

can. I enjoy having the opportunity to recognize the achievements of those who have earned these awards almost as much as the award winners enjoy receiving the recognition of the Congress for their efforts. Every time I take part in one of these special ceremonies, I can see the excitement and sense of satisfaction that the award represents to each recipient because they have earned it by accomplishing what they set out to do.

The Congressional Awards are open and available to young people from about age 14 to 23. They honor those who have done something to improve themselves by expanding their horizons as to what they believe is possible for them to achieve. Working with adult mentors, they dedicate themselves to achieving a set of goals in four areas—public service, personal development, physical fitness, and the exploration of the world around them. Because of their enthusiasm, it is no surprise that they have been able to achieve such great results in their lives.

There are three levels of awards offered by the program—Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Gold Award is the most difficult of the three to earn because it requires the most in terms of both time and effort.

Over the years, the number of Wyoming Congressional Award winners at each level has been impressive. However, because of the good example Malcolm Wallop worked so hard to provide, we have had a remarkable number of Gold Medal award winners in my State. That is a remarkable achievement for a State with a comparatively small population. It underscores the determination of Wyoming's young people to always finish what they set out to do.

That is why our award winners have been getting noticed and the word has been getting around about how much it means to each award winner to have earned such a special prize. That has inspired others to try to do the same and it has kept the line of program participants going strong.

Malcolm Wallop understood the importance of that message and the need for our young people to hear it—and hear it clearly. Thanks to him and his efforts, kids in Wyoming and throughout the nation understand that there is something better for them to do than to complain about what's wrong with the world. They now know that if there is a problem in the community or down the street you can do something about it. It's more than positive thinking; it's a call to action. It's a lesson learned that will then encourage our young people to apply the same determination that helped them to earn their Congressional Award to the other goals they have set for themselves so they can achieve the same kind of success in every area of their lives.

Although Malcolm accomplished a great deal during his three terms of service in the United States Senate, I have always believed the Congressional

Awards had to be one of his favorite achievements, something special that will continue to last as part of his Senate legacy that will serve to inspire present and future generations to continue to work to make great changes in the world around them.

That will mean, in the years to come, when we look to the young people of Wyoming, the West and the United States to take their place as our leaders on the local, State and national level, thanks in part to the experience of the Congressional Awards program, they will be ready.

KOREA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to express my strong support for the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement. As you know, President Obama is in South Korea today and tomorrow meeting with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, and I would like to take this opportunity to communicate to the President and his administration the importance of expressing support for the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement during these meetings.

The United States and the Republic of Korea have a long history of trade. According to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. goods and services traded with Korea totaled \$101 billion in 2007. The Republic of Korea is the seventh-largest trading partner of the United States. In my home State of Georgia alone, goods and services exported to the Republic of Korea total more than \$390 million, making the Republic of Korea Georgia's 12th largest trading partner. Furthermore, trade with the Republic of Korea accounted for more than \$3 billion worth of goods passing through the Port of Savannah, GA.

It is imperative that the United States build on this already strong relationship with the Republic of Korea by approving a Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement. Approving a Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement will enhance both economies by growing markets for both U.S. and Korean goods and services, creating jobs in both countries, and will strengthen an already strong relationship with one of the most important allies of the United States in the East Asian region.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight a new KIA automobile production facility in West Point, GA. This is a direct investment from the Republic of Korea that is having a positive impact on my State's economy. This week, the first KIA Sorrento vehicles were completed at the West Point facility, where 1,200 jobs have already been created and an estimated 1,300 additional jobs will be created in the coming years. The impact on the local economy by the West Point facility is estimated to be around \$6.5 billion over the next 3 years, which is already having a transformative ef-

fect on a community that was facing very hard economic times before the KIA facility came along.

Mr. President, in closing, I would just like to emphasize how important the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement is to the United States, and in particular to my home State of Georgia. The KIA facility in West Point, GA, is just one example of the impact that this proposed free-trade agreement could have on other communities across the United States. During these difficult economic times, it is critical that the administration and Congress look for ways to build the economy and create jobs, and approving the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement would do just that.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES R. HOUSTON

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, Dr. James R. Houston of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will soon retire with over 38 years of service. He is a member of the Senior Executive Service, SES, and is the First Director of the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center, ERDC. His accomplishments and dedication to the Corps of Engineers' laboratory community and the Army are exceptional and will have a significant and long-lasting positive impact on this Nation.

After serving as a private in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dr. Houston began his Army civilian career as a physicist studying explosion-generated wave effects at the U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, WES, in Vicksburg, MS. At WES he calculated harbor oscillations and devised a numerical model to determine the inundation limits of tsunamis in the Hawaiian Islands. In 1978, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida and in 1981 received an Army R&D Achievement Award for improved methods for numerically simulating tsunami propagation and interaction with nearshore regions. In 1983 he was promoted to chief of the research division in the Coastal Engineering Research Center where he researched numerical modeling of coastal processes and tsunami flood level predictions.

In 1986 he became the SES director of the Coastal Engineering Research Center, CERC, and with the combining of CERC and the Hydraulics Laboratory in 1997, he became the director of the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, CHL. In these assignments, he oversaw research programs in coastal and hydraulic engineering, oceanography, coastal geology, dredging, and numerical modeling of hydrodynamics and sediment transport. Under his leadership, CHL became the largest coastal and hydraulics engineering laboratory in the world.

In 2000 he became the first director of ERDC and in 2006 became dual-hatted