

athlete who represented Michigan and the United States in Beijing. I wish each athlete future success as they continue to strive for excellence.

Mr. DURBIN. I am honored today to recognize the achievements of the American athletes who competed in the 2008 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing, China.

The Beijing Games were remarkable. More than 11,000 athletes representing over 200 countries competed in this year's Olympic Games. The United States won 110 medals total at the Beijing Olympics, more than any other country represented.

The Paralympic Games, the competition for elite athletes with physical disabilities, immediately followed the Olympic in Beijing. More than 4,200 athletes from 148 countries competed, the largest number of nations ever represented at a Paralympic Games. American Paralympic athletes won 99 medals overall, 36 of them gold. The International Paralympic Committee has declared these the best Paralympic Games in history.

Americans from coast to coast were electrified by swimmer Michael Phelps, who broke the record for most gold medals in one Olympics and for most gold medals for an Olympian. I had the opportunity to admire the two gold and two bronze medals of American swimmer Ryan Lochte this week. Ryan dedicated his performance and a portion of his winnings to eradicating Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and he was on Capitol Hill this week to raise awareness of this cruel and fatal disorder.

Joining U.S. medalists in swimming was a Lake Forest, IL son—Matt Grevers who won a silver medal in the men's 100m backstroke.

In addition to Matt, I would like to commend the outstanding athletes from my home State of Illinois who represented the United States in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. NBA star Dwyane Wade, a native of Chicago, helped lead the U.S. Men's Basketball Team, often called "The Redeem Team," to their first gold medal since 2000. Sean Rooney of Wheaton, IL, also took home a gold medal as part of the U.S. Men's Volleyball team, and Ogona Nnamani of Bloomington, IL, won a silver medal along with the U.S. Women's Volleyball team.

Illinois athletes were on the medal stand during the Paralympic Games, too. Jaelyn Barnes of Wadsworth, IL, won a gold in Women's Goalball. Emily Hoskins of Mascoutah and Jennifer Ruddell of Champaign also brought home gold as part of the Women's Wheelchair Basketball team. Nichole Millage of Champaign and Hope Lewellen of Palos Park helped earn the silver for the Women's Sitting Volleyball Team. At least thirty athletes and coaches who competed at the Paralympics have direct ties to Illinois.

Last but far from least, I would like to congratulate Dawn Harper, a native of my hometown of East St. Louis, IL,

for her captivating performance at the Beijing Olympics. Ms. Harper, a graduate of East St. Louis High School and UCLA, was a part of the U.S. Women's Track Team. Dawn took the gold medal in the 100 meter hurdles, and I couldn't be more proud.

The Olympics and Paralympics are inspiring. They allow us to watch athletic performance at its very best. They also remind us of the enduring human spirit that drives these athletes to sacrifice, train and prepare for these moments of camaraderie and competition with peers from countries around the world. The State of Illinois would be proud to host these games in 2016. We are preparing in the hope that, 8 years from now, the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will take place in the heartland of the United States—in beautiful Chicago, IL.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, that any statements be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 704) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 704

Whereas the 2008 Summer Olympic Games were conducted in Beijing, China, from August 8 to August 24, 2008;

Whereas 10,500 athletes from 204 countries participated in 302 events in 28 sports and inspired people around the world with their dedication, discipline, athletic achievement, and spirit of fair play, representing the best traditions of Olympic competition;

Whereas 596 men and women represented the United States in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games as members of the United States Olympic Team;

Whereas those United States Olympians competed in 27 sports and continued the great legacy of athleticism and sportsmanship that has characterized the history of United States Olympic competition;

Whereas, in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, the United States sustained and increased its clear dominance as the most successful country in the history of the Olympic Games;

Whereas athletes from the United States won more medals in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games than athletes from any other country;

Whereas swimmer Michael Phelps of Maryland earned recognition as one of the greatest athletes of all time by winning an extraordinary 8 gold medals in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games to surpass the previous single-year record of 7 Olympic gold medals by Mark Spitz, also a swimmer from the United States;

Whereas Michael Phelps now also holds the record for the most Olympic gold medals ever won by a single athlete, with a remarkable 14 gold medals;

Whereas, in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, the United States demonstrated its continued preeminence in team sports, with the men's and women's basketball teams, the men's volleyball team, the women's soccer team, and the men's and women's 4x400-meter relay teams winning gold medals;

Whereas more than 200 athletes from the United States competed in 18 sports on behalf of the United States in the 2008 Summer Paralympic Games in Beijing, China, from September 6 to September 17, 2008;

Whereas the United States Paralympic Team earned 99 medals, including 36 gold medals, reminding the world that physical challenges are no limit to human achievement;

Whereas United States Army First Lieutenant Melissa Stockwell, who lost her left leg to a roadside bomb in Baghdad in 2004, became the first veteran of the war in Iraq to compete in the Paralympic Games when she swam in the women's 100-meter butterfly, 100-meter freestyle, and 400-meter freestyle;

Whereas the people of the United States stand united in respect and admiration for the members of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams, and the Teams' athletic accomplishments, sportsmanship, and dedication to excellence;

Whereas the many accomplishments of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many others, including the United States Olympic Committee and the many administrators, coaches, and family members who provided critical support for the athletes;

Whereas the Olympic movement celebrates competition, fair play, and the pursuit of dreams;

Whereas the United States and, in particular, the city of Chicago, Illinois, celebrate those same ideals; and

Whereas Chicago has never hosted the Olympic and Paralympic Games: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends congratulations for a job well done to all members of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and to everyone who supported the Teams' efforts at the 2008 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games; and

(2) encourages the International Olympic Committee to choose Chicago, Illinois, as the site of the 2016 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games and offers support and cooperation in ensuring successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in Chicago in 2016.

NATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent to proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 703, submitted earlier.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 703) Designating November 2008 as "National Methamphetamine Awareness Month," to increase awareness of methamphetamine abuse.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 703) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 703

Whereas methamphetamine, an easily manufactured drug of the amphetamine group, is a powerful and addictive central nervous system stimulant with long-lasting effects;

Whereas the National Association of Counties reported in 2007 that methamphetamine is the number 1 illegal drug problem for 47 percent of the counties in the United States, a higher percentage than that of any other drug;

Whereas 4 out of 5 county sheriffs report that, while local methamphetamine production is down, methamphetamine abuse is not (the National Association of Counties found that ½ of the Nation's sheriffs report abuse of the drug has stayed the same and nearly ½ say that it has increased);

Whereas the highest rates of methamphetamine use among all ethnic groups occur within Native American communities;

Whereas the consequence of methamphetamine use by many young adults in the Native American community has been death, including methamphetamine-related suicides;

Whereas sheriffs report increases in crime directly related to the presence of methamphetamine in their communities;

Whereas most illegal methamphetamine available in the United States is produced in large clandestine laboratories in Mexico and smuggled into this country;

Whereas methamphetamine labs are costly to clean up in that every pound of methamphetamine produced can yield up to 5 pounds of toxic waste, representing a public danger to adults and children;

Whereas the profile of methamphetamine users is changing, as ¾ of the Nation's sheriffs report increased methamphetamine use by women and ½ of the Nation's sheriffs report increased use by teens;

Whereas, in surveys on the abuse of methamphetamine among teens, many of the respondents said that the drug was easy to get and believed there is little risk in trying it;

Whereas other National Association of Counties surveys have shown that methamphetamine also places significant burdens on local social service and health care resources, increasing out-of-home placements for children, sending more people to public hospital emergency rooms than any other drug, and producing an ever-growing need for methamphetamine treatment programs; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Methamphetamine Awareness month would increase awareness of methamphetamine and educate the public on effective ways to help prevent methamphetamine use at the Federal, State, and local levels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2008 as “National Methamphetamine Awareness Month” to increase awareness of methamphetamine abuse; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Methamphetamine Awareness Month with appropriate educational programs and outreach activities.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: Kathryn Weeden of Washington, D.C.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent that during recess or adjournment of the Senate from Friday, October 3, 2008 through Sunday, October 5, 2008, the Senator from Virginia, Mr. WEBB, be authorized to sign all duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I understand that there is not a real possibility that the House of Representatives is going to take up an unemployment insurance extension bill tomorrow. I hope it does. I hope it passes. I would also fervently hope that this body will take up this bill immediately upon our return in mid-November when I understand we will be in session for 2 or 3 days. Passing an unemployment insurance extension is essential. The unemployment insurance extension which was signed into law on June 30 as part of our supplemental war appropriations bill included a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits for all States. This is less of an extension than we provided during economic downturns in the last 25 years because it does not include additional benefits for high-unemployment States.

Currently, workers who started receiving the 13-week extension in mid-July, under the current program, will have their benefits cut off in October, and 775,000 workers across the Nation are going to be cut off, including 42,000 in Michigan alone. By the end of this year, the number of individuals who will have exhausted their unemployment benefits will rise to 1.1 million nationally and 58,000 in Michigan. We must ensure that those individuals who

have lost their jobs, who are looking for work during a time when our companies are reducing the number of jobs and during a time when the price of food and energy is going up, that these people are not also struggling to put food on the table, to pay their utility bills, and to cover their mortgage payments.

We have a bill in the Senate, which I cosponsored, which will provide this much needed unemployment insurance extension. The extension would ensure that out-of-work Americans have an additional 7 weeks as they continue to look for jobs. In high-unemployment States such as Michigan, the States will receive an additional 13 weeks. In August, Michigan's unemployment rate rose from 8.5 percent to 8.9 percent. The Nation's unemployment rate increased by almost half a percentage point to 6.1 percent. That is the highest since 2003.

These are very hard economic times. Unemployment rates are rising. Since January of 2001, we have lost over 3.6 million manufacturing jobs nationally and over a quarter million manufacturing jobs in Michigan. The numbers of unemployed are rising all over the country. We must act to protect American workers and their families.

The Congress needs to act before we adjourn. That means during that window, that 2- or 3-day window in mid-November. We must seize that opportunity to do what we have done in prior downturns; that is, to give greater protection to workers who are unemployed and desperately looking for work.

I ask unanimous consent that a chart comparing the unemployment benefits in this downturn to previous downturns be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONGRESS HAS EXTENDED BENEFITS FOR HARD-HIT STATES IN EVERY OTHER RECESSION OF THE LAST 25 YEARS

Date	Temporary unemployment benefits granted to all States	Additional benefits granted to high unemployment States
1982	8 weeks	Up to 14 weeks.
1991	26 weeks	7 weeks.
2002	13 weeks	13 weeks.
2008	13 weeks	None.

Source: Congressional Research Service.

Mr. LEVIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

JOHN WARNER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute and to wish my warmest regards to my dear