

We are certain this trade agreement will increase the cultivation of coca, which brings drug trafficking, terrorism, and violence.

So if we are talking about combating terrorism around the world, the exactly 180-degree wrong thing to do is a trade agreement with Peru because it will mean, as the archbishop said, the increased cultivation of coca because we will put some of their corn farmers, their barley farmers, their wheat farmers out of business. More coca, more drug trafficking, more terrorism, more violence, more instability.

We need a new trade approach in our policy, one that benefits workers here and promotes sustainable development with our trading partners.

This Peru agreement has some improvements in labor and the environment. It is important to note that this change in the administration's view toward labor and environmental rules of trade agreements would not have happened without voters' demand for change last year. But the demand for change in trade policy runs deep. We have heard workers in Ohio and around the country call for big changes in trade policy, and we are hearing consumers in Avon Lake and in Kettering demand accountability for the unsafe imports that are on our shelves. Passing a trade agreement with Peru is not the change we need. We want trade. We want more trade. We want trade under different rules and, most importantly, our responsibility is to protect our family's health and protect our children.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HONORING MR. WILLIAM W. WIRTZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the life of William W. Wirtz, a truly outstanding Illinoisan who passed away this week.

Bill Wirtz was a businessman, sports fan, and philanthropist. He took over operation of Judge & Dolph in Illinois in 1950 and expanded that business into the Wirtz Beverage Group, comprised of five distributorships in four States. He also served as president of Wirtz Corporation, Director of First Security Trust and Savings Bank, and chairman of the South Miami Bank Corporation. But most Chicagoans will remember him as the owner and president of the Chicago Blackhawks hockey team.

The Wirtz family bought the Blackhawks in 1954, and Bill was named president of the organization in 1966, a title he maintained for over 40 years. Bill was a true hockey fan. During his lifetime, he helped negotiate

the merger between the NHL and the World Hockey Association, served on the 1980 and 1984 Winter Olympic Committees, and was chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Hockey League for 18 years. In recognition of his many contributions to the sport, Bill Wirtz was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Bill Wirtz also gave a great deal back to the community and the city of Chicago. Along with Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf, he was a driving force behind the construction of the United Center to replace the old Chicago Stadium in 1994. He also established the Chicago Blackhawk Charities, which has donated over \$7.5 million to worthy causes in the Chicago area. Perhaps closest to Bill's heart was the development of the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Sports Program at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Named after his mother, this program is a year-round, cross-disability sports and recreation program.

Bill Wirtz is survived by his wife Alice, five children and seven grandchildren. They have my condolences and those of so many who knew him. Bill's many contributions to Chicago and Illinois will not soon be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA L. PILE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I commend Ms. Donna L. Pile of Lexington, KY, for her service to her community and her Nation as a member and leader of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.

Ms. Pile recently served as President of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, the first woman ever named to that position. She previously served in many positions of responsibility for the association. Ms. Pile was also president of the PIA of Kentucky in 2000 and has been Kentucky's representative on the PIA National Board of Directors since 2000. Ms. Pile is also a member of the National Association of Insurance Women.

Active in her community, Ms. Pile is managing partner of the A.G. Perry Insurance Agency of Lexington. She has served her community as a homeroom mother in grade school and as Booster Club president to the Jessamine County Boys' Soccer Program for 10 years. She has taught PIA Young Agents classes and also served on numerous strategic planning committees for Jessamine County Schools.

As president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, Ms. Pile's dedication to the highest standards of her profession has earned her the respect of friends, associates, business colleagues, and the insurance industry as a whole. She took seriously her role to advocate for professional insurance agents across the United States and has left behind a stronger organization for her efforts.

I want to recognize today the many successes that Donna L. Pile has ac-

complished throughout her career and to again congratulate her on the completion of her term as the president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, next April, the people of Northern Ireland will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Belfast Agreement, which did so much to put Northern Ireland on the path to end the violence that had afflicted the population for three decades, and achieve the longstanding goal of peace.

