

To say they were a hit is an understatement. From a spirited performance in the historic Xi'an City Plaza, to an energetic performance at the Great Wall of China, to their climactic parade and a knock-their-socks-off concert in Beijing, the Shaw High School Band represented themselves, their school, their city of East Cleveland, and this great country with honor.

In the process, based on the cheers and applause from the audiences, they won the hearts of their Chinese hosts. This summer, the people of China—and the world—came to know what so many of us already knew: The Mighty Shaw High School Marching Band is world class.

These are the band members:

Jimea Barnum, flag; Justin Bass, French horn; Jason Blade, trumpet; Samone Bey, dance team; Krystal Brooks, flag; Alona Bryson, dance team; Carlissa Chambers, dance team; Renee Dorsey, flag; Kamaria Eiland, flag; Leah Foster, cymbals; Isaiah Gardner, tenor drum; Marlon Graves, tenor drum; Rhonda Harris, cymbals; Arthur Hill, baritone horn; Simone Hurd, dance team; Kayla Jordan, dance team; Gerome Jennings, Baritone horn; Jared Lang, French horn; Derrick Le Grande, tenor drum.

Deontae Lewis, French horn; Mathew Longino, French horn; Marshae Love, dance team; Audrey Maxwell, trombone; Genesis Maxwell, cymbals; Alisha McClellan, cymbals; Robert Miller, tenor drum; Seirra Moore, trumpet; Quanee Penn, snare drum; Tony Prather, bass drum; Raymond Raye, bass drum; Sharleen Riley, flag; Chanay Robinson, trombone; Tyrel Ross, tuba; Delilah Sedrick, dance team; Natasha Shields, trumpet; Masonia Shorter-Little, trombone; Jimila Small, trumpet; Andresa Stephens, dance team; Marshall Stone, trombone.

Chavone Taylor, snare drum; Jonathan Thomas, tuba; Rory Tripp, trumpet; Donovan Vaughn, trumpet; Ericka Walker, trumpet; Denzel Watkins, snare drum; Kimille Webb, dance team; Russell West, baritone horn; Daniel Whitworth, tuba; Ciera Whitworth, trumpet; Shera Williams, trombone; Victor Williams, snare drum; Latonia Young, flag.

These young men and women are special as students, as musicians, and as citizen ambassadors. Welcome home. We are all so proud of you.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to mark a dark anniversary for the Hellenic-American community, and its Cypriot members in particular. Thirty-four years ago this week, the armed forces of Turkey violated the sovereignty and territory of the Republic of Cyprus by illegally invading and ultimately occupying its northern third.

The continued division and military occupation of Cyprus by Turkey remains a gross violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots and a blatant disregard for the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly condemned Turkey for violating fundamental rights of Cypriots such as the right to life, the right to liberty and security, the right to the protection of property and the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment—rights we as Americans also regard as sacrosanct.

Throughout these decades of injustice, the Greek Cypriot community has sought a just resolution to the "Cyprus Question." And we are certainly at a potentially historic crossroads in the effort to end this tragic division. With the February election of President Christofias and his focus on engaging the Turkish Cypriot community, the coming months may turn out to be among the most consequential in the island's long history. Certainly, for the people of the Republic of Cyprus, the illegal occupation of the north cannot come to an end soon enough.

Meeting with Cypriot Foreign Minister Markos Kyprianou in early April, I was therefore heartened to hear in detail about the progress made at President Christofias' March meeting with Mehmet Ali Talat, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, which resulted in the establishment of working groups on the outstanding substantive issues to be resolved between the two communities. Shortly thereafter, the two communities opened a critical border crossing on Ledra Street in the heart of Nicosia in early April. The two leaders have met twice more to review the progress of the working groups, and are scheduled to again meet at the end of this week.

These efforts only strengthen my long-held commitment to work to ensure that the United States stands by its close ally, the Republic of Cyprus, to achieve a resolution to the tragic division of the island that is fair to Greek Cypriots. As we learned from our experience with the justified rejection of the Annan Plan by Greek Cypriots in 2004—the Cyprus Question is one that can only be resolved through mutual agreement on a solution, not an imposition of one.

