

American gymnastics captain; watching her was a remarkable lesson in focus. “Reliable Raisman,” as she was called, would be USA Gymnastics’ foundation and, with the help of her teammates, would compete for individual gold medals and an elusive team gold against the world’s best.

The day before the all-around team competition, Aly’s teammate, the No. 1 gymnast on Earth in the individual all-around, fell. A team gold now hanging in the balance, her teammates covered their mouths and fought back tears as their coaches nervously paced. In a hushed arena, the cameras and the eyes of tens of millions of TV viewers turned to Reliable Raisman, who would now have to turn in the performance of a lifetime to secure gold for the American women.

Aly had in several previous competitions selected a modern rendition of “Hava Nagila,” the popular Jewish folk song of celebration, as the music for her anything-but-routine floor exercises. Meaning “let’s rejoice” in Hebrew, the song seemed a natural choice for this young woman, whose Jewish heritage is a central part of her life and family. After steady performances in the vault, beam, and uneven bars, the opening notes of “Hava Nagila” rang through the arena for her floor exercise. Before her routine, a TV commentator remarked that for Aly to secure the gold would require an “unreal” performance and a tumbling run that many thought “was not possible.” Raisman exceeded expectations as she executed her tumbles and stuck her landing with a brilliant smile. This near-perfect floor routine solidified the first gymnastics all-around gold for American women since 1996.

A gold medal was also on the line as Aly again drew the world’s attention to a 12-by-12 meter mat in London for the games’ final gymnastic event. Raisman’s floor routine came on the heels of a bronze medal in the individual balance beam competition providing her with a boost of confidence. A slow motion replay of her final tumbling run showed her tears of joy beginning before she stuck her final landing as she knew she would be the first American woman to win gold in the floor exercise.

In closing, Aly Raisman did more than win our Nation’s first ever Olympic gold medal in the women’s floor exercise, did more than deliver the first women’s gymnastics team gold for American women in 16 years; Raisman is an inspiration for the youth of Massachusetts that with hard work and dedication to your craft, anything can be achieved.

Mr. President, I congratulate Aly on her historic gold medal and wish her all the best in the years ahead. And to all our Olympians and Paralympians, thank you for so ably representing our Nation in the 30th Olympiad.

RECOGNIZING ALASKANS OLYMPIANS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize three outstanding Alaskans who won in the 2012 U.S. Olympics and Paralympics: Ms. Janay DeLouch who calls Eielson Air Force Base home, Ms. Shirley Reilly who hails from Barrow, and Mr. Seth McBride from Juneau. I am proud of their accomplishments and honored to recognize these three talented young adults.

First, I would like to recognize Ms. DeLouch who competed in the women’s long jump and placed bronze in the 2012 Olympic Games. Her other career highlights include placing third place in the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials and placing silver in the 2012 World Indoor Championships. She is also a two-time National indoor champion for 2011 and 2012 and has placed second in the 2011 USA Outdoor Championships.

Ms. Reilly competed in various events in track and field of the 2012 U.S. Paralympics. She placed gold in the women’s marathon, silver in the women’s 5000 m and bronze in women’s 1500 m. An extraordinary and talented individual, Ms. Reilly’s other career accomplishments include placing first in the 2012 Boston Marathon, LA Marathon and Bolder Boulder (10K). She is a previous 2011 IPC World Championships Competitor and she finished second in the 2011 Chicago Marathon. Ms. Reilly has been a Paralympics Games Competitor since 2004.

Mr. McBride placed bronze in the mixed wheelchair rugby event in the 2012 U.S. Paralympics. His previous Paralympics experience includes placing gold in the 2008 Paralympics Games. Mr. McBride has competed in a variety of different sporting events and has placed gold at the 2005 World Wheelchair Games, the 2006 North American Cup, the 2006 Canada Cup, the 2006 World Championships, the 2008 Canada Cup and the 2010 World Championships.

