

never be forgotten." I ask all of my colleagues and fellow Americans to join me in fulfilling that promise of remembrance. We must remember John and his comrades who have fallen, their lives, and their sacrifices; for a Nation that forgets her heroes will lose her direction, her strength, and her spirit.

NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, so often we talk about collaboration between the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense. Today, we have a terrific example of such sharing. I specifically want to call attention to an innovative training program for nurse anesthetists. In an attempt to maximize scarce resources, VA and the U.S. Army have pulled together their resources to help prepare VA for fields in anesthesia.

Out of this joint VA/DOD effort has transpired one of the top Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist programs in the country. The program offered at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School at Fort Sam Houston, TX, has been said by its students to provide top of the line Army training in the field of nurse anesthesia. This type of training can be carried over to VA and will promote a seamless transition for those servicemembers that need continued treatment upon return from active duty.

In addition to the clinical training, during the second phase of the program, the students also receive invaluable lessons that simply cannot be taught in just any training facility. By sitting side by side with Army and Air Force classmates, the students are able to gain a greater appreciation and understanding for the different branches of the armed services and the culture of the military. Knowing that they are being cared for by someone who understands their background and by someone who speaks their language, veterans are provided with a level of comfort that can only be beneficial as they receive health care treatment.

This VA/DOD nurse anesthesia training program only provides a glimpse of the strides VA is making and hopefully will continue to make in training and educating current and future health care workers—despite budget constraints. I applaud VA for its leadership to the health care community and for its collaborative efforts to ensure quality health care. As ranking member of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, I will continue to fight for veterans and make sure that they receive the health care that they deserve.

CHINESE TARIFFS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, on April 6, 2005, I voted against a motion to table amendment, No. 309, otherwise known as the Schumer amendment, to the fiscal year 2006–2007 Foreign Affairs authorization bill. Upon careful consideration of this issue I have come to the

conclusion that this amendment will be ineffective at best and harmful at worst. As it is currently written, the Schumer amendment will impose a tariff on all Chinese imports. Sponsors of the amendment claim this measure is necessary in order to compel the Chinese Government to revalue its currency.

I am a supporter of free trade. I also believe that the benefits of free trade must be weighed against any harm that could be done to vital American interests. Understandably, there is considerable angst over the expanding trade deficit between the United States and China. Still, this body should not be hasty to repeat a mistake of the 106th Congress when it acted to support a similar amendment to the 2000 China trade bill.

Similar to what the Schumer amendment proposes, provisions in the China trade bill allowed the Federal Government to impose a de facto tariff in the form of dumping penalties against foreign companies. The collected penalties were distributed to the companies that filed complaints in the U.S. It should be noted that the WTO defines "dumping" as a situation where goods are sold below price normally charged in home market. By contrast, and to the consternation of our trade partners, domestic American companies have thought of dumping as goods being sold below price normally charged in the U.S. market. Over the past 4½ years since the bill was enacted, American companies have collected over \$1 billion in penalties from suits filed in the United States.

While that might not seem like such a bad thing, other governments have been busy filing complaints with the World Trade Organization. They are now determined to impose 15 percent tariffs against American exporters as punishment for the American "dumping" penalties. The costs of these tariffs will be borne by all sorts of American manufacturers and exporters. These tariffs will also punish American workers by making their work products uncompetitive in the global market.

I raise this parallel because it reveals to us the dangers of not seeking resolution through an agreed-to and effective framework provided by the WTO. The strength of the American economy has always been based on the openness of our markets. Unilaterally imposing tariffs on Chinese imports will act as an unfair tax on American exporters and that is a price we cannot afford to pay.

FREEDOM TO TRAVEL TO CUBA ACT OF 2005

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, on Monday, April 25, I introduced a bill, S. 894, with Senator DORGAN that will make a small change in Cuba policy. It deals only with travel provisions to Cuba.

I have been watching Cuba since the 1960s. I went to college at George Wash-

ington University and was there at the time of the Cuban missile crisis. I have had the opportunity to watch what has happened with Cuba through the years and I am reminded of something my dad used to say: If you keep on doing what you have always been doing, you are going to wind up getting what you already got.

That is kind of been the situation with Cuba. We have been trying the same thing for 40 years—over 40 years—and it has not worked. So I am suggesting a change to get a few more people in there to increase conversation for people that understand the way the United States works and the way Cuba works and how they ought to drift more rapidly towards where we are.

Castro's cruelty to his own people has tempted us to tighten the already strong restrictions on the relations between our two countries, and we did. We need to be successful in bringing about a better way of life for the Cuban people.

When we stop Cuban-Americans from bringing financial assistance to their families in Cuba, and end the people to people exchanges, and stop the sale of agricultural and medicinal products to Cuba, we are not hurting the Cuban Government, we are hurting the Cuban people. We are diminishing their faith and trust in the United States and reducing the strength of the ties that bind the people of our two countries.

If we allow more and freer travel to Cuba, if we increase trade and dialogue, we take away Castro's ability to blame the hardships of the Cuban people on the United States. In a very real sense, the better we try to make things for the Cuban people, the more we will reduce the level and the tone of the rhetoric used against us by Fidel Castro.

As I mentioned before, it seems foolish to do the same thing over and over again and expect different results. That is what we are doing in Cuba. We are continuing to exert pressure from our side and, as we do, we are giving Castro a scapegoat to blame for the poor living conditions in his country in the process. It is time for a different policy, one that goes further than embargoes and replaces a restrictive and confusing travel policy with a new one that will more effectively help us to achieve our goals in that country.

The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act is very straightforward. It states that the President shall not prohibit, either directly or indirectly, travel to or from Cuba by United States citizens or transactions incident to such travel.

In 1958 the Supreme Court affirmed our constitutional right to travel, but the U.S. Government then prohibited Americans from spending money in Cuba. We simply said, OK, you have a right to travel, but try traveling without spending a dime.

One of the reasons I became involved in this issue is because a Cuban-American from Jackson, WY, had been in Cuba visiting his family, doing his one