

In addition to her rigorous training of up to 25 hours per week, she has also excelled academically. She is now in her junior year at Valley High School in West Des Moines, and has been on the "A" Honor Roll. I believe very strongly that promoting fitness and providing quality education are both key factors in ensuring that children have a bright and successful future. Shawn Johnson is an inspiration to Iowa's young people to stay active, be studious, do what they love, and follow their dreams.

I would like to congratulate Johnson for bringing home four Olympic medals and commend her for her outstanding commitment to the sport of gymnastics. I hope that she continues to pursue her passion and that we will see her endearing smile and more of her amazing performances in London in 2012.

COMMENDING OLYMPIAN LOLO JONES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I honor an Iowan who has courageously pursued her dreams through great adversity and who has displayed outstanding character and grace throughout her life. Lori "Lolo" Jones recently returned from Beijing, where she competed as a hurdler in the 2008 Olympic Games. Lolo made us all very proud as she represented the United States in Beijing. Although she did not come away from Beijing with a medal, she realized her dream of competing in the Olympics and was a model of athleticism, sportsmanship, and determination.

Lolo has had seemingly limitless energy, a positive attitude and an intense focus on running since she was a child. It is these characteristics that have allowed her to overcome what many would consider to be challenging circumstances, including the fact that her family relocated frequently throughout her childhood.

As a student at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, she excelled at running as well as academics. After graduating from Roosevelt, Lolo became the first in her family to attend college when she enrolled at Louisiana State University, where she excelled on the LSU track team. She graduated with an economics degree and a minor in Spanish, yet deferred seeking a career in her field of study, determined to pursue her running career instead. She worked part-time jobs to support herself and to have free time to travel for competitions. After missing an opportunity to compete in Athens in 2004, her former LSU coach persuaded sponsors to recognize Lolo's great potential, allowing her to devote herself to becoming a world-class professional athlete.

Competing in and winning many races around the world in the years leading up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Lolo became a highly respected athlete, not only for her performances,

but for her exemplary sportsmanship and generosity.

And, through it all, Lolo never forgot where she began her journey. She returned to Roosevelt High School earlier this year to make a donation for improvements to the track, and also for new shoes and equipment for the track team. She also donated winnings from a recent race to a victim of the flooding that ravaged Iowa this spring.

I salute Lolo Jones for her extraordinary discipline and hard work, for her determination to improve and excel as an athlete, and also for her grace, generosity, and strength of character. She has been, and will continue to be, a wonderful role model for all athletes and for all young people seeking to excel in their field. I congratulate her on all of her achievements and on realizing her dream of competing in the Olympics. I hope and expect that we will see Lolo again in London in 2012, this time hurdling her way toward Olympic gold.

REMEMBERING BABE RUTH

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and career of Babe Ruth, one of America's greatest baseball players. The man we know as Babe Ruth, was born on February 6, 1895, as George Herman Ruth, Jr. and passed away 60 years ago on August 16, 1948. In his obituary, the New York Times called him "a figure unprecedented in American life. A born showman off the field and a marvelous performer on it, he had an amazing flair for doing the spectacular at the most dramatic moment." Although he played his last season in 1935, Ruth still holds the records for all-time highest slugging percentage. Ruth's 714 career homers and his consistent dominance in the batter's box rightly earned him the nickname, "The Sultan of Swat."

However, Babe Ruth was more than a superior ballplayer. Although his dramatically big swing earned him a place in the record books, Mr. Ruth was a figure of legendary proportions who permanently changed the game of baseball and made it a fixture in American life. His famous "called" shot in the 1932 World Series is so ingrained in our national memory and baseball lore that even our youngest children playing tee-ball in backyards across the country seek to emulate this iconic moment.

Mr. Ruth was also famous for his generosity, working for the Red Cross during World War II, organizing charity golf tournaments with longtime adversary Ty Cobb, appearing at benefits, and buying more than \$100,000 in war bonds. A year before his death, he established the Babe Ruth Foundation, which provided assistance to disadvantaged children. Linda Ruth Tosetti, Mr. Ruth's granddaughter, is a resident of Connecticut, and today I would like to remember her grandfather, one of the greatest sports legends in our Nation's history.

RECOGNIZING THE LA SALLE ACADEMY PLAYERS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I recognize the achievement of the La Salle Academy Players, the theater troupe from my high school alma mater, which recently gave four performances of "The Scottish Play: Macbeth" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This prestigious event, the world's largest arts festival, is held annually in Scotland.

