

2014 OLYMPIANS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Vermonters who will be representing the United States in the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. Vermont has a long tradition of excellence in winter sports that we owe partly to our State's cold climate and mountainous terrain, but also to an outdoor spirit that dates back generations. I would like to acknowledge these athletes individually and wish them the best of luck in pursuing the gold.

Sophie Caldwell, from Peru, VT, will be competing for the United States in cross-country skiing. Sophie was a five-time All-American at Dartmouth College, and received a degree in psychology and plans to go back to school to pursue a career in either psychology or education.

Hannah Dreissigacker, from Morrisville, VT, is a member of the Craftsbury Green Racing Project, a group of elite athletes who are committed to pursuing an environmentally conscious lifestyle. Hannah will be competing in the biathlon in Sochi.

Kelly Clark, from West Dover, VT, is one of the most successful snowboarders to ever compete. She won a gold medal in the halfpipe event at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, and a bronze medal at the 2010 games in Vancouver. In addition to her success on the slopes, Kelly has given back to her community by starting a foundation that provides scholarships to athletes from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Susan Dunklee, from Craftsbury, VT, will be competing for the United States in the biathlon. Susan placed fifth in the World Championship's Individual race in Ruhpolding, Germany, and tied for the best score of those U.S. female biathletes competing. Susan, like Ms. Dreissigacker, is also a member of the Craftsbury Green Racing Project, which promotes sustainability and endurance sports.

Lindsey Jacobellis, from Stratton, VT, started competing in snowboard cross competitions when she was 11 and has risen to become a dominant force in the sport. Lindsay won a silver medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, and is an eight-time champion in snowboardcross at the Winter X Games.

Hannah Kearney, from Norwich, VT, is one of the top freestyle mogul competitors in the world, having won a gold medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. I wish her the best of luck in defending her Olympic title.

Devin Logan, from West Dover, VT, is a freeskier who will be competing in the slopestyle and halfpipe events. During her rookie season, she finished second in the halfpipe event at the U.S. Championships and earned her first U.S. halfpipe skiing title at the age of 15.

Andy Newell, from Shaftsbury, VT, is a cross-country skier who has been racing since the age of five. He placed 16th

in freestyle sprint during the 2006 Winter Olympics and finished off the 2012–2013 season ranked as the fifth fastest sprinter in the world. Outside of training for this year's Winter Olympics, Andy works with kids at the New England Nordic Ski Association to introduce the sport to a new audience.

Hannah Teter, from Belmont, VT, won a gold medal in the halfpipe event at the 2006 Winter Olympics and a silver medal in 2010 in Vancouver. In true Vermont fashion, Hannah is very active in her community and charitable causes, combining her prize money with proceeds from maple syrup sales to start a charity called "Hannah's Gold" which builds schools and fresh water infrastructure in a village in rural Kenya.

Ida Sargent, from Barton, VT, is a cross-country skier who is also a member of the Craftsbury Green Racing Project. After finishing her cross-country skiing career, Ida hopes to become a physical therapist.

Liz Stephen, from East Montpelier, VT, switched from alpine to cross-country skiing midway through her tenure at Burke Mountain Academy. Liz took first place in two events at the 2008 U.S. National Championships. Since her last trip to the Winter Olympics in 2010, she finished atop the podium at the Swiss National Championship in 2012 and finished fifth in the 10k freestyle at the 2013 World Ski Championships. Liz enjoys mountain biking and takes classes at Westminster College.

Mikaela Shiffrin, from East Burke, VT, will compete for the United States in alpine skiing. Mikaela is an eight-time World Cup slalom medalist. Mikaela is the first non-European to win four World Cup slalom races in one season. When she isn't competing, she also enjoys playing tennis and soccer.

Ty Walker, from Stowe, VT, has made a significant impact on women's slopestyle snowboarding. Ty has won the Burton European Open Junior Jam three times in a row from 2009–2011. In 2013, when she was just 16, she finished fifth at the FIS World Snowboarding Championship. Off the snow, Ty is a straight-A student and loves to jump on trampolines.

Alex Deibold, from Manchester, VT, will compete in his first Olympics as a snowboardcross competitor. Alex finished second in the 2013 World Cup championship in Sochi, Russia. Alex also made finals at four out of five World Cup starts in 2013. When he is off the slopes, Alex enjoys rock climbing, surfing, and mountain biking.

