

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 unprecedentedly 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