On September 20, the Irish Times published a perceptive article by Trina Vargo, President of the U.S.-Ireland Alliance emphasizing that more remains to be done and urging the people of Belfast to this auspicious anniversary as an opportunity to remove the so-called "peace" walls that continue to divide the Protestant and Catholic communities in Belfast.

The walls are still serving as physical and psychological barriers between the two communities, and Ms. Vargo's article offers a timely and creative idea that could have a widespread beneficial impact in Northern Ireland. Analogizing it to the fall of the Berlin Wall, she suggests that the simple act of removing walls can be a significant gesture in breaking down barriers in a community and promoting progress and unity.

Ms. Vargo was a member of my staff and did an excellent job on the issue of Northern Ireland for many years, and I believe her article will be of interest to all of us in Congress, especially those who worked with Ms. Vargo on this issue. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Irish Times, Sept. 20, 2007]

TIME TO TEAR DOWN THESE WALLS OF DIVISION

With things settling down in Northern Ireland, isn't it time to consider taking down the so-called "peace" walls separating communities instead of erecting more, asks Trina Vargo.

Everyone of a certain age distinctly remembers the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The sight of East and West Germans joining in celebration on the wall, and the chipping away of it over the following weeks, demonstrated to the world—in a way that no other act could—that the cold war was truly over. Can the walls come down in Northern Ireland? Next April, Senator George Mitchell will return to Belfast to participate in an event marking the 10th anniversary of the Belfast Agreement. We have also invited Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Tony Blair and Bill Clinton to join him and other negotiators of the agreement, as well as the DUP, to consider Northern Ireland's divided past and its shared future.

We hope that the people of Belfast will consider using this occasion to take down at least a part of the "peace" line and send a message to the world, and to themselves. I

recently visited Belfast to begin conversations about this with community leaders, politicians, former paramilitaries, and the police. While some expressed scepticism, a much larger number were eager to begin the conversation. Some were conjecturing, hoping that their interface community might be confident by April. After all, many unexpected and welcome things have happened this year in Northern Ireland. It would be naive to underestimate concerns about the dismantling of that which has provided physical and psychological protection for many years. And walls coming down won't alone solve Northern Ireland's many problems—disaffected youth, a growing suicide rate, a parochial outlook, high levels of economic inactivity, and an economy overly reliant on the state.

It is also disheartening to see new walls going up in some neighbourhoods at the very time the virtual walls between Ireland and Northern Ireland are coming down. Progress at the political level is slowed by a lack of confidence on the street. The loyalist community, in particular, is still reeling from political developments it didn't see coming. What is now most necessary for Northern Ireland is economic development. Foreign investment and increasing tourism can play a part in that. While the political developments that have occurred this year are truly incredible, they only briefly and barely registered on the world's consciousness.

It is likely that there is only a small window of opportunity with the business community in the U.S. Disproportionate attention has been paid to Northern Ireland for more than a decade and there is a sense that it's sorted. Attention will wane.

In 1998, when I was Senator Ted Kennedy's foreign policy adviser, I contacted a Massachusetts company with a call centre in Northern Ireland, thinking the company might like a photo opportunity with Senator Kennedy when he visited Northern Ireland.

That was the last thing they wanted. Many of their clients didn't know where the call centre was located.

They feared they would associate Northern Ireland with disruption and that wouldn't be good for business. Northern Ireland must dispel any remaining doubts that it is bad for business. Nothing will say that like walls coming down.

It is no coincidence that the walls are in the most economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Belfast and it is these neighbourhoods that have so much to gain by their removal.

It is worth considering how much the walls prevent problems and how much they are an invitation to confrontation.

A fundamental shift in thinking about neighbours previously not known, feared and hated is required. It won't happen overnight. But there are some hopeful signs. There are excellent cross-community projects at several interfaces.

The parades season went off peacefully. And those inciting violence at interfaces are no longer paramilitaries but alcohol-fuelled teenagers.

While such anti-social behaviour by teenagers can be found in most American cities, the danger in Belfast is the potential those otherwise minor incidents have to turn into riots.

