

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

REMEMBERING HARRY WU

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on Tuesday, the world lost a courageous activist for international workers' rights, Harry Wu. Harry Wu spent 19 years in one of China's "laogai" prison labor camps. That word is pretty much unknown in English—L-A-O-G-A-I. It is a word that the Chinese made famous, at least in their part of the world, as the terribly brutal labor camps where they sent political prisoners.

Mr. Wu was imprisoned in 1960 at age 23 because he spoke out against Communist China's ally in 1960, the Soviet Union, after its invasion of Hungary. Over those 19 years, from 1960 to 1979, Mr. Wu was brutalized. He was sent to work on farms, mines, and prison camps. He was beaten and forced into concrete cases. As he has written and told us, he survived on food he foraged in rats' nests.

After his release, following Mao's death, Harry Wu dedicated the rest of his life to exposing the horrors that his homeland leaders inflicted on their own citizens. He risked his life to return to China under cover and gathered secret footage of the abuses in China's laogai, China's prison camps. He wouldn't let the world ignore Chinese atrocities. He wouldn't let us forget that opening our doors to China—demanded by U.S. corporations with few strings attached—came at a steep price. Through the footage he collected, he helped show the world that products like cheap wrenches and artificial flowers sold in the United States were made with forced labor. Think about what this was about. U.S. companies would shut down their production in Mansfield, my hometown, or maybe in Baton Rouge or Cleveland, and move their production to China and sell those products back to the United States. The U.S. companies that moved to China never addressed the moral issue of what that move did to our communities. They never addressed the moral issue of, in some cases, using Chinese forced labor to make their products. These companies could also sell their products a little bit cheaper in the United States, and as a result, these companies could reap much bigger profits. The moral question of U.S. trade relations with China has rarely been touched in this body. It is just inconvenient for us to think about. Well, Mr. Wu never let it be inconvenient.

As we approach the 15th anniversary of China's entry into the World Trade Organization this year and review China's nonmarket economy status, we should not forget the lessons of Harry Wu. Over the past decade, we have seen that prosperity in China does not lead to more political freedom.

I knew Harry Wu. He testified before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China when I was chairman. He had testified several times.

As recently as 2012, Mr. Wu warned Congress:

The Laogai—

The forced labor camp—

system [is] deeply rooted into [China's] economic structure. . . . China's working class is different from that of the modern democratic countries. It includes not only "workers" in the ordinary sense, but also "workers" of the prison enterprises.

These would be slaves. He warned that "prisoners in Laogai, more like state slaves than enterprise workers, provide the state with an endless source of cheap or payless labor force."

This system is an egregious human rights abuse against hundreds of thousands of Chinese people. It hurts American workers who are then forced to compete.

This system they have set up is one of the reasons that people are really upset about what is happening in this country. Companies in my State of Ohio shut down production in Lima, Zanesville, and Chillicothe, then moved overseas to China in order to get a tax break, hired Chinese workers—some of them were slave laborers for some of the component manufacturing; some of them were just low-paid labor—to make these products in a totalitarian system and sell them back in the United States. American companies never talk about the moral dimension of that.

I wrote a book a dozen or so years ago called the "Myths of Free Trade." I interviewed Harry Wu about this book. He told me: "Capitalism must never be equated with democracy." Because our country believes in capitalism and democracy, we think they always go together. Well, they don't. According to Harry Wu:

Capitalism must never be equated with democracy. . . . Don't believe it about China. My homeland is mired in thousands of years of rule by one bully at a time, whether you call him emperor or chairman. Don't be fooled by electronics or air conditioning.

Before his death, I think Mr. Wu would have said: Yes, the United States has been fooled. Maybe we choose to be fooled; maybe we choose to not know how the products that we hold in our hands are made—by an oppressive government using forced labor workers.