The magnanimity of the Greek Cypriot community in seeking a fair solution to the division of the island despite the injustices they have suffered for nearly three and a half decades was also highlighted for me in October,

when I met with the Mayor-in-exile of Famagusta, Alexis Galanos, concerning the Republic's hope for the orderly resettlement of the "ghost neighborhood" of Varosha by its rightful inhabitants under U.N. administration, which would also open the harbor for use by both communities. Support for this plan—which the international community called for in United Nations Security Council Resolution 550 of 1984—demonstrates not only the willingness but also the wisdom of the Greek Cypriot community in seeking just and workable outcomes to seemingly intractable problems on the island. I am pleased to be working with Ambassador Andreas Kakouris of Cyprus to garner congressional support for this initiative.

Moreover, the United States should be doing its part to address one of the most devastating effects of the occupation on Cypriot-American families by providing the means for U.S. citizens with claims to property in the Turkish-occupied north of Cyprus to seek redress for the homes that have been destroyed or taken from them. The invasion by the Turkish troops in 1974 forced nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots—nearly one-third of the Cypriot population at the time—from their homes, making them refugees in their own country. A large proportion of the properties from which the Greek Cypriot owners were expelled was unlawfully distributed to the tens of thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey. An estimated 7,000 to 10,000 U.S. citizens of Cypriot descent have claims to such properties.

That is why my colleague Senator MENENDEZ and I have introduced the American-Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act, which would direct the U.S. Government's independent Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to receive, evaluate, and determine awards with respect to the claims of U.S. citizens and businesses that lost property as a result of Turkey's invasion and continued occupation of northern Cyprus. The bill would further grant U.S. Federal courts jurisdiction over suits by U.S. nationals against any private persons occupying or otherwise using the U.S. national's property in the Turkish-occupied portion of Cyprus. The act would expressly waive Turkey's sovereign immunity against claims brought by U.S. nationals in U.S. courts relating to property occupied by the Government of Turkey and used by Turkey in connection with a commercial activity carried out in the United States.

More than just providing redress to Cypriot-Americans who have had their ancestral homes taken from them, this legislation would uphold the larger shared values of justice and personal dignity that the citizens of both the United States and the Republic of Cyprus value so highly. It is my hope and pledge that, whatever progress is made in the current talks between the two communities on the island, the United

States will continue to stand by its close ally to ensure that fairness is not sacrificed in the interest of expediency. For it is not just the rights of the Greek Cypriot community that are at stake, but the viability of the human and civil rights that all democracies—that most enduring of Hellenic institutions—hold most dear.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

Thanks for the info. And thanks for asking for input. My family is seeing the pinch somewhat. We live 20 miles from Boise, and since work and shopping are in Boise, that puts us on the road a lot during the week. We have been forced to consolidate trips, which is not that bad an idea. We also drive our little car (Honda Civic) more, which, for a family of large people such as ours, is not a small problem. We do not drive my pick-up as much as we have in the past, either.

I think that it is about time we developed our own resources regardless of the impact of individual families. It is a strategic decision since the world's oil reserves are being used at an ever-increasing rate because of the growth of the economies of different countries around the world. The U.S. is not the only consumer any more, and we have to live with that. So, drilling in ANWR, off the coast and developing oil shale is a good thing, especially since we have proven that we can do it with very little impact on the environment (as is the case of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline). Of course, we can expect accidents, but we have to deal with that if it happens and engineer a plan for that contingency to prevent it from happening.

I think solar power is something we really have to look at. Why not require that every new house built have solar collectors on the roof. This will do a number of things:

It will create a new industry which will create a fertile environment for R&D, which will, in turn, improve the efficiency and branch into new areas where solar power can be used that have not been considered yet.

It will use a resource that is not being utilized because of inefficiency. But, regardless of how inefficient our use is, if we do not use it, it is going to waste, anyway.

It will open a new realm of thought where American ingenuity can take over branching into other areas.

If we could offer tax or other types of incentives to home owners who choose to retrofit their existing houses to solar power, we could further increase the possibility of development of the use of the resource.

I think nuclear energy has proven itself to be a great source of power. Its increased use would foster research into uses of the spent fuel, which seems to me to be the most controversial area. Again, I am sure that with the increased use of nuclear power comes the increased possibility of accidents, but also comes the increased knowledge base from which to work, keeping the possibilities of accidents to a minimum.

One of the important questions I would like to raise is the viability of ethanol. I think it is going to do too much damage (we are seeing it already) to our food-producing industry. It is already causing an increase in food costs in the grocery store, and further development will cause, I am afraid, an even larger cost increase. We are already importing foodstuffs from other countries, something we have not had to do before.

