

real estate and other goods, enroll their children in our schools, colleges, and universities, pay taxes, and enrich the communities in which they will live and work.

As the availability of credit in the United States has become restricted, particularly for new and small businesses, many have turned to this program for capital. The program's growth over the last several years has been significant. And with increased growth comes the need for the law to keep pace and for the administering agency to adapt to this growth and devote the necessary resources. As we move forward, I look forward to continuing my work on comprehensive legislation to make this program an efficient, more productive, and permanent part of our immigration law. We have already seen many instances of the way in which this program can harness together many individual investments to do big things in many communities. But the law can and will benefit from some improvement in the coming months, and I stand ready to work with any Senators who recognize the value and potential of this program.

Our immigration law provides 10,000 visas each year for this program. When this program reaches the point at which it is fully subscribed, based on the minimum required investment amount and the statutory job creation requirement, it has the potential to direct \$5 billion in foreign capital investment into American communities each year, with the potential for the creation of 100,000 American jobs. And that calculation does not take into account the domestic capital that can be attracted when projects are capitalized and carried out through this program or the ancillary benefits that communities experience when local economies are strengthened, nor does it account for the immeasurable contributions that new Americans make to our communities across the country every day.

We all recognize the need to take steps to do whatever we can to spur our economy and create jobs for American citizens. I have no doubt that the action taken unanimously by the Senate on August 3 and the decisive action taken by the House of Representatives today to complete the legislative process on this bill will help us meet this shared goal.

2012 OLYMPIANS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, every 4 years families across the United States and around the world come together as summer begins to wind to a close to watch as supremely gifted athletes from across the globe showcase their talents in peaceful competition. The many thrilling moments that comprise this 16-day span are both awe-inspiring and riveting, and I congratulate each of the athletes who competed in the 2012 Olympic games in London for their effort, sacrifice and competitive spirit. Being an Olympian is a tremendous

feat and is the product of a relentless commitment to intense, event-specific training, coupled with the drive, determination, and perseverance to excel. These events and these athletes captured our imagination, and once again, reminded us that achievement is limited only by our will and our audacity to dream big.

Representing their country in London is an experience these athletes will cherish for a lifetime. They leave with new bonds and new friendships borne of mutual respect. London was a welcoming and gracious host for these athletes, their family and friends, as well as the multitudes of fans that witnessed these enthralling sporting events firsthand. The venues were breathtaking, and the opening and closing ceremony was a feast for the senses, taking us on a splendid journey through history and foreshadowing what was to come. I, along with many across Michigan, applaud their effort.

There were many firsts at these games. For the first time, a woman was a member of every Olympic delegation, including a Saudi Arabian woman competing bravely for her home country. The London games also featured the debut of women's boxing. It was particularly gratifying to watch a Flint Northwestern High School student earn the first gold medal in Women's Boxing for the United States. The poise, quickness and grit of Flint native Claressa Shield displayed en route to her victory was a delight to watch. There was also Oscar Pistorius, a bold and graceful athlete who has overcome many obstacles to compete alongside able-bodied athletes as peers.

And none of us will forget Michael Phelps, who followed up his brilliance in Athens with another dramatic and impressive performance in London, solidifying his place among the greatest Olympians of all time. The medal total for this Michigan Wolverine is astonishing—22 Olympic medals, 18 of them gold.

Nor will we forget the passion and spunk of the "Fierce Five", led by DeWitt's own Jordyn Weiber. Jordyn experienced a range of emotion at these games, from the high of winning the team gold in gymnastics for the United States to disappointment of falling just short of qualifying, by the narrowest of margin, for the highly coveted individual All-Around title. Her grace in both victory and disappointment set a fine example for aspiring young gymnasts.

And there was two-time Olympian Allison Schmitt, who earned three gold medals in swimming to increase her lifetime Olympic medal total to six.

As evidenced by these and other impressive performances, Michigan was well-represented in London. Impressively, 30 athletes with strong ties to Michigan competed in these games, including Chas Betts in wrestling, Tia Brooks in track, Tyler Clary in swimming, Ellis Coleman in wrestling, Desiree Davila in track, Geena Gall in

track, Jake Herbert in wrestling, Charlie Houchin in swimming, Connor Jaeger in swimming, Kara Lynn Joyce in swimming, Ken Jurkowski in rowing, Justin Lester in wrestling, Spenser Mango in wrestling, Sam Mikulak in gymnastics, Brett Newlin in rowing, Jamie Nieto in track, Tom Peszek in rowing, Jeff Porter in track, Ben Provisor in wrestling, Dathan Ritzenhein in track, Daryl Szarenski in shooting, Davis Tarwater in swimming, Sarah Trowbridge in rowing, Peter Vanderkaay in swimming, Lauryn Williams in track, and Sarah Zelenka in rowing.

