, Air Interdiction Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, McAllen, Texas, End of Watch: April 25, 2007.

Richard Goldstein, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Indio, California, End of Watch: May 11, 2007.

Robert F. Smith, Air Interdiction Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, El Paso, Texas, End of Watch: May 22, 2007.

Eric N. Cabral, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Boulevard, California, End of Watch: July 26, 2007.

Julio E. Baray, Air Interdiction Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, El Paso, Texas, End of Watch: September 24, 2007.

Luis Aguilar, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma, Arizona, End of Watch: January 19, 2008.

Jarod C. Dittman, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, San Diego, California, End of Watch: March 30, 2008.

Thomas G. Nelson, Captain (O-6), U.S. Coast Guard, Oahu, Hawaii, End of Watch: September 4, 2008.

Andrew C. Wischmeier, Lieutenant Commander (O-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Oahu, Hawaii, End of Watch: September 4, 2008.

David L. Skimin, Aviation Survival Technician First Class (E-6), U.S. Coast Guard, Oahu, Hawaii, End of Watch: September 4, 2008.

Joshua W. Nichols, Aviation Maintenance Technician First Class (E-6), U.S. Coast

Guard, Oahu, Hawaii, End of Watch: September 4, 2008.

Nathaniel A. Afolayan, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Artesia, New Mexico, End of Watch: May 1, 2009.

Cruz C. McGuire, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Del Rio, Texas, End of Watch: May 21, 2009.

Robert W. Rosas, Jr., Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Campo, California, End of Watch: July 23, 2009.

Che J. Barnes, Lieutenant Commander (O-4), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

Adam W. Bryant, Lieutenant (O-3), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

John F. Seidman, Aviation Maintenance Technician Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

Carl P. Grigonis, Avionics Electrical Technician Second Class (E-5), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

Monica L. Beacham, Avionics Electrical Technician Second Class (E-5), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

Danny R. Kreder, Jr., Aviation Maintenance Technician Third Class (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

Jason S. Moletzsky, Aviation Maintenance Technician Third Class (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, San Clement Island, California, End of Watch: October 29, 2009.

Mark F. Van Doren, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Falfurrias, Texas, End of Watch: May 24, 2010.

Sean D. Krueger, Lieutenant (O-3), U.S. Coast Guard, La Push, Washington, End of Watch: July 7, 2010.

Adam C. Hoke, Aviation Maintenance Technician First Class (E-6), U.S. Coast Guard, La Push, Washington, End of Watch: July 7, 2010.

Brett M. Banks, Aviation Maintenance Technician Second Class (E-5), U.S. Coast Guard, La Push, Washington, End of Watch: July 7, 2010.

Charles F. Collins II, CBP Officer, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Anchorage, Alaska, End of Watch: August 15, 2010.

Michael V. Gallagher, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Casa Grande, Arizona, End of Watch: September 2, 2010.

John R. Zykas, CBP Officer, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, San Diego, California, End of Watch: September 8, 2010.

Shaun M. Lin, Maritime Enforcement Specialist Third Class (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Portsmouth, Virginia, End of Watch: October 13, 2010.

Brian A. Terry, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Naco Cochise, Arizona, End of Watch: December 15, 2010.

Jaime J. Zapata, Special Agent, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Mexico City, Mexico, End of Watch: February 15, 2011.

Hector R. Clark, Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma, Arizona, End of Watch: May 12, 2011.

Eduardo Rojas, Jr., Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma, Arizona, End of Watch: May 12, 2011.

Dale T. Taylor, Lieutenant Commander (O-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Point Clear, Alabama, End of Watch: February 28, 2012.

Thomas J. Cameron, Lieutenant Junior Grade (O-2), U.S. Coast Guard, Point Clear, Alabama, End of Watch: February 28, 2012.

Fernando Jorge, Aviation Survival Technician (E-7), U.S. Coast Guard, Point Clear, Alabama, End of Watch: February 28, 2012.

Andrew W. Knight, Avionics Electrical Technician (E-4), U.S. Coast Guard, Point Clear, Alabama, End of Watch: February 28, 2012.

James A. Hopkins, Electronics Technician (E-6), U.S. Coast Guard, Kodiak, Alaska, End of Watch: April 12, 2012.

Richard W. Belisle, Civilian Employee (WG-8), Chief Boatswain's Mate (E-7), Retired, U.S. Coast Guard, Kodiak, Alaska, End of Watch: April 12, 2012.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today, people across our country observe Peace Officers Memorial Day. As we remember all of the fallen officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while upholding justice and protecting our communities, I wish to echo the sentiments of Americans across the country in honoring the lives and exemplary service of all of the men and women who lost their lives this past year, including two North Dakota peace officers, Bismarck police Sgt. Steven Kenner and Burleigh County sheriff's department Deputy Sheriff Bryan Sleeper.

Sgt. Steven Kenner served with the Bismarck police department for more than 32 years when he was killed in the line of duty on July 8, 2011. Sergeant Kenner was a distinguished and well-respected member of the Bismarck police department. He also served as a decorated member of the North Dakota National Guard military police and founded the business C.A.R., Collision Analysis Reconstruction.

Colleagues, friends and family knew Sergeant Kenner to be a loving, hard-working and dedicated man who served his State with great pride. He was devoted to mentoring and training his fellow officers, and his extensive knowledge and professionalism garnered the respect and admiration of his colleagues, who often referred to Sergeant Kenner as a gentle giant because his stature belied his kind nature and selfless service to others.

During Sergeant Kenner's distinguished career, he earned several awards, including the North Dakota Peace Officers Association Lifesaving Award. Sergeant Kenner was also actively involved in his community, serving in a variety of capacities, including as a member of the Missouri Valley Fraternal Order of Police, the National Trustee for North Dakota and the Midwest Association of Traffic Accident Investigators. He is survived by his wife, Debbie, and children James, Stephen, Kailey, and Tayler.

Last year, North Dakota also mourned Deputy Sheriff Bryan Sleeper who died in the line of duty on September 28, 2011. A lifelong North Dakotan, Deputy Sleeper graduated from the University of Mary in 1997, and worked at the North Dakota state penitentiary and the Bismarck rural fire department before beginning his distinguished career with the Burleigh County sheriff's department in 2007.

Deputy Sleeper was an active member of his community, and his involvement—like his job—aimed to improve