The La Salle Players were one of only 43 high school troupes chosen to perform from among hundreds of high school drama programs by the American High School Theatre Festival. La Salle Academy was the first Rhode Island private high school and only the second Rhode Island high school to have been selected in the 14 years that the American High School Theatre Festival has participated in the Fringe Festival.

I am especially pleased to share that, by all reports, the young men and women of the La Salle Players conducted themselves with great talent and poise, representing both their school and their country with distinction.

I want to individually recognize the cast and crew, faculty, and staff, who were instrumental to this effort: Brother Michael McKenery, the president of La Salle Academy, served as producer. The student cast and crew included Trisha Moise, Tiia Groden, Gabbie Whitney, John Pleasants, Dan Tracy, John Coletta, Nick Oliveira, Nick Montecalvo, Ryan Zins, Cam Burns, Matt Petrarca, Mark Sullivan, Valentina Szlashta, Michael Commendatore, Alex Schlageter, Sean Walsh, Kevin Cronin, Molly B. Allen, Katie Ryan, Emily Maher, Colin Whitney, Ashley Smith, Stephen Zukauskas, JR McKenzie, and Michael Gebhart. Faculty and staff included Thomas Haynes, Elissa Cerros, Margaret Hayes, and David Cabral.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF WUOM-FM

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with pleasure that I, along with my Michigan colleague, Senator STABENOW, congratulate WUOM-FM on 60 years of successful broadcasting. Over the past six decades, WUOM-FM, the University of Michigan's flagship public radio station, has become a fixture in public broadcasting, distinguishing itself through the breath and depth of its programming and through its unwavering dedication and service to its many listeners throughout southeastern Michigan.

Since its inception as a small radio station broadcasting in the Ann Arbor area, WUOM-FM has been a consistent and important voice in public radio in Michigan. In 1950, WUOM broadcasted its first Michigan Football game, a tradition it would enjoy for the next 50 years, and in 1958, it broadcasted its

first Detroit Symphony Orchestra performance from the Ford Auditorium. Two years later, Michigan Radio broadcasted Senator John F. Kennedy's famous campaign speech at the University of Michigan, where he spoke about public service as a responsibility of freedom, a speech that helped to bring about the creation of the Peace Corps. In 1971, WUOM joined National Public Radio and became one of the first radio stations to air "All Things Considered".

WUOM has grown and evolved since its first public broadcast on July 5, 1948. Today, Michigan Radio, which includes WUOM, WVGR and WFUM, broadcasts from Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Flint, respectively, and enjoys the largest listening audience of any public radio station in the State and is among the leaders nationally. Michigan Radio's programming format changed from classical music to a news and information format in 1996. With this change one thing has remained the same: the superb quality of each and every broadcast segment. With more than 400,000 listeners tuning in each week, Michigan Radio has become an important source of news and information about local, state, national and world affairs for the listening public.

As technology has evolved, so has Michigan Radio. Today, it is broadcasted in high definition and is accessible from mobile devices across Michigan. Listeners can tune in to programming from National Public Radio, Public Radio International, and the BBC, as well as local programs, such as the Environment Report and Jack Lessenberry's Essays and Interviews.

WUOM has been the recipient of many awards throughout its history. In the past year alone, Michigan Radio has earned more than 30 awards. The most notable was the 2008 National Edward R. Murrow Award for Best News Documentary, which was awarded for "Ashes to Hope: Overcoming the Detroit Riots."

Michigan Radio has forged an impressive reputation for quality programming, public service, and integrity. It is in this spirit that we know our Senate colleagues join us in congratulating each individual who has contributed to the success of WUOM-FM over the past 60 years, dedicating endless hours, energy, and hard work in pursuit of excellence in public broadcasting. I wish them another 60 years of outstanding achievement.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an email address set up for these stories to the CONGRESSIONAL

RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Priority: Explore in this country for oil
How do high fuel prices affect me and my family? We do not travel nearly as much as before. I am telecommuting one day a week. We have cut out all spending except the bare essentials. We are worried about losing jobs as the economy continues to collapse.

I have no doubt that the fuel prices will continue to increase as the extremists in this country continue to sabotage efforts to tap local fuel sources. They are diligent in their efforts to slowly undermine and destroy this country. Unfortunately, there is no hope that they will be stopped. I am doing what I can to not spend as much on fuel, such as using a wood stove for heat in the winter. Of course, the natural gas-fired furnaces are cleaner-burning, but the extremists do not consider that when they ban mining for gas and oil and, in a roundabout way, drive up the price of everything. Wood for the stove is very cheap or free.

