

family and loved his country. Chris was doing the Lord's work, and the Lord is richly blessing him now.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, first, I wish to associate myself with the thoughtful and special remarks of Senator INHOFE, a member of the Armed Services Committee. He is a champion of our young men and women in uniform. I thank him for his comments on behalf of another brave patriot who paid the ultimate sacrifice and his tribute to one of America's heroes from Oklahoma. Thank you, Senator, for the job you do, thank you for your tribute to this young man's life and sacrifice.

(The remarks of Mr. ROBERTS are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. ROBERTS. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO BILL KAMELA

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning to talk about a very special person on my staff. Bill Kamela came on to head my HELP Subcommittee on Employment and Workforce Safety about 5 years ago. Ever since then, he has been a critical part of my staff.

Bill is a trusted adviser, and I think what impresses all of us the most is he truly is a visionary when it comes to making the Federal Government a strong partner in worker training and safety.

Thanks to the work of Bill Kamela, across the country today, fewer employees have to worry about the danger of hazards or unsafe working conditions that they go to work every day and see. Because of his good work and insistence, more workers today get access to good-paying jobs, training, and advancement.

I come to the floor today because Bill is now preparing to move on to the next phase of his career. While we are all in my office very happy for him, we are all extremely sad to see him go. I wanted to come to the floor today to take just a couple minutes to recognize Bill's tremendous contribution on behalf of working families throughout the entire country.

Bill grew up in Buffalo, NY, where he learned the value of hard work and public service. Although he left Buffalo for Washington, DC, many years ago, anyone who has spent time with him knows that his passions are all things Buffalo, especially his beloved Buffalo Bills. We know when it comes to them, they take precedence over anything else that is going on.

Anyone who has worked with Bill also knows that he took to heart those lessons he learned growing up there about the importance of public service. Bill has dedicated his life and his ca-

reer to helping kids and young people and families everywhere find success. He has worked with the National Urban Coalition, in the office of Congressman Gus Hawkins, at the National Safe Kids Campaign, and with a number of nonprofits. In every one of those positions, he has worked behind the scenes for policies that keep our working families strong.

Before he came to my staff, Bill spent 6 years at the Department of Labor under President Clinton where he served as chief of staff for the Employment and Training Administration. When he worked at the Labor Department, one of his responsibilities was to implement the Workforce Investment Act, which is, as we all know, the cornerstone of our national job training system.

Since coming to my staff, he has worked diligently on WIA, and thanks to him workers today have access to the training they need so they can still be successful in life no matter what happens to them.

Bill has been the staff director for my Employment and Workforce Safety Subcommittee. His dedication to those working families, as well as his passion for public service, has made it possible for us to make progress on the key piece of legislation to which he has devoted so many years, the Workforce Investment Act.

What impresses many of us in the Senate is that he works across the aisle, and he brings people of all kinds to the table to get things done. He has worked tirelessly, as I said, to fund and strengthen WIA and other job training programs to help workers find and keep good-paying jobs.

He also worked extremely hard and impressively on the Miner Act, which improved safety and ensured coal miners have better access to lifesaving equipment, air, and water in case of an accident.

But I think one of the things I will remember Bill the most for is his work on helping us to pass in the Senate the Ban Asbestos in America Act. He sat with me in countless meetings. He talked to so many families. He held the hands of widows whose spouses had died as a result of their exposure to asbestos. And he brought so many people to the table and diligently worked detail after detail after detail until we could bring up this bill in the Senate and, after many years, finally pass it. I owe him a debt of gratitude for that, and I want him to know as he leaves my office we are going to keep working under his name to get that bill done and to the President so those people he has worked with can finally see this bill become law.

I have to say again he has been instrumental in our efforts to make the Federal Government a strong partner. He brings together educators, workforce folks, labor, and employers because he knows everyone needs a seat at the table so our workforce can compete in this global economy.

But his contributions go far beyond legislation. Outside of my office, his attention to building personal relationships has earned him tremendous respect and admiration of workforce leaders across my State. Inside my office, he has earned all of our respect. He is a mentor to all of his coworkers. He has never been one to close the door behind him. He is always generous with his time, and he has helped bring up the next generation of staffers who rely on him so much for his sound advice or a good pep talk, whichever they need.

Bill has an uncanny knack for keeping everything balanced on staff. He sets realistic expectations, but he does not ever let anyone get discouraged. I know that will carry him far in this world.

So I come to the floor today to thank Bill for his work and for his dedication to our country, and I thank him for his personal advice so many times, his enthusiasm, and his passion for working families in my State and across the country. I wish him the best as he moves on. He will be dearly missed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

#### COLOMBIAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, at the conclusion of my remarks, I will yield to Senator STABENOW of Michigan who will also talk about trade adjustment assistance in Michigan and Ohio and all that our States are going through in large part because of misdirected trade policies.

Yesterday, President Bush announced he would send a proposed Colombian Free Trade Agreement to Congress for a vote. He does this over the opposition of the Democratic leadership in the House and in the Senate, in defiance of our desire to work on a bipartisan basis, and in direct opposition to the desires of a growing number of Ohioans and Michiganders and Americans all over this country. In doing so, President Bush has nailed shut the fast-track coffin.

As my colleagues know, this agreement was negotiated under the so-called fast-track provisions. It is an extraordinary procedure provided only for trade agreements, not for any other kind of legislation. Trade is that special and that important to a very narrow but very powerful, very influential group of people in this country. Congress decided years ago to delegate an enormous amount of power to the executive branch to negotiate trade agreements. In nothing else does this body, charged under the Constitution with specific duties and responsibilities, give that much power to the executive branch as it does with these trade agreements.

Under the fast-track provisions, once presented to Congress, a so-called free-trade agreement triggers a 90-day clock for consideration of the agreement. No