

I salute 12 veteran Head Coach Jerritt Elliot for coaching the Longhorn volleyball squad to its third national title. I also salute Associate Head Coach Salima Rockwell, Assistant Coach Erik Sullivan, and Special Assistant Nathan Mendoza, all of whom mentored these young women and helped them reach their full potential. And, of course, I salute the players themselves, such as junior outside hitter Bailey Webster, who was named Tournament MVP; All Tournament team members Haley Eckerman, Hannah Allison, and Sha'Dare McNeal; and all the rest of the Longhorns: Ashley Bannister, Khat Bell, Kat Brooks, Nicole Dalton, Megan Futch, Sara Hattis, Madelyn Hutson, Molly McCage, Amy Neal, and Sarah Palmer.

It is my honor to join with the entire University of Texas family, as well as Longhorn fans across our great State, to celebrate their achievement. In its long and proud athletic history, the University of Texas has now won 50 national titles overall.

The Longhorn volleyball team has learned what it takes to become national champions, and the experience that each of these athletes has gained will prove invaluable in their future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA ARLEN

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the success of Victoria Arlen of Exeter, NH. This summer, Victoria represented the United States in a number of swimming events at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London.

Victoria Arlen is an 18-year-old young woman who 7 years ago was diagnosed with transverse myelitis, a neurological disorder that causes inflammation of a section of the spinal cord. Victoria's resulting paralysis from the waist down has not damaged her determination or her competitive spirit, and her achievements this year have been truly remarkable.

Victoria was a very active child prior to her diagnosis, and was involved in dancing, swimming, playing field hockey, lacrosse, and soccer. For more than 2 years, Victoria lived in a coma and only began swimming competitively again at the age of 16, and it came as no surprise to Victoria's family when the honors student earned a place on the U.S. Paralympic Team. In London, she competed in the 100-meter, 50-meter, 400-meter and 4x100-meter relay freestyle events and the 100-meter breaststroke event. Victoria set a world record and won a gold medal in the 100-meter freestyle, in her final competition, and earned silver medals in three of her other races.

Victoria's determination in the face of adversity and ability to accomplish her goals demonstrate her strength of spirit and her quality of character. Citizens of New Hampshire are incredibly proud of her achievements; she is a role model and an inspiration. I am

confident that her success at the 2012 Paralympic Games is one great accomplishment in what is certain to be a lifetime of impressive feats.

Since 1960, the Paralympic Games have provided athletes who have certain physical disabilities the chance to compete in a broad range of sports and athletic events on the international level, providing them with an opportunity similar to that of their able-bodied counterparts. Victoria's inspiring performance throughout the 2012 Paralympic Games should serve as a reminder of the hard work and dedication required to succeed.

I applaud and congratulate Victoria for her devotion and determination. I also commend her family, including her parents, Jacqueline and Larry, and her three brothers, Cameron, LJ, and William, for their role in her success. I know that her victories give her family, her friends, the Exeter community, and the State of New Hampshire great pride.

I wish to recognize Victoria Arlen for her accomplishments and her victory in the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, and I commend her dedication, maturity, and hard work. She is truly an inspiring young woman.●

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA RENTERIA

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a truly remarkable member of my staff who is leaving the Senate.

Amanda Renteria came to my office as a Legislative Assistant in 2006, and has been an integral member of my staff for the last 7 years, including serving as my legislative director and then my chief of staff for the last 4½ years.

A proud graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Business School, Amanda brought a wide range of experience with her to the Senate.

After graduating from Harvard, she worked in the private sector for a while before going back to California and working as a high school teacher and coach. She then worked for the city of San Jose before coming to Washington.

And I am so glad she did. She has been my right hand through some very challenging times.

When I asked her to become my chief of staff in 2008, she agreed and promised to stay through the 2012 election. But neither of us knew what we would face between then and now.

Amanda was with me through the Wall Street collapse and our work to reform our financial system, and her business background was an invaluable resource to me during that difficult time.

In the fall of 2008, the American auto industry nearly collapsed, and as I fought to save our automakers and the more than 1 million workers who depend on it, Amanda was right there by my side, working to make sure we kept manufacturing things in this country.

She was there as we worked with partners in the State and here in Wash-

ington to make sure the people of Michigan had a fair shot at turning things around and getting back on their feet.

