

into the WNBA after leading her college team to an undefeated 39 to 0 season and her second national championship. She now plays for the Chicago Sky.

Born and raised in Springfield, basketball swingman Andre Iguodala will represent the United States on the 2012 Dream Team, or Dream Team Three. His jersey number is now retired at Lanphier High School, where he was both a star student and athlete.

Star defender on the women's soccer team, Amy LePeilbet grew up in Crystal Lake. Her high school coach at Prairie Ridge remembers her not only for her athleticism but for her work ethic and persistence. She will compete as a member of the U.S. women's soccer team in London.

Each of these athletes has arrived in London as a result of years of perseverance and hard work. They have woken up in the dark for early morning practices and endured aching muscles and sore limbs. They have arrived early and stayed late, spending hours at the gym, on the field, or in the pool training for this moment and their Olympic dream.

I congratulate the athletes from Illinois and every athlete representing his or her country at these Olympic games. I look forward to watching them over the coming weeks as they compete for Olympic Gold.

2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored on the opening day of the 2012 London Olympics to congratulate our U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams. Proudly, 16 of our top Olympian athletes hail from Connecticut, including 6 women, who played for our legendary University of Connecticut women's teams and will represent our State and Nation as members of the U.S. women's basketball team.

These athletes will make history on a global stage, representing the United States and sharing personal stories that fuel their drive to win. They have this momentous opportunity and responsibility because they have worked hard, demonstrated unremitting character and integrity, and believed in the power of athletic excellence to bring our nation and the world together.

Six extraordinary UConn alumni will compete as members of the 2012 U.S. women's basketball team: Sue Bird, Swin Cash, Tina Charles, Asjha Jones, Maya Moore, and Diana Taurasi. All six players brought UConn teams to national championships during their college careers. The head coach of the U.S. Olympic team, Geno Auriemma, has led the University of Connecticut teams through many exciting seasons while serving as a tremendous role model and mentor. Both Asjha Jones and Tina Charles currently live in Uncasville and play for the Connecticut Sun. Although the others may no longer list Connecticut as their formal residence, these players remain a part of our lives.

Charlie Cole, Ken Jurkowski, Nick LaCava, Sara Hendershot, and Sarah Trowbridge will compete in London as members of our U.S. rowing team. Mr. Cole grew up in New Canaan, CT, and attended New Canaan High School and Yale University where he rowed for the heavyweight team. He has received many national and international titles, including most recently winning the pair at the 2012 National Selection Regatta number 1 and finishing fourth in the four at the 2011 World Rowing Championships. He has been named USRowing's 2011 Athlete of the Year.

Mr. Jurkowski was raised in New Fairfield and attended New Fairfield High School and Cornell University, where he walked onto the team his freshman year, competed all 4 years, and graduated with a degree in biological engineering. He has also served as a volunteer assistant coach for the University of Texas women's rowing team. In London, he will compete in the single sculls event an event that he placed 11th in during the 2008 Beijing games.

Mr. LaCava is from Weston, CT, and attended Phillips Exeter Academy and Columbia University. Among other distinctions, he placed fifth in the lightweight eight at the 2011 World Rowing Championships and placed first at the lightweight eight at the 2011 Head of the Charles Regatta. In London, he will compete in the men's lightweight four.

Ms. Hendershot grew up in West Simsbury Connecticut, only starting to row in 2003 as a high school freshman. Already by 2004 and again in 2005, she won the open eight at the USRowing National Championships. She rowed for Princeton University and graduated in 2010. She will compete in the Women's Pair in London with Sarah Zelenka of Illinois.

Ms. Trowbridge was born in Washington, DC, and is a member of the Potomac Boat Club. She was raised in Guilford, CT, and attended Guilford High School. She rowed at University of Michigan on a scholarship. Most recently among her international and national results, she finished ninth in the double sculls at the 2011 World Rowing Championships and won the double sculls at the 2011 National Selection Regatta No. 2. She cites her parents, coaches, teammates, and Olympic hero, Nadia Comaneci, as inspirations. She will compete in the Women's Double Sculls event.

Craig Kinsley and Donn Cabral will represent the United States in track and field. Hailing from Fairfield, CT, Mr. Kinsley brings his experience at high jump and javelin at Fairfield Preparatory High School and Brown University to the international arena. He won the NCAA title in the javelin event in 2010 and in the same year was named Academic All-American and Northeast Region Field Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. At Brown University, he studied geology and economics.

Mr. Cabral was born and raised in Glastonbury, CT. He attended Prince-

ton University, where he received All-American titles in track and field and cross country, and in 2012 won the NCAA title and set the U.S. collegiate record in the steeplechase event. He will compete in the Men's 3000M steeplechase this Olympic games.

Rob Crane will hit the water in sailing. Born in Stamford and raised in Darien, he went on to attend the Holderness School and Hobart College. He continues a family legacy of sailing, joining the ranks of his mother and father, who won world and North American championships, respectively. In 2011, he finished 14th in the International Sailing Association and Federal's Sailing World Championships. This Olympics, he will participate in the men's singlehanded laser dinghy sailing event.

In addition to the successes of these 10 accomplished and inspiring athletes, I wish to recognize all around the world poised to participate in the USA Paralympics. Guided by the U.S. Olympic Committee's Paralympic Military, Veteran, and Community Program, State and local communities have developed important programs to enable individuals with physical or visual disabilities to participate and compete in sports. The growing prevalence of community level sports clubs, such as the paralympic sports clubs, offers disabled Americans the opportunity to come together as a community, share their love of sports, and rally around each other.

Our American competitors are inspirational to athletes and nonathletes of all generations. Athletics and sportsmanship connect us, reaching the core of our humanity. They represent our hopes, dreams, and aspirations. They serve as national and international diplomats, working together as a team to best represent our country. Along with my Senate colleagues, I wish our athletes from Connecticut and around the Nation the best of luck and thank them for their incredible public service as leaders during these Olympic games.

EXTENSION OF THE FISA AMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Last week, the Judiciary Committee considered S.3276, a bill reauthorizing the surveillance provisions of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which is set to expire at the end of this year. The Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General have both stated that reauthorization of these important national security authorities is the "top legislative priority of the Intelligence Community."

After the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence reported its reauthorization bill, I asked for a sequential referral. Senator GRASSLEY joined me in that request. It was for a limited time and had we not completed our markup last Thursday, time might well have expired for this committee to act on it. I was surprised last week and since to be criticized for seeking to improve the