We have been on a continuous march toward more trade with China and demanded far little in return. We have turned a blind eye to China's labor practices for too long. When you hear Presidential candidates and others complaining about China, it is always about putting American workers out of work, which it should be, but the other part of that moral question is about how we are using slave laborers in China to undercut American workers. How could an American worker or company possibly compete with slave labor in China? Obviously we can't, but we leave that moral question because U.S.

corporations don't want to acknowledge and want to turn a blind eye toward slave labor. It reminds me of something from a few years ago when an American drug company was making a blood thinner—much of the production of that blood thinner came from China—with contaminated ingredients, and a number of people in Toledo, OH, died. The drug company didn't know where these products came from. They knew they came from China, but they didn't know where their supply ingredients came from. Think about that. They should be liable for that—at least you would think they should—but they just didn't think about the moral question there.

A year and a half ago I gave a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, warning that before we sign any bilateral investment treaty with China, we need to demand that China comply with existing international obligations in domestic law. We have given China chance after chance, pushing for increased engagement, even though we know that China will play by its own rules. In the past year and a half, nothing has changed. We need to make clear the international obligations we expect China to meet on cyber security, human rights, forced labor, slaves making products that American children use, international trade, workers' rights, and other issues. We need to demand that China meet these standards now.

Increased engagement by the United States may have led to more agreements on paper, and that is fine, but in reality the only thing it has achieved is our ongoing tolerance of Chinese transgressions. It may be tolerance, it may be ignoring, it may be shrugging our shoulders, it may be burying our heads in the sand, but I don't think we want to think much about slave labor in China. I don't think when we buy these products at Walmart—specializing in Chinese products—that we want to think much about where these products were made. We often know they were made in China, but we don't really want to think about how those workers produced these products.

Harry Wu's passing is a reminder that this needs to end. His legacy includes the Laogai Museum here in Washington. I encourage my colleagues to visit the museum and pay their respects to Harry Wu. The best way they can pay their respects to Harry Wu is by changing our policies. The thousands upon thousands of other nameless prisoners who suffered in these Chinese prison camps should be honored equally. We can't forget this tragic legacy, and we can't forget the human rights abuses that continue to this day as they continue to make these same products in these same working conditions with these same slave laborers. It is shameful. It should not continue.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

GREG KING

Mr. CARPER. Good afternoon, Mr. President. For more than a year now, as the Presiding Officer knows since he has had the good fortune—or bad fortune of drawing the short straw—of sitting there when I come to the Senate floor just about every month to highlight the extraordinary work that is being done by the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security—I am here to do that again today. The agency has so many talented folks, and they do incredibly important work, so there is no shortage of material.

As the Presiding Officer knows, the Department of Homeland Security is made up of 22 component agencies and employs over 200,000 people. These men and women work around the clock, and the work they do is designed to protect all of us—protect our families and protect our country. Last month we were reminded of just how crucial the work they do is when terrorists attacked a train station and airport check-in area in Brussels, Belgium, setting off bombs that killed 32 people and wounded hundreds more. Our thoughts and prayers have been and remain with the families, loved ones, and victims of these horrible attacks.

Just 6 days before these tragic attacks, I spoke on the floor about the difficult but critical work performed by the 59,000 employees of the Transportation Security Administration, affectionately known as TSA. These men and women work every day. They do so to ensure that all of us—Americans and tourists who visit—may travel around our country and around the world safe from harm.

The attack in Brussels shows us once again just how important these efforts—performed by the men and women at TSA—are to every single American and to our visitors. It also reminds us how important it is that TSA has the tools and resources needed to effectively carry out their mission.

To help ensure that the TSA is well equipped to protect the public, I worked with a number of our Senate colleagues last week—Democrats and Republicans alike—to include amendments to a bill reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration. Our amendments will help make airports and transit hubs across our country safer for travelers by doubling the number of teams—called VIPR teams—of Federal agents and bomb-sniffing dogs that patrol our airports and subways to deter and identify potential attackers.

These amendments will also make security improvements to public areas in

airports and train stations and ensure that the men and women patrolling those areas can effectively respond to the types of active shooter incidents we have unfortunately seen more frequently in recent months.

