

17 and an incoming Champlain Valley Union High School senior, was with her dad in Boston to check out colleges, and happened to be wearing an Ortiz Red Sox T-shirt.

So Ortiz signed that, too.

"It was just luck," Maggie said of the shirt she chose to wear that day. "I also have a (Jason) Varitek and a (Jacoby) Ellsbury shirt." Varitek is the Red Sox catcher, Ellsbury the team's center fielder.

Dad and daughter eventually returned to their seats and passed the Ortiz bat around among their seatmates.

Later in the game, the Major League Baseball person again asked to speak to them, questioning them some more in order to make sure the ball Ryan gave Ortiz wasn't one slugged into the stands during batting practice.

The Ortiz bat now sits on a shelf in the Ryan living room. Maggie has her signed Ortiz T-shirt, but it's unlikely she'll be wearing—or washing—it much more in the future.

Ryan said he asked the Red Sox for one last favor on Thursday night.

Would it be possible, he queried, for him to bring his wife Lucia, and the family's other two children all of them passionate Sox fans—back to Fenway Park sometime this summer and visit with Ortiz again?

"They told me they did not think it would be a problem."

BUILD AMERICA BONDS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, these days the country's attention has rightly been focused on turning its financial fortunes around and getting people back to work. The President, his advisers, folks in the agencies, and in Congress have been working night and day to find the solutions that will help the nation climb out of the financial hole it is in.

I would like to point out that there is one portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that is doing just that, but it is not getting a lot of attention. It is a creative solution. It is putting jobs back in our economy. And, most importantly, it is working.

The Build America Bonds portion of the Recovery Act has been a great success, allowing State and local governments to issue more than \$9.5 billion worth of these innovative bonds. They have already begun shoring up our infrastructure and putting jobs back in communities where times are tough. That \$9.5 billion of investment supports more than 3,000 jobs.

Build America Bonds have been such a quiet success, so some of you might not be familiar with what they do. The provision that ended up in the Recovery Act is based on a bill that, first Senator TALENT, and now Senator THUNE and I have been working on for a number of years.

As included in the economic recovery package, the Build America Bonds provision allows any State or local government that can issue tax exempt bonds to issue what are called Build America Bonds. These bonds can offer either a tax credit for investors or a Federal subsidy to issuers, of 35 percent of the interest earned over the life of the bond.

The bonds can only be issued through the end of 2010, but during that time

there is no limit on the number or amount of Build America Bonds that can be issued. One of the reasons I am talking to my colleagues today about them is that the clock is ticking on that deadline, and I want to make sure every Senator here knows how much Build America Bonds can benefit the folks back home. The end of 2010 will be here before you know it.

As communities deal with the recession, they need new tools to finance essential construction projects. Build America Bonds has put a new tool in their toolbox.

Before these bonds started being issued, the market for normal municipal bonds was frozen. It was very hard to sell municipal bonds, but that didn't mean the need for financing infrastructure wasn't still there.

Tax credit bonds, in the form of Build America Bonds, were designed to help thaw the bond markets.

And it has worked. They are selling like hotcakes.

Tax-exempt or tax-deferred investors, such as pension funds and IRAs, aren't usually interested in municipal bonds. But by providing the option of a direct payment instead of tax-exempt interest, Build America Bonds have opened up new markets for State and local governments.

I am not surprised that Build America Bonds are proving to be very attractive to investors. They are a good deal for both the investors and our communities. They have freed up financing for badly needed infrastructure construction and created jobs and a foundation for long-term economic growth.

So far, more than \$9.5 billion worth of Build America Bonds have been issued, making it easier and cheaper for cash-strapped State and local governments to access capital and grow jobs. The State of California, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the University of Virginia, and the Milan Area School District in Michigan are just some of the issuers of Build America Bonds since the passage of ARRA.

Build America Bonds have earned support from organizations across the country that understand how the urgent need is to shore up our infrastructure and create jobs: the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Manufacturers. I appreciate that support.

We recently had another positive milestone in the story of Build America Bonds. The Treasury Department gave cities and counties around the country the authority to issue \$10 billion worth of Recovery Zone Build America Bonds.