Many in interface neighbourhoods feel powerless, left behind, and they know that the walls are holding them back, economically as well as psychologically. But the removal of walls is something they do have control over.

This will be for people there to decide. We are simply providing a date on the horizon with the hope that it might spur conversation and consideration. In order to most ac-

curately assess what the people at interfaces think, we will soon commission a survey of people living at interfaces.

When will peace truly come to Northern Ireland? When walls fall. There is nothing more evocative of Northern Ireland's divided past, and nothing more indicative of a shared future than their removal.

Trina Vargo is the president of the U.S.-Ireland Alliance.

CELEBRATING THE 108TH BIRTHDAY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary organization with a membership consisting of the best and the bravest America has to offer. On Saturday, September 29, 2007, we honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, more commonly known as the VFW, by celebrating the organization's 108th birthday.

The VFW is defined by a record of service and commitment to our country and our veterans. From initially fighting to protect our freedom overseas, to later ensuring that veterans have the compensation and care they deserve back home, the 2.3 million members in approximately 8,400 Posts worldwide deserve our thanks and recognition.

Since 1899, when a group of 13 Spanish-American War veterans convened to advocate for the benefits then denied to their comrades in arms, the VFW has worked tirelessly to protect the rights of fellow veterans while continuously honoring the service of those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our way of life.

One of the many privileges I have in serving New Hampshire is working with representatives of the Granite State's VFW Auxiliary Posts. Never losing sight of the organization's mission or obligations, the straightforward approach of members serves as a breath of fresh air. They ask direct questions and expect direct answers. New Hampshire's VFW members should be proud of their representation.

Nationally, the VFW is committed to its mission to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans' service, community service, and steadfast advocacy of a strong national defense. This dedication can be witnessed through the organization's work to create the Veterans Administration, its efforts to establish numerous memorials in memory of those who have served, and its devotion to improving the educational, health, and other benefits owed to returning veterans. Moreover, the VFW's efforts in the community, annually providing more than 13 million hours of volunteerism and donating \$2.5 million in college scholarships, further endears the organization and its members to all Americans.

At a time of ongoing conflict abroad, the VFW welcomes our returning servicemembers with support, guidance, and camaraderie as they readjust

to life on the home front. Additionally, as they continue to serve the communities around them, VFW members act as role models whose experiences and commitment to service provide a beacon of light in today's society. For their longstanding and continued contributions, the VFW and its members deserve our immense respect and sincere gratitude.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DESEGREGATION

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, this week marks the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School, a victory for equality in education that was only secured with the help of Federal troops. The images that came out of Little Rock in September 1953 remain indelible; the National Guard literally standing in the way of equal education; a citizens' blockade threatening to break into mob violence at the mere thought of sharing their school with Black students; and the quiet dignity and courage of the Little Rock Nine. Their determination to claim their rights is still a source of inspiration, but the rest of the Little Rock crisis is a source of shame.

So we do two things on this 50th anniversary. First and foremost, we honor the nine young students who integrated Little Rock and who gave eloquent testimony that equality begins with education. We thank them today: Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Jefferson Thomas, Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Minnijean Brown, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed, and Melba Pattillo Beals.

But second, we need to forthrightly face the truth this week: 50 years later and 53 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, the work they helped begin is still incomplete. Segregation in law is over, but who can doubt that it persists in fact? National Guard troops may no longer be blocking children from the door to an equal education, but the forces that have taken their place, if less visible, are no less potent.

Whether an American child has good teachers, whether that child has up-to-date textbooks, whether that child goes to school in a safe, modern building—all of these educational essentials depend far too much on where that child happens to live. In fact, America—the country that struck down segregation more than a half-century ago—ranks at the bottom of developed countries in the disparity of schooling it offers to the rich and the poor. Why doesn't that gap shame us just as much as anything that happened in Little Rock?

Mr. President, a textbook published in this millennium should not be a luxury. Modern school buildings and computers and libraries should not be luxuries. Qualified teachers, competent guidance counselors, rigorous curricula, small classes—they should not