Once again, it is my privilege to recognize these individuals for their hard work, dedication and their medals. They make Alaska proud.

TRIBUTE TO 2012 OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST PAIGE McPHERSON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Paige McPherson of Sturgis, SD, who earned a bronze medal in Taekwondo at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England, this summer. Despite facing the popular British world champion in the first round of competition in London, Paige fought her way to the bronze medal in the women’s 67-kilogram division. Paige possesses an outstanding record of success in Taekwondo, beginning at a young age and, most recently, as a silver medalist at the 2011 Pan American Games. She was also a successful member of the U.S. National Team in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Growing up in Sturgis, Paige pursued excellence in many areas. Paige is a

passionate dancer and an active member of her church, pursuits which, along with her family and friends, helped her accomplish the amazing feat of earning an Olympic medal. She graduated from Black Hills Classical Christian Academy in 2009, at which point she was already nationally recognized in Taekwondo, and went on to attend Miami-Dade College in Miami, FL. Some of her most notable awards include 2007 Outstanding Female Athlete at the Senior National Championships, 2008 Chris Canning Award of Excellence Winner, and 2009 Outstanding Female Athlete at the USAT National Championships.

Paige should be extremely proud of her remarkable accomplishments. I am more than happy to extend my congratulations on her Olympic medal and to offer congratulations on behalf of the State of South Dakota. We are extremely proud and wish her continued success in the years to come.

NATIONAL DAY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the people and leaders of Taiwan on their National Day on October 10. This is a day for celebration, a special day that recognizes the founding of the country 101 years ago.

I would like to highlight the economic success of Taiwan over the last century—a success that has rightly been called a “miracle” and resulted in a strong and dynamic economy. The United States and Taiwan have a long history of mutual trade and friendship that has promoted economic prosperity on both sides of the Pacific. I am particularly pleased that the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship has become even stronger in recent years.

I also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Jason Yuan, Representative of the ROC (Taiwan) to the United States, on his new post as Secretary-General of the National Security Council of Taiwan. I cherish the friendship with Ambassador Yuan and wish Ambassador and Madame Yuan the very best of luck in the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Taiwan on their success and thanking them for their continued efforts to work with the United States to foster a strong economic growth and cooperation. On this day of National Celebration, the people of both the United States and Taiwan have much to celebrate.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, this week I submitted two resolutions: The first recognizes September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month; the second designates the week of September 16 as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week” and honors the

critical work of Hispanic-serving Institutions across the United States.

These resolutions celebrate the immense contributions of Hispanic Americans to our great Nation and pay tribute to over 300 nonprofit Hispanic-serving Institutions for their important role in educating and empowering Hispanic youth.

Latinos have a long and decorated history in the United States, full of extraordinary contributions to America's past, present, and future. Latinos have proudly served, helped build, and defended our country and have done so for hundreds of years, honorably serving in every action since before the founding of the Nation.

Hispanics fought alongside patriots in the American Revolution and rallied in the Civil War, serving bravely in both the Union and Confederate armies. Latinos rode in Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War, received Congressional Medals of Honor in both world wars, and made the ultimate sacrifice for our country in Korea and Vietnam. As of July 2012, over 143,000 Hispanic Americans were actively serving with distinction in the U.S. Armed Forces, including 19,752 Hispanics serving in Afghanistan.

Just as Hispanics have defended our Nation, we have also helped shape and build it. That is why I also want to honor the exemplary institutions that are making vital investments in the next generation of Latino leaders.

Hispanic-serving Institutions are colleges or universities where total Hispanic enrollment constitutes a minimum of 25 percent of the student body, and they serve over half of all Hispanic students in the United States. As a product of a Hispanic-serving Institution in my home State of New Jersey, my experience is a living testimony of the important role that HSIs play in providing opportunities to Hispanic students in States such as Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

With these resolutions, we celebrate the contributions of all Latinos and the institutions that serve the Hispanic community in the United States. This month, let us celebrate not only Hispanic Heritage, but Hispanic-serving Institutions as well.