Recovery Zone Bonds are like Build America Bonds. They provide a Federal tax credit to the buyer or a subsidy to the issuer, but with an even more generous subsidy of 45 percent of the interest.

Only areas hurt by the weakened economy can issue these bonds. They

are very targeted to the places they can do the most good. Treasury allocated them based on employment declines in 2008. So the harder an area has been hit, the more Recovery Zone Build America Bonds it can issue, creating jobs where they are needed most.

In some cases, these bonds will make the difference between whether these projects come to fruition or not. In other cases, they will lower the cost of projects and allow the community to reinvest those savings in other projects.

As with the regular Build America Bonds, Recovery Zone bonds are only authorized under current law through the end of 2010.

That is why I am encouraging State and local governments that are going to issue bonds to sit down and do the math so they can see if Build America Bonds will work for them. And if they do, I encourage those governments to take advantage of them while they are available. There is no time like the present to strengthen the Nation's infrastructure and our communities with the jobs folks back home need.

I also encourage my colleagues in Congress to begin working now to continue the success of Build America Bonds. As Congress struggles to find funding for a new transportation bill, innovative approaches like Build America Bonds should be part of the solution. Recently, the Obama administration has proposed delaying the Transportation reauthorization bill for 18 months. If that were to happen, and I hope it doesn't, Build America Bonds could provide additional funding to bridge the gap between our Nation's transportation needs and current funding levels.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues in Congress will also look into the benefits of Build America Bonds and ensure these unsung financial tools will continue to work helping their constituents and their communities from coast to coast. They are effective. They give benefits to both those who issue them and those who buy them. And most of all, they solve the kinds of problems that affect the daily lives of every American.

Build America Bonds are an example of the creative solutions people are looking for Congress to implement during these uncertain economic times. I urge my colleagues and your constituents to use them.

REMEMBERING HARRIET TUBMAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 227, the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Act. This legislation, which will create the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park as a part of the National Park System, will preserve one of Upstate New York's most important historic sites.

Harriet Tubman entered American life as a runaway slave from Maryland

who made history by leading hundreds of slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad. Although her courageous actions before and during the Civil War are well known to many Americans, Tubman's dedication to bettering the lives of former slaves after the war has been largely unrecognized in American History. In 1857, Tubman moved from Canada to Auburn, NY, where her close friend and U.S. Senator, William Seward, bravely broke the law by selling her a modest, two-story brick house. After the Civil War ended in 1865, Harriet Tubman returned to Auburn where she continued her humanitarian efforts by aiding aged African Americans and eventually opening a group home in 1908. Before her death 5 years later, the house provided refuge for 12 to 15 people. Harriet Tubman was also an active suffragist during the later years of her life. Her close proximity to Seneca Falls kept the city of Auburn a focal point in the women's rights movement. Harriet Tubman died in 1913 and is buried in the Fort Hill Cemetery overlooking the city of Auburn.

Whether it is the American Revolution, the War of 1812, or the women's rights movement, Upstate New York has been home to many of our Nation's most historic figures. Harriet Tubman's legacy is an important part of Upstate New York's history. The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Act will establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park to preserve many significant sites relating to her life in Auburn, such as the Tubman Home, the Tubman Home for the Aged, the Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church, and her gravesite in the Fort Hill Cemetery.

I am committed to preserving Upstate New York's historic treasures so that future generations can learn the lessons of the past by visiting the homes of the people who changed American history. Preserving Tubman's home, gravesite, and other buildings where she lived her life are essential to protecting her legacy. Harriet Tubman's impressive life story is an example of how one should fight against injustice and work to alleviate the suffering of those around them. Her courageous spirit and compassion towards others still makes her a role model nearly 100 years after her death. I am proud that Harriet Tubman made Upstate New York her home, and I will continue to support the preservation of New York's numerous historic sites.

