

mushers and dog teams were thus divided into shorter sprint segments to quicken the trip.

Edgar Nollner was scheduled to run the 10th leg of the relay, 42 miles, but his younger brother, George, begged him to let him drive the last 18 miles of his leg. Edgar ran at night, covering the 24 miles from Whiskey Point to Galena in 3 hours. He reported that winds were so fierce, causing so much blowing snow, that he could not see his dogs or anything around him. His lead sled dog and trusted friend, Dixie, knew the trail and never faltered.

The frozen serum arrived safely in Nome on February 2, 1925, in a mere 5 days and 7 hours; the epidemic was soon over. The brave men and scores of dogs were all hailed heroes. But for all the acclaim it received, the serum run marked the end of an era. With the increase of better airplanes, better schedules, and the insurgence of snow machines, the need for dog sleds was no longer essential. If the fear of diphtheria now seems antiquated, it is only because the Serum Run brought an end to the disease as a serious health threat in the United States.

Edgar Nollner was just 20 years old when he left his trapper and fisherman lifestyle to selflessly join the others on the Serum Run. He was the son of a Missouri man who came to Alaska for the 1890's Gold Rush, and an Athabaskan mother, who made their home along the Yukon River in Galena. As the last surviving member of the serum-run relay mushers who risked their lives so that others may live, Edgar Nollner was truly a twentieth century hero.

The townspeople in Galena are mourning Edgar's passing but his legacy remains. Records show that Mr. Nollner married twice, fathered 24 children and has more than 200 grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mr. President, I believe there can be no greater gift.

To honor these brave men, the famous Serum Run Relay was reenacted in 1973, in an event now known as the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. The modern-day Iditarod covers more than 1,000 miles of frozen tundra from Anchorage to Nome and is now run annually in March.

Edgar Nollner was both a hero and legend. I salute this rugged Alaskan who risked his life so that others could live—he epitomizes the true spirit of all Alaskans. His spirit, along with the 19 other brave Serum Run mushers will continue to run strong in every Iditarod. The final chapter of this dramatic saga is closed, but not forgotten.●

#### PROHIBITION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER" REGULATIONS

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I wish to make a few remarks in support

of Senator ALLARD's bill that would prohibit the implementation of the "Know Your Customer" (KYC) regulations by the four federal banking agencies (Office of Comptroller of the Currency, Office of Thrift Supervision, the Federal Reserve, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation). As a co-sponsor of this legislation, I am concerned that this proposal would bring a regulatory imbalance to banks and their competitors, increase regulatory burdens on the banking industry and potentially violate the privacy of consumers. Once again the federal government has prescribed regulations that are costly to businesses and intrusive to citizens.

These regulations would put the banking industry at a disadvantage with their nonbank financial service competitors because many of them are not required to develop and maintain "Know Your Customer" programs under the proposal. Many bank customers would correctly view this as an intrusion of their privacy and might elect to conduct their banking business at other financial institutions.

Current criminal reporting requirements already mandate that financial institutions report violations of federal law to the Treasury Department after uncovering potential money laundering, insider abuse, or any violation of federal law. Ironically, under the proposed regulations by the federal banking agencies, a financial institution would not be required to report a violation after it has occurred. The proposed regulations create more burdensome and invasive regulations by requiring banks to investigate all customers activity to see if any violation of federal law has taken place, not just those suspected of criminal activity. This could be time consuming and extremely costly for banks.

The proposed regulations have generated many concerns from both consumers and the banking industry. A proposal that requires bankers to analyze all customer transactions would violate the public's trust and confidence in the banking industry. The financial service sector has been very effective in reporting possible violations of the law, while at the same time protecting customer information. The proposed regulations do little to increase the ability to curtail illegal activity and would severely harm America's financial institutions and the customers they serve. I encourage the four federal banking agencies to reconsider their proposed regulations and withdraw them.●

#### ELECTRIC UTILITY RESTRUCTURING

● Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, last year, Senator GORTON and I introduced a bill that addressed a growing problem faced by local governments in the new

era of state electric utility restructuring. That bill had the bipartisan co-sponsorship of almost a dozen Senators.

On February 6, we reintroduced this legislation as the Bond Fairness and Protection Act. This bill will ensure Nebraskans continue to benefit from the publicly-owned power they currently receive. Nebraska has 154 not-for-profit community-based public power systems. It is the only state which relies entirely on public power for electricity. This system has served my state well as Nebraskans enjoy some of the lowest rates in the nation.

Approximately 18 states have already moved toward permitting new competition in the electric industry. However, the federal tax rules governing municipal bond financing did not anticipate the new era of electric utility restructuring when they were crafted more than a decade ago. If Congress does not act, public power systems that open their transmission lines to privately owned utilities can jeopardize the status of their outstanding tax-exempt bonds. The legislation my colleagues and I introduced is an equitable solution to the problem.