I am pleased with the overwhelming support these important resolutions have from my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, particularly Leader REID and Senator CORNYN. This outpouring of bipartisan support is a strong indication of how far our community has come and how important our contributions are to this country. I look forward to celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos and our valuable contributions to this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CORTNEY JORDAN

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Nevada's own Cortney Jordan for her outstanding performance in the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

Cortney participated in six events: the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 400 freestyle, 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke, and 200 individual medley. She brought home four medals for Team USA; three silver (50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 400m freestyle) and one bronze (100m backstroke).

Cortney had her first taste of Paralympic medal glory at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, where she was awarded four medals; one gold—50m free, two silver—400m freestyle, 100m freestyle, and one bronze—200m IM.

This 21-year-old Paralympic medalist is not only a remarkable athlete, but a talented student and an aspiring elementary school teacher. Recognized for her commitment to school and community involvement, Cortney is a Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Top Ten Scholar Athlete and an Academic All-American. Serving as a role model for all Nevadans, I wish Cortney continued success on her future endeavors.

On behalf of the residents of the Silver State, I am proud to recognize Cortney's accomplishments. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a talented Nevadan as we show our pride and support for the entire U.S. Paralympics Team.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise today, September 20, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Denver, CO chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and to honor dedicated women actively working to build a stronger community in the greater Denver area. As the father of three daughters, these women exemplify role models and are leaders in our community in the areas of business, civic duties, mentorship, activism, and volunteer work.

Founded in 1946, The Links is one of the oldest and largest volunteer service organizations committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of people of African descent. Their membership consists of over 12,000 professional women of color in 276 chapters located in 42 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

The Links focus on our five major facets: national trends and services, the arts, services to youth, international trends and services, and health and human services. The combined 276 chapters contribute more than 500,000 documented hours of community service.

For over 50 years, the Denver chapter has sponsored numerous projects in-

cluding support to Stovall Care Center nursing home; Cleo Parker Robinson Dance; the George Washington Carver Day Care Center; the East High School Community Forum; and the Marcus Garvey Center at the University of Northern Colorado. Internationally, this chapter has also helped to increase access to basic necessities such as water by building water wells in African countries.

This chapter has honored and awarded scholarships to high school and college students. Our current mayor, the Honorable Michael B. Hancock, received one of these scholarships to help him attend Hastings College in Nebraska.

Since 2009, the Denver chapter has made a tradition of targeting programs that aim to close the achievement gap of middle school students at Hallett Fundamental Elementary School in Denver. In response to the academic needs of youth at Hallett, they have tutored, mentored, donated computers, and coordinated cultural, career, health, and violence prevention programs.

As the former superintendent of Denver Public Schools and a person devoted to enhancing volunteerism and commitment to community service among Americans of all ages, I am proud to honor the Denver chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

Mr. President, our Nation is profoundly affected by the service of volunteers. Generations of individuals from different backgrounds have served each other and have focused on making our communities a better place for all. Please join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Denver's chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and their commitment to purposeful service and transformational programs to enrich the quality of life for local, national, and global communities everywhere.●

REMEMBERING KENYON MARC YOUNGSTROM

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Kenyon Marc Youngstrom, a dedicated husband, proud father, loving son, devoted friend, and respected law enforcement official. Officer Youngstrom lost his life serving the California Highway Patrol on September 5, 2012. He was 37 years old.

Kenyon Youngstrom was born in Pasadena, CA and raised in Riverside. He served as a U.S. Army Reservist from 1994 to 2000, attaining the rank of Specialist. He graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy in February 2006 and served at both CHP Headquarters and CHP's Contra Costa Area Office.

Officer Youngstrom served his community with a heroism that extended beyond his own life. As the Vallejo Times Herald wrote, Officer Youngstrom "wanted his organs donated so that if something did ever happen to him in the line of duty, others might live even if he would not."