REMEMBERING LORRAINE PERONA ROONEY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise to remember a dear friend and committed public servant, Lorraine Perona Rooney, who passed away early this morning. I am deeply saddened by Lorraine's death and will keep her

friends and family in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Lorraine, who served the U.S. Senate for over 27 years, was one of a small group of staff members I assembled to assist me when I first took office as a U.S. Senator from the State of Connecticut on January 3, 1989. I was tremendously fortunate to have a person of Lorraine's extensive knowledge and years of Senate staff experience to set up my office. She did a wonderful job and kept my office running smoothly for more than 15 years—as office manager and financial director—and did so with style and grace. Many staff members and interns passed through my office during her tenure, and all benefitted from Lorraine's caring guidance, common sense, and expertise. Those who worked with her recall her willingness to go the extra mile to help her coworkers. One member of my staff remembers that Lorraine worked to secure her a parking space closer to the office so that she wouldn't have very far to walk to get to her car after dark.

After graduating from American University with a degree in international relations, Lorraine subsequently worked at Dartmouth College in charge of foreign study programs. Through a contact there, she learned of an opening in the office of Senator John Durkin, Democrat from New Hampshire, and thus began her Senate career in March 1977. Following her work in Senator Durkin's office, Lorraine built her career in the Senate setting up offices for newly elected Members, including Senator CARL LEVIN, Democrat from Michigan, in 1979, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG, Democrat from New Jersey, in 1982, and, of course, myself in 1989. Throughout her time with the Senate, Lorraine demonstrated an expertise in creating attractive, functional and comfortable work spaces, not an easy task given our limited space and resources then.

During Lorraine's last few years at my office, she was faced with many serious health problems. Despite her suffering and hardship, she continued to do her utmost in service to me and the citizens of Connecticut. The courage she demonstrated as she faced these personal challenges served as an inspiration for me and my staff.

Those of us who were lucky enough to know Lorraine could not help but be touched by her kindness and warmth. She formed many lasting friendships in the Senate community; she often spoke of the Senate as "home." She was widely respected and beloved among her Senate colleagues for her character, judgment, and professionalism. It is no wonder that after her retirement she continued to stay in touch with so many with whom she had worked.

Lorraine was a dedicated public servant who enriched this institution. I extend my deepest condolences to Lorraine's husband Bernie Rooney and daughter Shannon for their irreplaceable loss.

Mr. President, we honor Lorraine Perona's memory and we cherish her decency and her friendship.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICES UNIT

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, one of America's greatest strengths is its spirit of volunteerism, particularly within the law enforcement community. I take this opportunity to honor and recognize members of the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff's Volunteer Services Unit. These brave men and women have repeatedly demonstrated their dedication to their community during a time when budget cuts are paralyzing our State and local law enforcement forces.

Since its founding in 1850, the Contra Costa County Volunteer Services Unit has grown to coordinate the activities of several Sheriff's Volunteer Groups, including an Air Squadron, Amateur Radio Communications, Cadet Explore Post 2406, Chaplains Program, Deputy Sheriff Reservers, Dive Team, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, RACES, Sheriff's All Volunteer Extended Services, SAVES, Program, and Search and Rescue Unit.

The Contra Costa Sheriff's Volunteer Services Unit has the largest volunteer search and rescue team of any county north of San Bernardino. With over 700 volunteers, the unit contributes the same amount of service hours as approximately 50 full-time, paid positions. This unit has also assisted in several missing persons cases both within Contra Costa County and beyond, including the heartbreaking search earlier this year for 8-year-old Sandra Cantu of Tracy.

The hard work and dedication of those involved with the Sheriff's Volunteer Services Unit not only helps save lives throughout Contra Costa County, but also saves the county the equivalent of \$5 million in salaries and benefits at a time when funding for such programs has been reduced.

The dedicated men and women of the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff's Volunteer Services Unit are the embodiment of community service and involvement. For over 150 years, these volunteers have, often without question for their own safety or comfort, taken heroic actions throughout the County and beyond while assisting with a variety of programs.

I commend the men and women of the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff's Volunteer Services Unit for their inspiring dedication to their community.●

COMMENDING LUCERNE INN

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, summer is finally upon us, and as people travel to Maine to discover and explore the pristine beauty of our State's outdoors,