During the debate on health care reform, she was a critical part of my effort to make sure we kept health care affordable, that we protected coverage for mental health care, that we closed the donut hole for seniors, and she worked with her counterparts in other offices and with industry leaders to get the best possible policies to help every family get the health insurance they need.

And in the middle of all of that, she found time to have her first son, Diego, and prove how important it was that women have access to maternity care, something I was very proud to fight for in the health care law.

And when I became Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, she led the effort to put together an amazing team of policy experts that accomplished a legislative achievement that is rare these days—a bipartisan deficit reduction bill that passed the Senate with strong support from both parties.

And as we worked so hard all year long to pass a Farm Bill, she and her husband Pat found time to have their second son, T.J., who we were so happy to welcome this fall.

I know the people of Michigan—and this country—join me in thanking her for everything she has done during her time in public service. She may not have been born in Michigan, but after all she's done for the people back home, she's earned herself a "Pure Michigan" reputation of hard work and dedication.

Amanda will be missed in the Senate, but I am honored to have had her serve as my chief of staff.●

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DESIGNATION OF THE FEDERATION OF SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS AS A BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRY UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) PROGRAM—PM 64

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designation of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis (St. Kitts and Nevis) as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Section 502(e) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that if the President determines that a beneficiary developing country has become a "high-income" country, as defined by the official statistics of the International

Bank for Reconstruction and Development (i.e., the World Bank), then the President shall terminate the designation of such country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP, effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to terminate the designation of St. Kitts and Nevis as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program because it has become a high-income country as defined by the World Bank. Accordingly, St. Kitts and Nevis' eligibility for trade benefits under the GSP program will end on January 1, 2014.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 20, 2012.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:03 a.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, without amendment:

S. 2170. An act to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, which are commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act", to scale back the provision forbidding certain State and local employees from seeking elective office, clarify the application of certain provisions to the District of Columbia, and modify the penalties which may be imposed for certain violations under subchapter III of chapter 73 of that title.

S. 3311. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 2601 2nd Avenue North, Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin United States Courthouse".

S. 3564. An act to extend the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 until 2014 and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1845. An act to provide a demonstration project providing Medicare coverage for in-home administration of intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) and to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the application of Medicare secondary payer rules for certain claims.

H.R. 4062. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1444 Main Street in Ramona, California, as the "Nelson 'Mac' MacWilliams Post Office Building".

H.R. 6016. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for investigative leave requirements with respect to Senior Executive Service employees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6166. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway Street in San Diego, California, as the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse".

H.R. 6633. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 101 East Pecan Street in Sherman, Texas, as the "Paul Brown United States Courthouse".

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2170. An act to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, which are commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act", to scale back the provision forbidding certain State and local employees from seeking elective office, clarify the application of certain provisions to the District of Columbia, and modify the penalties which may be imposed for certain violations under subchapter III of chapter 73 of that title.

S. 2367. An act to strike the word "lunatic" from Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 3311. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 2601 2nd Avenue North, Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin United States Courthouse".

S. 3564. An act to extend the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 until 2014 and for other purposes.

S. 3642. An act to clarify the scope of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996.

S. 3687. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, to designate certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 5:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 839. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Senator from the State of Hawaii.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2014: Mr. Larry Wortzel of Williamsburg, Virginia.

At 7:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for the purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 6016. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for investigative leave requirements with respect to Senior Executive Service employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 20, 2012, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 285. An act for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke.

S. 2170. An act to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, which are commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act", to scale back the provision forbidding certain State and local employees from seeking elective office, clarify the application of certain provisions to the District of Columbia, and modify the penalties which may be imposed for certain violations under subchapter III of chapter 73 of that title.

S. 2367. An act to strike the word "lunatic" from Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 3311. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 2601 2nd Avenue North, Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin United States Courthouse".

S. 3564. An act to extend the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 until 2014 and for other purposes.

S. 3642. An act to clarify the scope of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996.

S. 3687. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, to designate certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes.

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-8623. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spirotetramat; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption" (FRL No. 9373-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8624. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Difenoquat; Data Call-in Order for Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9372-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8625. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quinclorac; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9372-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8626. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chlorantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerances, Technical Correction" (FRL No. 9367-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8627. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,