I would use fossil-fuel-free transportation more than I already do if the roadways were safer for that. I could use my horses to get around, but the city codes and the highways are not set up for that. Other people are trying to use bikes. I saw a smashed bike in front of a large vehicle in the middle of a busy road today. The ambulance was just getting to the scene. Not too safe to use bikes.

If nothing effective can be done to bring down fuel prices, then the roadways need to be set up for using horses and carts and bicycles and foot traffic. City codes need to be changed to allow the use of horses and other draft animals. That was the most effective method of transportation before the invention of cars, and draft animals are used in other countries that do not have fossil-fueled vehicles. It is extreme, but all I see are fuel prices going up so fast that quickly most people will not be able to get around. Bicycles are limited as to how much stuff you can haul. So draft animals are the only way.

With the short-sighted ban on horse slaughter, there are now way too many horses around being abandoned and given away. It is the perfect solution: A lot of these unwanted horses can be used for transportation as soon as city codes and CC&R's are changed to allow people to keep horses on small land parcels. I have a few acres and pasture for my horses, but a lot of people do not have that. I cannot use my horses to go to the big towns because the roads are suited for high-speed cars, not for horses. My horses and I would end up like that bike I saw today, twisted and crumpled in the road in front of some large car.

CAROLE, *Kuna.*

Thank you for the opportunity to state briefly how higher energy processes are impacting my own life. I like to think of myself as well-educated, environmentally responsible, and having control of my life and my family finances. We are fiscally responsible. We try to live to an established budget. We

pay our bills on time, and we set aside money for a rainy day. However, with today's skyrocketing gas prices and energy costs, I do not think we are going to be able to sustain our current lifestyle any longer. We have made cuts where we can. We have tried to reduce the number of trips we need to take in our vehicles, but just doing that is not nearly enough. We have had to cut out some of our luxuries such as cable television. Given what is presented on television these days, that was not too much of a sacrifice, either. Now we are starting to wonder if we will be able to get enough food on the table, or keep our kids in the clothes that they need. We have 3 growing children, and it seems their clothes only fit for a few weeks. Now we are considering reducing the amounts we contribute to our 401K investment plan, cutting out family vacations, and working more hours.

It is funny how the things that are most important in life such as spending time with your children are the things that must suffer because of the condition of the economy. It is frustrating that we are having to cut the investments we are trying to make in our future just to make ends meet today. Further, every bill seems to be going up, and my salary is not increasing at all. We feel lucky to have a job at all as there have been many who have been laid off where I work. We might be considered upper middle class, but I wonder how much longer this will last as the economy and government policies are slowly driving all of us into poverty.

There are a lot of things in the world to worry about. For the sake of my children, I hate to see this direction we are heading in. Also, I am disappointed at how [some of] our lawmakers in Washington, D.C., wish to play politics, but do not seem to have any intentions on fixing the problems. All we see right now [is partisan] posturing just to win votes, economy be damned. They like to tell themselves that they have our best interests in mind, but given the lack of action, I am starting to wonder what good it is to have a government at all. How bad are things going to get before someone starts doing something about it?

What can be done about it? I think we need to step it up on several fronts. We need more gas and oil production here at home. We need to encourage more conservation. We need to demand car companies increase their mpg. We need to actively encourage nuclear power production and stop listening to all the crazy special interest groups that are out there. We need to stop worrying about an international war that is literally draining all of our resources. We have got to stop worrying about universal healthcare and everything else that will not succeed if we do not have a sound economy. Let us get focused and do it now. If we do not, it will be too little, too late.

Thanks for taking a minute to listen to my story. I was starting to wonder if any of our politicians knew we were out here.

JEFF, *Iona.*

It goes something like this. I am on Social Security Disability, and my mother and stepfather, aunts, and uncles are on Social Security. In the last ten years, the increase in benefits has been around 2.5% each year. Rent has increased 35%; gas, 50%+; natural gas, 30%; electricity, 35%; food, 30%; and basic water fees were \$18 in 1999, and now are over \$40.

An economist said that the economy raising 3% per year is a good thing, did not say the price of goods/services going up was a good thing. He meant that those working getting a 3% increase in funds to spend was a good thing.

Thinking that I live on \$750 per month, and bills are \$350-400 per month, then trying to