

Tara Bounds, a 25-year-old Ball, LA, resident, was diagnosed with Down's syndrome at birth. She began competing in the Special Olympics at age 8. However, it is only by miracle that Tara could even compete athletically. She also has a congenital heart defect and needed two surgeries before the age of 5 in order to live. Phyllis Mitchell coached Bounds along to help her win the Gold Medal in the softball throw and the Bronze Medal in the 50-meter run.

The World Games were held from October 2 to October 11, 2007, with over 7,000 athletes participating from 110 countries. Tara persevered past three competitions: the area competition, the State competition in Hammond, LA, and the national competition in Iowa. In order to continue, you must win at least one Gold Medal in the State and national competition. However, Tara almost did not make it due to monetary reasons, but she held fundraisers, and the people of Louisiana chipped in to send her to the World Olympics.

In order to practice, Tara ran at two local high schools, Pineville and Tioga. She also set up a target in her backyard to prepare for the softball toss. Tara ended up with a distance of 16.94 meters to win gold in the softball toss and ran the 50-meter run in 11.68 seconds to win bronze.

Tara continues to strive for excellence and hopes to participate in the 2011 Special Olympics in Athens, Greece. We should all aspire to follow her example. Today, I congratulate Tara Bounds and Phyllis Mitchell for their victory, and I wish them continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

2008 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—PM 42

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2008 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the provisions of section

201 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006.

My Administration published its first National Drug Control Strategy in 2002, inspired by a great moral imperative: we must reduce illegal drug use because, over time, drugs rob men, women, and children of their dignity and of their character. Thanks to bipartisan support in the Congress; the work of Federal, State, local, and tribal officials; and the efforts of ordinary citizens, 6 years later fewer Americans know the sorrow of addiction.

We have learned much about the nature of drug use and drug markets, and have demonstrated what can be achieved with a balanced strategy that puts resources where they are needed most. Prevention programs are reaching Americans in their communities, schools, workplaces, and through the media, contributing to a 24 percent decline in youth drug use since 2001. Today, approximately 860,000 fewer young people are using drugs than in 2001. We have expanded access to treatment in public health settings, the criminal justice system, and in sectors of society where resources are limited. The Access to Recovery program alone has extended treatment services to an additional 190,000 Americans, exceeding its 3-year goal by over 50 percent. We have seized unprecedented amounts of illegal drugs and have denied drug traffickers and terrorists the profits they need to conduct their deadly work. During the first three quarters of 2007 we saw significant disruptions in the cocaine and methamphetamine markets, with prices rising by 44 percent and 73 percent, and purities falling by 15 percent and 31 percent, respectively.

These results do not mean that our work is done. Rather, they provide a charter for future efforts. By pursuing a balanced strategy that addresses the epidemiology of drug use and the economics of drug availability, we can further reduce drug use in America.

I thank the Congress for its support and ask that it continue this noble work on behalf of the American people.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 3, 2008.*

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:20 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 550. An act to preserve existing judgeships on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1312. An act to expedite adjudication of employer petitions for aliens of extraordinary artistic ability.

H.R. 2040. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

H.R. 5168. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19101 Cortez Boulevard in Brooksville, Florida, as the "Cody Grater Post Office Building".

H.R. 5551. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to implement the increase provided under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2008, in the amount of funds made available for the compensation of attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 154. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the fatal radiation poisoning of Russian dissident and writer Alexander Litvinenko raises significant concerns about the potential involvement of elements of the Russian Government in Mr. Litvinenko's death and about the security and proliferation of radioactive materials.

H. Con. Res. 310. Concurrent resolution expressing support for a national day of remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1312. An act to expedite adjudication of employer petitions for aliens of extraordinary artistic ability; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2040. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5168. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19101 Cortez Boulevard in Brooksville, Florida, as the "Cody Grater Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5551. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to implement the increase provided under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2008, in the amount of funds made available for the compensation of attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 154. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the fatal radiation poisoning of Russian dissident and writer Alexander Litvinenko raises significant concerns about the potential involvement of elements of the Russian Government in Mr. Litvinenko's death and about the security and proliferation of radioactive materials; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 310. Concurrent resolution expressing support for a national day of remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2807. A bill to protect the liberty and property of all Americans.