These commonsense amendments are just one of the many ways we can support the men and women at TSA and throughout the Department of Homeland Security who work on the frontlines every day screening passengers, guarding our ports of entry, and patrolling our transit hubs.

One part of the support we need to extend to these brave public servants is world-class training and education. By expanding and improving training opportunities for our law enforcement personnel, we can make sure they have the knowledge and make sure they have the capability to respond to every situation that may arise. That is why one of the best tools in our homeland security arsenal is the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

As my staff knows, I don't like acronyms very much, but this is a pretty good one. It is called the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. It is located in Glynco, GA. It goes by the acronym F-L-E-T-C, and we affectionately call it FLETC. I am not crazy about acronyms, but that is a pretty good one. We call it FLETC.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is tasked with teaching the men and women we deploy to the frontlines how to best utilize the technologies and techniques needed to protect Americans here at home and around the world. They provide training to literally dozens of Federal agencies, State law enforcement personnel from across our country, and our international partners, who travel from all over the world to learn from the best right here in America. From active shooter trainings, to advanced forensic techniques, to methods to counter human trafficking, FLETC instructors provide training in nearly 100 courses. They host the training academies for a number of other agencies, including Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Recently, TSA announced that they would be establishing a new, permanent academy for transportation security officers at FLETC's main facility in Glynco, GA. Having their training centralized at FLETC will allow TSA to better ensure uniform training for all of their officers and better collaborate with other components of the Department of Homeland Security.

Providing world-class training and instruction to tens of thousands of law enforcement officers each year requires bringing together some of the most highly qualified professional instructors from across our country. The more than 1,000 men and women from across law enforcement who serve at FLETC utilize their personal experience in the field to create and to lead effective trainings that help law enforcement

professionals keep us—Americans and our guests—safe and secure each day.

One of FLETC's world-class instructors is Greg King, pictured right here to my left. For nearly 10 years, Mr. King has been an instructor at FLETC, utilizing his own experience to train Federal officers deployed around the world.

Before coming to FLETC, Greg served his hometown of Cleveland, OH, working for the Cleveland Police Department for 28 years. If he is listening, I would just suggest that I have been thinking that Greg may have started when he was about 10. He looks pretty good for a guy who has been doing that for this long. He has a career spanning nearly three decades. Greg did everything from working undercover as a street crimes unit detective, to investigating financial crimes, murders, and crimes against children. For those 28 years, Greg has dedicated his life to protecting the community of Cleveland and giving back to the town in which he grew up.

Today, Greg serves as a senior instructor at FLETC, working as program coordinator for the Case Organization and Presentation Training Program, the Internet Investigations Training Program, and as assistant program coordinator for the Intelligence Analyst Training Program. Greg has a wealth of knowledge in these areas. His colleagues call him—this is a quote, their words, not mine—a real “subject matter expert” with the kind of expertise that can only come from real-world experience. Through the lesson plans and course materials he develops, Greg strives to impart the firsthand knowledge he gained on the force to his students so that when they leave his class, they are able to effectively build cases, conduct investigations, analyze information, and ultimately catch the bad guys.

At FLETC, Greg's colleagues also refer to him as an “Energizer bunny.” Some of my colleagues have referred to me in those same terms. I think it is a compliment—I hope so—and in his case, I am sure it is. His energy and his passion for his work inspire other instructors and keep his students engaged.

Given his dedication to his students and to the FLETC mission, Greg has earned the respect of his peers and FLETC leadership alike. It is no wonder, then, that Greg King was named FLETC instructor of the year for 2015. Think about that—instructor of the year for the entire school. It is clearly a well-deserved honor.

When Greg isn't training law enforcement professionals, he spends time with his family—his wife Shelley, their two daughters Lela and Shayla; and their son Rayshawn. I want to give my special thanks to Greg's wife Shelley and to their two daughters and their son for sharing him with us—with the people of Cleveland and now the people of the United States—for not just 28 years but 38 years in all. He has dedicated countless hours, I am told as