

2006 U.S. WINTER OLYMPICS TEAM

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the accomplishments of the incredibly hard-working and dedicated members of the 2006 U.S. Winter Olympics team. This year, our team won 25 individual and team medals, including 9 gold medals.

Olympic athletes commit years of time and effort to earning the honor of representing the United States at the Olympic Games. Upon reaching the games, their determination stayed constant, even when faced with injury and adversity. Their spirit and willingness to strive for excellence no matter what the situation serves as an example for all Americans.

I would especially like to recognize the 27 Californians who competed in Turin. While California is widely known for our wonderful weather and beautiful beaches, we also boast some of our Nation's finest winter athletes. The following seven California athletes won medals as well:

Chanda Gunn of Huntington Beach won bronze as a member of the U.S. Women's Hockey team.

Rusty Smith from Long Beach won a bronze medal as a member of the Short Track Speedskating 5,000-meter relay team.

Sasha Cohen of Corona del Mar won the silver medal in Figure Skating.

Valerie Fleming from Foster City won silver as a part of the two-member Bobsled Team.

Danny Kass of Mammoth Lakes won the silver medal in the Snowboarding Half-Pipe event.

Julia Mancuso from Olympic Valley won gold in the Alpine Skiing Giant Slalom.

Finally, Shaun White of Carlsbad brought home the gold medal in the Snowboarding Half-pipe event.

The spirit of adventure and determination displayed by these athletes is a wonderful example of our country's potential to achieve. I hope you are heartened, as I am, to learn of Americans striving for personal excellence. I extend my sincere congratulations to California Olympians and all of our country's athletes, and I thank them for their great team spirit.●

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to honor the 25th Anniversary of one of my State's great natural treasures, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1981 and was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter the day before he left office. I served on the Marin County Board of Supervisors at the time, and I remember how hard the community worked to establish this designation.

The year this sanctuary was established was a critical time in our country's debate about offshore oil drilling.

Californians overwhelmingly rejected the idea of ocean drilling and the creation of a national marine sanctuary

near the Farallones Islands was seen as an important way of advancing ocean conservation.

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 1,200 square miles of one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world. This sanctuary includes vital feeding and spawning grounds for one of the world's largest populations of the Great White Shark, a large variety of fish and shellfish, and over 36 marine mammals, including the endangered Humpback and Blue whales. The sanctuary also includes the Farallon Islands—the largest seabird nesting area in the contiguous United States.

In our efforts to protect ocean life and the marine environment, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary plays a crucial role. Scientists from all over the world come to study this dynamic ecosystem.

Yet offshore oil drilling and exploration continue to threaten this sanctuary and the California coast. Earlier this year, I introduced the California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act with Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS. This bill would provide permanent protection for California's coast from future offshore oil drilling.

Last year, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY and I introduced legislation to expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary and its neighboring Cordell Bank sanctuary, to protect the entire coast of Sonoma County from future oil and gas exploration. Californians have been demanding this type of protection for a generation.

The California coast is enjoyed by Californians and visitors from around the world, and the natural resources of the Pacific Ocean are priceless and vital to a healthy, growing California economy. My goal has always been permanent protection for the California coast, and I will continue fighting for this protection as long as I am in the United States Senate. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to protect the ocean, one of our greatest natural resources. The National Marine Sanctuary Program, established in 1972, plays a critical role in preserving our precious marine resources and protecting our coasts from offshore oil and gas development.

I applaud everyone who has worked to protect the marine ecosystem of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. I wish sanctuary staff and volunteers many years of ongoing success in protecting the California coastal environment. Please join me in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARTIN F. STEIN

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today people across my State of Wisconsin are deeply saddened by the loss of a man who dedicated so much of his

time, and so much of himself, to strengthening our communities: Marty Stein.

I want to share what some other people have said about Marty's passing because I think it will give my colleagues a sense of who he was and the kind of contributions he made. Tommy Thompson, our former Governor, and the recent Secretary of Health and Human Services, said simply, "What will we do without him?"

The executive director of Hunger Task Force, a Milwaukee-based nonprofit, said, "We always referred to Marty as our angel. He solved the problems, opened the doors, fixed things that seemed like they would never get fixed. And he did it because he cared."

Those words tell you what a force Marty was in the Milwaukee area and throughout the State. His dedication to serving his community was unparalleled. We will miss not only what he did but the energy he brought to his efforts and the example he set for everyone he knew.

Marty was a skilled businessman who built not one but two thriving businesses—first the successful chain of Stein drug stores, and later Stein Health Services, which included the Stein Optical stores so well known in Wisconsin.

He took those same skills he used in business, that rare drive and dedication, and used them to help community organizations to thrive. An outstanding fundraiser, he was determined to engage others in his charitable work by asking for their contributions of money or time for a good cause.

It is impossible to talk about Marty's many good works without talking about the strength of his faith. Faith fueled his humanitarian efforts, as he worked to support local organizations like the Milwaukee Jewish Home and Care Center, and as he worked on international issues like chairing an effort to bring thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

His work will live on and act as a challenge to everyone who knew him—to ask what more each of us can do to serve our communities and to dedicate ourselves to those causes as he did, with unmatched energy and with the utmost integrity.

Today my thoughts and sympathies are with the Stein family. Marty's life and work created a lasting legacy that I am proud to honor today and that will be remembered and celebrated for many years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 1190. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the purposes of improving the