Jacqueline Hernandez, from Londonderry, VT will compete for the United States in snowboardcross. Jacqueline is a seven-time World Cup top-10 finisher. In her spare time, she enjoys riding motorcycles, swimming, and boating.

Nolan Kasper, from Warren, VT, will compete for the United States in alpine skiing. Nolan competed in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games and placed 24th in men's slalom. In addition, Nolan enjoys ice skating and playing soccer.

Mr. President, Vermont is very proud of the athletes who will be competing in Sochi, and I would like to join the citizens of my state to wish them the best of luck at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. Bring home the gold!

OLYMPIANS

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I join with citizens across the Granite State in saying "good luck" to the outstanding New Hampshire athletes who will be among those representing the United States in the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, which begin this week. It is an impressive group that brings great pride to our State.

Nick Alexander of Lebanon is competing in ski jumping. After his impressive performance at the Continental Cup Competitions, we look forward to seeing him soar through the air in Sochi.

At age 18, Center Conway native Sean Doherty is the youngest member of the 2014 U.S. Olympic biathlon team.

Nick Fairall of New London grew up enjoying skiing, lacrosse, soccer and many other sports, but his true passion is ski jumping. This year we will get to watch him jump for the gold in Sochi.

Andover's Kris Freeman is a veteran Olympian having competed in the 2002, 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics. This year, we will cheer him on again as he competes in the cross-country skiing event.

Competing in slopestyle snowboarding is 2012 world champion Chas Guldemond from Laconia. This will be his first time competing on the Olympic stage.

Sixteen-year-old Hanover native Julia Krass grew up skiing at the recently reopened Whaleback Mountain in Enfield. We wish her the best of luck as she competes in Sochi's inaugural slopestyle skiing event, the newest kind of freestyle skiing.

World renowned alpine skier Bode Miller of Franconia will be competing in his fifth Winter Olympic Games the sixth American athlete to do so. This year, the decorated Olympian will go for his sixth alpine skiing Olympic medal.

North Conway resident Leanne Smith, who competed in the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, is returning to the Olympics to compete in several alpine skiing events, including downhill, slalom, giant slalom, super G, and super combined.

The University of New Hampshire's head hockey coach, Katey Stone, will make history in Sochi as the first woman to lead a U.S. Olympic hockey team. We will be rooting for her to lead her players to victory.

D.J. Montigny, who grew up in Dover, will coach three U.S. athletes in women's slopestyle skiing. Good luck to D.J. as he advises members of Team USA before they head down the slopes to compete.

Additionally, several athletes from around the U.S. who have been educated and trained in New Hampshire

have been selected to compete for Team USA in various events. Congratulations to hockey players Gillian Apps, Kacey Bellamy and James Van Riemsdy; alpine skiers David Chodounsky, Julia Ford, Nolan Kasper, Mikaela Shiffrin and Andrew Weibrech; cross country skiers Ida Sargent and Sophie Caldwell; freestyle skier Hannah Kearney; and Hannah Dreissigacker, Susan Dunklee and Sara Studebaker, who will compete in the biathlon.

Each of these world-class athletes and coaches has made it to Sochi as a result of hours of dedication, perseverance and hard work. They have put in long hours at the gym, on the slopes or the ice, hoping that one day their Olympic dreams come true.

I know all Granite Staters are so incredibly proud of this talented group of athletes and I look forward to cheering them on as they go for the gold in Sochi.

REMEMBERING STEPHEN
MACHCINSKI AND JAMES
DICKERMAN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service and the memory of two Ohio firefighters, Private Stephen A. Machcinski and Private James Dickman of the Toledo Fire Department. Like so many of the men and women who serve as first responders in our country, these two men knew that every day, they were putting their lives on the line to keep their community—their friends and neighbors—safe. When things were at their worst, they were at their best. When others needed help, they were there to give it. When others ran out, they ran in.

Tragically, Private Machcinski and Private Dickman gave their lives in the line of duty, doing the job they loved, the one they were trained and prepared to do, while fighting an apartment complex fire in Toledo, OH, on January 26, 2014. But although they are gone, we will not forget them. Today, we honor their sacrifice and remember these fallen heroes who put themselves in harm's way for the good of their family, their friends, their neighbors, and the entire Toledo community.

Mr. President, for their commitment to saving lives, protecting the public, and willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice, I would like to recognize Private Stephen A. Machcinski and Private James Dickman. We will continue to keep these two men and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ARTHUR “ART”
ORTENBERG

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I wish to remember the life of a dear friend of mine, and Montana’s, Art Ortenberg.

