

Peck committed suicide during a police shootout.

There is legislation pending before the Senate that, if enacted, could prevent future convicted domestic abusers from evading background checks to buy murder weapons. These bills could be the critical difference in preventing another domestic argument from becoming something so much worse. We owe it to the memory of victims of domestic violence around this country to take every step possible to prevent similar incidents in the future. I urge my colleagues to pass gun safety legislation that closes the gun show loophole.

2014 OLYMPIANS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, every 4 years elite athletes from across the globe gather together to share their prodigious talent and skill with a world audience through friendly competition. This year's Winter Games in Sochi, Russia was no different. Indeed, it is a tradition families across the Nation have gathered together to watch on TV and shared for generations.

We are transfixed by the Winter Olympics and the athletes who take part for many reasons. We enjoy the intense competition that is the hallmark of the games. We enjoy the gravity-defying athletes who only seem to get more daring with each passing year. And, we enjoy the speed and precision that is required to excel at the Olympic level. There are also many personal and heartwarming stories of triumph and perseverance that are highlighted at the games. They remind us of what is possible. We witness athletes both in victory and defeat, but always at their best. We admire their journey and the Olympic spirit that is embodied by each of them.

To become an Olympian is no easy task. Each athlete has sacrificed much to earn a spot at the Olympics. These games and the performances we bear witness to are often the capstone of careers that have spanned many years and are the product of an enormous amount of training, dedication, and focus. This year, as in years past, we glimpsed into the lives of these athletes, which includes parents, coaches and family members who shaped these athletes from the very beginning, spending countless hours and effort in training, travelling from competition to competition, and molding young athletes into the competitors we see before us.

The Winter Olympics seamlessly blends the events and traditions we have come to enjoy for many years with newer, fresher disciplines that leave us in awe and bravely test our limits. Young people are shaped by these moments. Some will even grow up and follow this impressive path.

Michigan was well-represented at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. One area where Michigan shined was in ice dancing. Impressively, 15 of the 24 teams

participating in the ice dancing trained in metro Detroit in one of three rinks: the Detroit Skating Club, Novi Ice Arena, and Arctic Edge in Canton, which is where the Gold and Silver Medal teams trained. This reflects the level of coaching and talent that resides in Michigan.

There were many inspired performances at these games. Fittingly, the couple that captured our imagination for the second straight Olympic Games, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, capped their Olympic career with a captivating, Gold Medal performance in ice dancing, adding this to their Silver Medal performance in 2010 and their team Bronze in Sochi. The list of ice dancers with strong ties to Michigan is long and includes Maia Shibutani, Alex Shibutani, Evan Bates, Madison Chock, Tessa Virtue, Scott Moir, Kaitlyn Weaver, Andrew Poje, Alexandra Paul, Mitch Islam, Anna Cappellini, Luca Lanotte, Charlene Guignard, Marco Fabbrì, Nathalie Pechalat, Fabian Bourzat, Pernelle Carron, Lloyd Jones, Nelli Zhiganshina, Alexander Gazsi, Julia Zlobina, Alexei Sitnikov, Isabella Tobias, Deividas Stagniunas, Danielle O'Brien, Greg Merriam, Cathy Reed and Chris Reed.

Olympic hockey also showcased the talent Michigan has to offer. Players with ties to Michigan represented a number of different countries. They included Americans Ryan Miller, Ryan Kessler, Cam Fowler, Jimmy Howard, Patrick Kane, Phil Kessel, Justin Faulk, Kevin Shattenkirk, Ryan Suter, James van Riemsdyk, Max Pacioretty and Dan Bylsma. Those who skated for other countries included Henrik Zetterberg, Daniel Alfredsson, Niklas Kronwall, Jonathon Ericsson, Johan Franzen, Jonas Gustavsson, Pavel Datsyuk, Tomas Tatar, Tomas Jurco, Duncan Keith, Chris Kunitz, Mike Babcock and Brian Lebler. Each made a significant contribution and provided us ample reason to be proud.

In addition to these incredible athletes are Narumi Takahashi, Ryuichi Kihara, Jeremy Abbott, Valentina Marchei and Patrick Chan who competed admirably in figure skating. Jessica Smith, Jilleanne Rookard, Shani Davis, Jordan Malone, Kyle Carr, Chris Creveling and Anthony Lobello graced the speed skating track. And there were snowboarders Karly Shorr, Danny Davis and Nick Bumgartner whose style and flair was unmistakable.