UNSIGNED.

You write that my country is too dependent on foreign oil and we must develop alternate energy sources. You, your party, and many of the Democrats have voted consistently against all such alternatives for one reason or another. [I disagree with your assessment of the problem.] It is of no use to write about my experience with the rise in gas prices. If Congress and this Administration need stories, then it further proves that our elected government [is not responsive to its citizens][Congress has] held hearings with the oil representatives, which [has not resulted in anything.] Thank you for your inattention to this response.

HARRY.

I am a small business owner in Meridian. I will put this succinctly: My government is allowing OPEC to put me and other businesses out of business! If I understand this correctly, we import most of our oil from Canada and Mexico. If I also understand this correctly, they import a lot of food and technology from us. Therefore, if we get little to no oil, then understandably, they should get no food or technology and keep [their own] citizens in [their] country. I cannot afford to pay higher taxes for these illegal people. No oil = no food. I can live longer without their oil than they can without our food. Stop all Alaskan pipeline oil to Japan; why should we be in critical shortage and continue to supply them?

We can build refineries, too. Obviously the OPEC cartel does not want to since they are raping our bank accounts with the few that are working. Drill off-shore; China is [doing so] in our own gulf, and drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

[I am tired of all the talk without any action. Congress must get this country moving in a positive direction.]

Support the troops.

Secure the border.

Drill and process our own oil, build refineries.

Secure English as our language.

No foreign aid to countries hostile to the U.S.

Practice some ethics in government service.

[I am very unhappy with the inaction of Congress on this matter.]

Sincerely,

DAVID, *Meridian*.

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: I received your e-mail and just wanted to respond in kind to it.

I also heard President Bush's speech this morning that he would like to lift the ban on

offshore drilling, begin shale drilling in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, and also begin drilling in ANWR. My husband and I are 100 percent in favor of this happening, and hope that your vote will likewise be the same in the Senate. What a shame that this country has not built a new refinery in thirty years. It is hard to believe that we have let ourselves become so dependent on foreign oil, and it is a disgrace to this country. We would also be in favor of nuclear energy, and affordable hybrid cars (electric and gas) to lessen the dependency on oil.

My husband and I are both retired and on fixed incomes so the sky rocketing fuel prices affecting the cost of food, and anything else shipped by truck, has not only cut into our income, but also into our savings.

We thank you for all the good work you are doing on our behalf as Senator of Idaho. Please keep up the fight so that our voices can be heard.

Sincerely,

SHEILA.

It is time that we must remind Republicans that if we do not drill, we will no longer be the strongest nation in the world. I am sure that the Liberals and Environmentalists want us to suffer. We are a "can do" nation and we can start drilling off the coasts and in ANWR. We need to show, the Americans, that we are still a "can do" nation. Maybe we should tell all those who do not support drilling that we should not support them in Congress. We are a nation that has always had a "can do" attitude. We do not [want people in Congress who do not support drilling and new jobs; we need people who will allow us to develop our own resources without reliance on foreign countries.] We have plenty of oil and oil shale in our country to start drilling now.

MARY.

Good for you, Senator Crapo!! Thank you for not falling for the illogical environmental hysteria that is taking over the political landscape right now. We need long-term planning, not short-term panic.

MARV.

I have presently read a report written by a retired engineer from Exxon. This engineer has proposed a change from oil to coal-oil. That can be produced at \$40 a barrel and within EPA standards. To me, this is a no-brainer for the interim until a permanent solution is available.

HERBERT.

My wife and I live in Hailey and are octogenarians, so the impact of high energy costs is felt through home heating and cooking and limitation on driving. Perhaps the greatest impact is the rising cost of food and services relating to costs of energy. We have canceled out two vacations this summer and fall, and go into town to shop and pick up mail just 2 or 3 days a week.

If Congress actually gets serious, I feel we would be well served by 1) offshore drilling and new refining and 2) a serious long-term effort to diversify into nuclear power, and other economically correct alternatives, including coal and shale oil.

Keep your eye on the ball.

JIM AND MARTY.

"This year alone, the average American family will spend more than \$200 a month on gasoline."

YOU are now paying about half what Europeans pay for gas—so this is what you chose to call a "crisis." But then of course you do not walk in my shoes. The Europeans apparently have learned to live with outrageous