In addition to these outstanding American athletes, Michiganders proudly witnessed a number of talented athletes from other nations with strong ties to Michigan compete in these games, including Eric Alejandro in track, Bradley Ally in swimming, George Bovell in swimming, Nate Brannen in track, Syque Caesar in gymnastics, Milorad Cavic in swimming, Franklin Gomez in wrestling, Janine Hanson in rowing, Barry Murphy in swimming, Wu Peng in swimming, Krista Phillips in basketball, Tiffany Porter in track, Nicole Sifuentes in track, and Nick Willis in track.

The joy and excitement on the faces of these fine athletes as they fulfilled their dream to compete against the best in the world was infectious. Their determination was searing. Watching them compete in a gracious way as the world tuned in reminds us of what is possible. They navigated cultural differences, overcame language barriers and set aside historical disputes to engage in fair, peaceful competition. While it is in many ways symbolic, it is nonetheless significant. It reminds us all that we are a human family and that respect and dignity is deserved for all.

Barbara and I are honored to salute the many athletes with ties to Michigan who competed in London. Their hard work was evident; their skill was exquisite; and the competition that resulted was fascinating to watch. The inspiring example of excellence these athletes have put forth will not soon be forgotten. In homes across our State, young people are working a little harder, setting their goals a little higher and aspiring to equal or exceed the athletic prowess displayed in London time and time again. Our future is a little brighter as a result of each of them.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, On September 23, nearly 100 World War II veterans from Montana will be visiting our Nation's Capital.

With a great deal of honor and respect, I extend a hearty Montana welcome to each and every one of them.

Together, they will visit the World War II Memorial and share stories about their service. This journey will

no doubt bring about a lot of memories. I hope it will give them a deep sense of pride also.

What they achieved together almost 70 years ago was remarkable. That memorial is a testament to the fact that a grateful nation will never forget what they did nor what they sacrificed. To us, they were the greatest generation. They left the comforts of their family and their communities to confront evil from Iwo Jima to Bastogne. Together, they won the war in the Pacific by conquering an empire and liberated a continent by defeating Hitler and the Nazis.

To them, they were simply doing their jobs. They enlisted in unprecedented numbers to defend our freedoms and our values. They represented the very best of us and made us proud.

From a young age I remember playing the bugle at the memorial services of veterans of the first two world wars. It instilled in me a profound sense of respect I will never forget.

Honoring the service of every generation of American veterans is a Montana value. I deeply appreciate the work of the Big Sky Honor Flight, a nonprofit organization that made this trip and the first trip in June possible.

To the World War II veterans making the trip, I salute you. We will always be grateful, and we will never forget your service or sacrifice.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING THE NEVADA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate one of my home State's local leaders in charitable giving, the Nevada Community Foundation, on obtaining its National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations accreditation from the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

The Foundation's commitment to the highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity, and accountability has continuously provided the citizens of southern Nevada with invaluable services and leadership in their neighborhoods.

In the fall of 1988, the Nevada Community Foundation was incorporated as the first community foundation of Nevada. Designed to be a center of philanthropy for Nevada, the foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of current and future generations of southern Nevadans. By encouraging philanthropy, providing leadership, and promoting grant lending, the Nevada Community Foundation has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of southern Nevada. The foundation is committed to supporting local services, including education, social services, health, arts and culture, and the environment.

Serving the southern region of the Silver State for more than 24 years, the Nevada Community Foundation has re-

mained a trusted philanthropic partner and champion for community investment. I applaud the Foundation's values of community, humility, and stewardship that have helped to enrich our communities and hope that they serve as an example for others within the state.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Nevada Community Foundation on receiving its National Standards accreditation. On behalf of the residents of southern Nevada, I congratulate the Nevada Community foundation on this accomplishment and commend the foundation's dedication to my home State. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. McCathran, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3857. An act to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to include as an eligible use the sustainment of specialized operational teams used by local law enforcement under the Transit Security Grant Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5544. An act to authorize and expedite a land exchange involving National Forest System land in the Laurentian District of the Superior National Forest and certain other National Forest System land in the State of Minnesota that has limited recreational and conservation resources and lands owned by the State of Minnesota in trust for the public school system that are largely scattered in checkerboard fashion within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and have important recreational, scenic, and conservation resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5865. An act to promote the growth and competitiveness of American manufacturing.

H.R. 5949. An act to extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for five years.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 6336. An act to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue de-

picting Frederick Douglass from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3857. An act to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to include as an eligible use the sustainment of specialized operational teams used by local law enforcement under the Transit Security Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5544. An act to authorize and expedite a land exchange involving National Forest System land in the Laurentian District of the Superior National Forest and certain other National Forest System land in the State of Minnesota that has limited recreational and conservation resources and lands owned by the State of Minnesota in trust for the public school system that are largely scattered in checkerboard fashion within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and have important recreational, scenic, and conservation resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 5865. An act to promote the growth and competitiveness of American manufacturing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 5949. An act to extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for five years.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7441. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative plan for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems for 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7442. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7443. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-439, "Compulsory/No Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7444. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-440, "Automated Traffic Enforcement Amendment Act of 2012"; to the