

prevented from medaling in all five by a punctured tire during the marathon. She still came in ninth. As a leading voice advocating for disability rights, her motto is "Sports is my passion, paving access for others is my purpose."

Born and raised in Chicago, Eric Barber has been playing wheelchair basketball for 20 years. He captured his second Paralympic medal this year in London as a member of the bronze-winning U.S. men's wheelchair basketball team. Eric was also a member of the wheelchair basketball team that won bronze in Sydney in 2000.

Joining him on the men's wheelchair basketball team was former University of Illinois point guard Steve Serio, who led the U.S. team with 20 points and recorded four rebounds and eight assists during the team's bronze-medal game against host Great Britain.

Team captain Will Waller was the third Illini on the men's wheelchair basketball team at his fourth Paralympic games.

Jennifer Chew represented the University of Illinois on the women's wheelchair basketball team. When not training herself, she manages the Denver Lady Nuggets basketball team and assistant coaches the Junior Rolling Nuggets basketball team.

Teammate and fellow Illini Sarah Castle was in London at her fourth Paralympic games but only her second as a basketball player. Sarah competed at the 2000 and 2004 Paralympic games as a swimmer—winning silver in Sydney—before a shoulder injury prompted her to pursue wheelchair basketball instead.

Paralympian Adam Bleakney has competed in wheelchair racing events ranging from 100 meters to the marathon in the 2000, 2004, 2008, and now 2012 summer games. Adam completed both his undergraduate and graduate education at the University of Illinois in Champaign, where he now serves as head coach of the wheelchair track team.

Three-time Chicago Marathon winner Josh George claimed bronze in London in the men's 800 meters. After graduating with honors from the University of Illinois, Josh continued to participate in the school's program as a volunteer assistant coach. When not racing, he works at Intelliwheels, a startup that develops innovative wheelchair technologies at the University of Illinois' EnterpriseWorks.

Anjali Forber-Pratt began wheelchair racing when she was just 9 years old. She went on to win a total of four gold, six silver, and two bronze medals at the Junior National Wheelchair Games before claiming two bronze medals at the Paralympic games in Beijing and competing in the 100, 200, and 400 meters in London. Anjali embodies her personal motto, "Dream, Drive, Do" not only as an athlete but also as a student—she holds three degrees from the University of Illinois, including her doctorate.

Illinois freshman Ray Martin dominated the track, sweeping the men's

100, 200, 400, 800 meters. His impressive four gold medals placed him at the top of the medal count for Illini athletes.

Since competing in his first marathon in 2007, Aaron Pike has become one of the top wheelchair racers in America in the event. At the University of Illinois, he led the Illini to four straight finals of the National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, and two titles.

Jessica Galli of Savoy has competed in four Paralympic games, where she has won one gold, one bronze, and four silver medals. She holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Illinois, where she also competed on the wheelchair track team. She serves as an advocate for disabled athletes through her work on the U.S. Olympic Committee's Athletes' Advisory Council, Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports USA, and USA Wheelchair Track and Field.

In a momentous year for Brian Siemann, he not only competed in his first Paralympic games, but he will also graduate from the University of Illinois, where he is currently a senior. The 2012 U.S. Paralympic National Champion in the 100 and 200 meters, Brian lives his favorite quote: "Don't stop believing."

Recent University of Illinois graduate Ryan Chalmers competed as a collegiate athlete in both basketball and track, where his multisport talent earned him an athletic scholarship. Ryan chose track over basketball before being selected as a member of Team USA for the 2012 Paralympics.

After an intense summer training in Champaign, Amanda McGrory competed in London in five events, including the 800, 1,500, 5,000 and the marathon. The University of Illinois graduate began as a sprinter but changed her mind after her first marathon, one of the sport's most grueling events.

Although she hadn't ever competed in a marathon until moving to Champaign to attend the University of Illinois just a few years ago, Susannah Scaroni represented the United States in the distance event in London. A member of the Illini track and road racing team, this was her first Paralympics.

It is no coincidence that so many of Illinois' Paralympians are current students or alumni of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Since becoming the first in the Nation to open its doors to those with disabilities in 1949, our State's flagship university has become a world leader in disability sports. The University of Illinois' adaptive sports program draws athletes from across the globe, and has sent students, alumni or coaches to every Paralympics since 1960.

Just as their nondisabled counterparts, the athletic ability and tenacious commitment of each and every one of these athletes serves as an inspiration to their friends, their families, and to Americans across the country. Although each faces some form of

physical limitation, these athletes accept no limits on what they can achieve.

I congratulate all of Team USA's athletes on their success at this year's Paralympic games, and especially those from Illinois. It is an honor to represent them.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I regret having missed the September 12, 2012, vote on the motion to proceed to S. 3457, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act of 2012.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the motion to proceed to the Veterans Jobs Corps Act of 2012. I am a proud supporter of our Nation's veterans, and I believe this bill will provide our veterans with much needed support in order to start new careers.

REAUTHORIZING THE EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the House of Representatives passed S. 3245, legislation to reauthorize the job-creating EB-5 Regional Center Program for an additional 3 years. In addition to this important program, the legislation also prevents the expiration of three other immigration programs important to Senator CONRAD, Senator HATCH, and Senator GRASSLEY.

I am very pleased the House acted with such strong bipartisan support, and I commend House Judiciary Committee chairman LAMAR SMITH for his quick action on the bill. Once again I thank the Judiciary Committee's ranking member, Senator GRASSLEY, for his partnership on this legislation.

Passage of this legislation in the House today will ensure that the job-creating EB-5 Regional Center Program will continue. Today's action will allow the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to continue to improve and grow the program administratively and will give me and other interested lawmakers, agency officials, and private citizens the time needed to consider and find consensus on lasting statutory improvements to the program so that it may continue as a permanent and vital part of our immigration system. Most importantly, it will allow American entrepreneurs to continue building job-creating development projects around the country.

This program is and will remain a productive part of America's immigration system. Like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, the United States is right to provide the world's citizens the opportunity to immigrate to its shores based upon investment. This program welcomes people from around the world who devote substantial investment capital to American businesses to invigorate American communities. And it does so at no cost to the American taxpayer. Moreover, those who immigrate through this program will purchase