Art grew up in Newark, NJ, the son of a Russian upholsterer father and a Polish seamstress mother. As a boy, Art lived across the street from a public library, where he spent countless hours devouring its offerings. The local library was a second home to Art. It gave him the chance to expand his horizons and dream of opportunities and lives that he had never before imagined.

Art, with his wife of almost 50 years, Liz Claiborne, built a Fortune 500 fashion empire—the first to be headed by a woman. Art was utterly devoted to Liz. They were deeply in love and they were inseparable. Together, they made high fashion affordable and revolutionized the fashion industry. While Art and Liz may be known for their exploits in the fashion world, Montanans know, and love, them for their unassuming generosity and deep sense of community.

Art and Liz first came to Montana seeking a respite from the rigors of the business world in Montana’s wide-open spaces. Once there, they made Montana their home.

Art and Liz loved Montana as deeply as any Montanan. And, as John Steinbeck famously recognized, it’s difficult to analyze love when you are in it. To Art, the slow, switchbacking country highway on the way to his Triple 8 Ranch was “a glorious, intoxicating drive,” the road “traversing [the] landscape in serpentine coils.”

I don’t think anyone has so lovingly described Route 279’s slow crawl over the Continental Divide, and it shows the depth of Art’s affection for Montana.

But Art’s deep love for Montana didn’t stop at mere admiration for our outdoors—it spawned action. Indeed, Art and Liz were philanthropists in the true sense of the word: They loved the people and communities of Montana. They adopted Montana as their home, and they gave generously of their time, their energy, and their resources.

Art and Liz wanted to open doors for young Montanans in the way that the local library did for Art. Together, they started preschools and music programs in small mountain towns, saved local libraries from closure, and loaned money to a local timber mill so that it could make downpayments on new equipment. They encouraged our young people to take pride in their hometowns through the Montana Heritage Project, fostering a sense of community in a generation of students.

Art and Liz recognized the importance of providing our young people with an opportunity to dream and grow, just like that Newark library had done for Art.

Art and Liz also cared deeply about conservation, funding projects to restore the Blackfoot River, reintroduce endangered species, and conserve valuable habitat and public lands. They recognized that Montana’s public lands are our greatest assets and the importance of preserving our outdoor heritage for future generations.

As Art once said, “What we do here matters.” He knew that few are as fortunate as he and Liz had been. Art and Liz gave to Montana’s communities generously and quietly. They sought to leave the world a better place than they found it, and they pursued this goal without pretension. In fact, Art and Liz could often be found down at the Windbag Saloon in Helena, quietly eating cheeseburgers in an old frontier brothel.

Liz is buried at the Triple 8 Ranch in Montana, in an unmarked gravesite in a “Liz Red” urn. Art planned to be buried next to her, returning to rest in the State where they both gave so much to so many. I know he will be missed. •

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of Arthur “Art” Ortenberg, an apparel manufacturer and conservationist, who passed away yesterday in New York City.

Art and his late wife, designer Liz Claiborne, founded Liz Claiborne in 1976. After incredible early success, the company went public and soon appeared on the Fortune 500 list of America’s biggest industrial firms.

Fourteen years after the creation of Liz Claiborne, Art and Liz retired from day-to-day management of their fashion company and chose to start a foundation dedicated to conservation. The Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation supports projects in the United States, Europe, and Central and South America, but their main focus is on Africa. To this day, the foundation continues to support efforts to save the jaguar, the tiger, and the African elephant.

Art also had a particular passion for the American West, spending much of his time over the past 25 years on his ranch in Condon, MT. Art and Liz provided assistance to the Seeley Lake Elementary School, helped Pyramid Lumber in Seeley Lake convert to a more efficient mill operation, and supported public radio, Humanities Montana, the Canyon Creek Fire Department, the Helena Public Library, and the Montana Wildlife Federation.

As we bid farewell to Art, we recognize that he was a true pioneer for the fashion industry and a leader in the conservation community.

My thoughts and prayers are with Art’s partner, Cathy Horyn; his son, Neil; daughter, Nancy; stepson, Alexander Schultz; and all of his family and many friends. •

TRIBUTE TO JEFF NELSON

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Jeff Nelson on his well-earned retirement after nearly 40 years of service at East River Electric Cooperative in Madison, SD, including 23 years as General Manager.

Jeff’s wealth of knowledge and friendly demeanor have helped him develop close relationships with his colleagues and with community leaders