Rounding out Michigan's contribution in Sochi was Lauryn Williams, a Summer Olympic star who became the first woman, and fifth person overall, to medal in both the Summer and Winter Olympics. Her Silver as part of a two-person bobsled team was one of the most memorable moments of the games.

I join many across Michigan in congratulating each of these athletes. It was gratifying to watch and reminds us all, especially young people across Michigan, that reaching for the stars, or in this case the Olympics, is firmly

within their grasp. As one Olympic figure skater so aptly put it, "To be able to come up here and feel stiff and white as a ghost but stare fear in the face is what I'm all about." That's the true Olympic spirit we tune in to watch, and that is a fitting way to describe the grit, grace, and athletic prowess we witnessed day after day in Sochi. This is why I am delighted to honor these athletes here today by placing their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY MYERS

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and thank Cathy Myers—a valued member of my staff who left Senate service today after 35 years on Capitol Hill.

Cathy has worked in Congress since 1979 when she was hired to serve as a secretary in the office of Congressman Samuel Devine of Ohio. She subsequently held the same position in the office of Congressman Gene Snyder of Kentucky, and first came to the Senate in 1983, when she took a job as secretary to Senator Bob Kasten of Wisconsin.

In 1993, Cathy went to work for New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg, serving as his executive assistant for 18 years. Senator Gregg is well-known in the Granite State for his service to constituents, and Cathy played an indispensable role in helping him stay in close contact with the people of New Hampshire.

When Senator Gregg retired, I was so pleased that she agreed to continue serving the people of New Hampshire as a member of my Washington staff. Cathy has been so helpful to me as I have gotten my Senate office up and running. She does a tremendous job keeping the trains running on time, and I have been so deeply grateful for her dedicated service.

During the 3 years Cathy worked as a member of my staff, I have also appreciated her personal warmth and generous spirit. Cathy is perhaps best known in my office for the candy dish she keeps on her desk, which is always stocked with chocolates. It is no secret that Cathy has a sweet tooth, and she has been so kind to share her candy with the rest of the office.

Cathy Myers has served the people of New Hampshire and the Senate with honor and distinction. On behalf of all those whose lives Cathy has touched in the Granite State and on Capitol Hill, I wish her the very best as she starts this new chapter in her life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Zev Yaroslavsky, who is retiring at the end of this year, after a distinguished and illustrious career spanning 40 years as a public servant in the State of California. We wish to extend to Mr. Yaroslavsky our sincere

congratulations for the decades of dedicated service that he has given to his Nation, his State, his city, and his county.

Mr. Yaroslavsky was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1994 and is in the final year of his fifth term on the Board. He has served as chair of the Board, which is rotated annually among the supervisors, four times. For the past 20 years, he has represented the Third Supervisorial District, where he will be remembered as a devoted public servant who amassed numerous accomplishments and innumerable awards.

Mr. Yaroslavsky represents nearly 2 million residents in his district. His efforts primarily have focused on fiscal, health care, transportation, the environment, veterans affairs, homelessness, and the arts. Prior to representing the Third Supervisorial District, he served on the Los Angeles City Council from 1975 to 1994 to which he was elected and re-elected six times.

As a Los Angeles City councilman, Mr. Yaroslavsky honed his fiscal skills as the respected chair of the Council's Finance Committee, and he also earned a reputation as a politician who was willing to take on issues that others would not, including the highly controversial excessive use of force and intelligence gathering policies of the Los Angeles Police Department. As councilman, he also co-authored two landmark initiatives with his colleague, the late Councilman Marvin Braude: Proposition U (1986) which cut by half the commercial development rights adjacent to residential neighborhoods, and Proposition O (1988) which repealed a drilling permit previously issued to the Occidental Petroleum Company.

Most notably, a few of his major accomplishments as supervisor include authoring the 1996 Proposition 'A' park bond that resulted in the preservation of rural open space and the development of urban parks throughout the county. He also authored the 2002 Proposition 'B' trauma tax, approved by over 73 percent of county voters, which is largely credited with stabilizing the county's health care finances.

Mr. Yaroslavsky was the driving force behind the Orange Line busway across the San Fernando Valley which opened in 2005 to record ridership (22,000 daily boardings). He led the effort to rebuild and modernize the world famous Hollywood Bowl amphitheater which re-opened in 2004, and he was instrumental in the development of Walt Disney Concert Hall, the home of the L.A. Philharmonic Orchestra, which opened in 2003. He has also helped fund major investments in the L.A. County Museum of Art and the County's Museum of Natural History. He is regarded as the county's fiscal watchdog, insisting that it live within its means.

Since 1991, Mr. Yaroslavsky has also been associated with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, NDI, a non-governmental organization headquartered in Washington,

DC, that promotes the development of democratic institutions in burgeoning democracies. He has monitored three international elections for NDI: Romania (1990), Mexico (2000), and Ukraine (2004). He also has conducted seminars on democratic institution-building in Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

While these are just some of Zev Yaroslavsky's significant accomplishments, on behalf of the U.S. Senate and the State of California, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his inestimable contributions throughout his renowned career. With sincere best wishes, we congratulate Mr. Yaroslavsky upon his retirement from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. We are pleased to join his many co-workers, family, friends, and associates in wishing him health, happiness, and continued good fortune in his future endeavors.●

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH AGING SERVICES

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an important meeting taking place in Jacksonville, FL. The Association of Jewish Aging Services—AJAS—is holding its 54th annual conference this week.

The theme of this year's conference is "Bringing the Future Home." AJAS has set itself apart as the central address for Jewish eldercare. This theme reflects AJAS's commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of seniors and emphasizes the importance of keeping seniors in their homes. It also indicates the growing importance of continuing to plan for the future and demonstrate the value of and necessity for providing resources for Jewish aging services.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am well aware of the need to make sure our long-term care system is meeting the needs of our aging population. As our Nation's seniors continue to age in to the need for greater supports and services, we must evolve to meet the cultural, social, and physical needs of Jewish seniors. In fact, we have shined a spotlight on this issue in the Aging Committee.

Conversations such as those at AJAS's conference this week are evermore critical to ensure that as a Nation we continue to innovate and adapt our existing system to meet the demands of America's seniors.●

REMEMBERING JOAB L. THOMAS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate and celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. Joab Langston Thomas of Tuscaloosa, AL, who served as chief executive officer of three of the country's well established public universities, including the University of Alabama, Pennsylvania State University, and North Carolina State University. We too often fail to appreciate the contributions our university leaders make to our State's and Nation's

progress. We often think of these leaders as people unconnected to our States and constituents. But as I have known our university leaders in Alabama, such is not the case. They are men and women of stability, common sense, and management skills. Dr. Thomas was no exception.

Dr. Thomas was a native of the wonderful small Alabama town of Russellville. His integrity, work ethic, and native ability were outstanding, and he translated those qualities into three degrees in biological science from Harvard University, where he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi academic honor societies. In 1961, he became a member of the biology faculty at the University of Alabama.

In 1981, Dr. Thomas became the president of the University of Alabama. Dr. Thomas is credited with tripling UA's research funding, leading a major fundraising campaign, raising admission and curriculum standards, building economic development initiatives that saved local jobs and improving relations with the State legislature, resulting in increased State funding for the university. He also established a university-wide honors program and initiated the highly successful Presidential Scholars program to help recruit top students to University of Alabama.

In the words of University of Alabama's current chancellor, Robert Witt, "From his days as a teaching fellow at Harvard to his tenure at the helm of three of America's premier public universities, Joab Thomas was at the forefront as a leader in higher education. His research focus and emphasis on excellence inspired all of us who were fortunate to follow in his footsteps."

Dr. Thomas was an outstanding university president and was held in the highest esteem and affection by the many people he served so ably. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Thomas for his dedication and many contributions to public universities.●

TRIBUTE TO EDITH MILDRED TAYLOR

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize the 102nd birthday of an incredible Virginian, Edith Mildred Taylor. Edith was born on April Fools' Day in 1912, which could help explain her lifelong good nature and reputation for well-executed pranks, including once wrapping a live mouse as a birthday gift for her teenaged sister.

Edith was born on a farm in Culpeper and has lived there for all of her 102 years. As a young widow, she raised Sarah Ellen Taylor while working at the Culpeper Baptist Nursing Home, caring for seniors and undoubtedly brightening the days of many. After many decades of service to Virginia seniors, she retired to care for her 90-year-old father, who also lived into his 100th year.