Under this legislation, local governments determine how their future municipal power debt will be treated. According to the US Department of Energy, my own state had over \$2.2 billion in outstanding municipal power bond debt in 1996. Our bill protects local governments that issued public power bond debt in the past, yet gives them the flexibility to issue new, but fully taxable debt if they choose to build any new power generation facilities in the future.

Specifically, our legislation provides them with an option: they may either choose to operate under current, so called "private use" rules in our tax code. Or if they prefer, they can choose to make a one-time irrevocable election that will allow them to build new power generation facilities if they want, but only using fully taxable bonds instead of tax-exempt financing.

It is important we recognize and respect local governments may face unique situations in public power financing issues as the electricity market changes, and we give them reasonable and fair choices.

Congress may or may not choose to move forward this year on the larger and more complex issues involved in restructuring the electricity marketplace. But I feel we must act to solve this special problem this year. Our local governments should not face unfair retroactive bond taxation triggered by old federal tax rules in conflict with the new state-mandated laws or regulations.

This legislation weighs the interests of local governments, bondholders, consumers, and public and private utilities. It will enable Nebraska public

power systems to make decisions in the best interests of their consumers and protect the reliable, affordable electric service that Nebraska currently enjoys.●

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE'S CHAMIQUE HOLDSCLAW

● Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize an outstanding University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers basketball player, senior Chamique Holdsclaw.

Last week, Chamique Holdsclaw was recognized as the outstanding amateur athlete in the nation when she was awarded the 1998 James E. Sullivan Memorial Award. Chamique is the first female basketball player—and only the third basketball player, male or female—to win the award in its 69-year history.

It comes as no surprise to those of us from Tennessee that Chamique, the second University of Tennessee athlete in two years to take the honor, follows former Volunteer quarterback Peyton Manning. Other winners of this prestigious award include Bill Walton, Bill Bradley, Bonnie Blair, Florence Griffith-Joyner and Bruce Jenner.

Mr. President, Chamique Holdsclaw is one of the finest college basketball players in America, who time after time has displayed grace under pressure, sinking last-minute, game-winning shots. She has led both her high school and college teams to national basketball championships. And of course we all remember last year when she led the Lady Volunteers to a 39-0 record and a third straight national title. Chamique has Tennessee on track for a fourth straight title this season.

To measure the impact this Tennessee senior has had on women's sports over the past four years, you did not have to look any farther than across from the Lady Vols bench last week, where former Sullivan winner Jackie Joyner-Kersey sat. After meeting Chamique at an awards ceremony two weeks ago, Joyner-Kersey was so impressed that she flew in from St. Louis for Chamique's final regular-season home game, in which she scored 25 points and pulled down 11 rebounds.

Regardless of what greatness Chamique Holdsclaw achieves in her pro career, her time at Tennessee has clearly changed the game. Though plenty of women's college basketball legends came before her, Chamique became her sport's first national superstar. She took hold of that spotlight, thrived under the pressure it brought with it, and made history.

Mr. President, the Sullivan Award recognizes athletes who have excelled in competition while exhibiting leadership, character and sportsmanship. Chamique Holdsclaw embodies each of these qualities and is the kind of per-

son we should encourage all our young people to emulate. Her determination and dedication to excellence remind us that we each have the power to make a positive difference.●

TRIBUTE TO JOUSHUA HEWITT AND DANA WALSH

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to recognize two young students from my state who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Joushua Hewitt of Perry, NY, and Dana Walsh of Oceanside, NY, have been named State Honorees in the 1999 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Each year this program honors students who have demonstrated outstanding community service.

These two fine students have given back to their communities in many ways. Mr. Hewitt is being recognized for his efforts in staging a simulated traffic accident to graphically demonstrate the horrors of drunk driving to his classmates. Ms. Walsh is being recognized for coordinating a fund-raising drive at her school, which raised \$3,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. These two students are excellent examples of young adults who are working hard to make their communities better and they deserve to be honored.

Mr. Hewitt and Ms. Walsh should be extremely proud to have been singled out from a group of dedicated volunteers from across the country. As part of their recognition, they will come here to the Capitol in May for several days of special events, including a Congressional breakfast reception. While in Washington, 10 of the 1999 Spirit of Community honorees will be selected as America's top youth volunteers. I commend all of those who have been nominated.

It is my honor to congratulate these young people who have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world. They deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.●

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask that a statement I submitted to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on the committee's markup of S. 280, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999, be printed in the RECORD.

The statement follows:

Mr. Chairman, improving our nation's schools is clearly a crucial task and one de-

serving of the committee's time and attention. However, I regret that the committee has chosen to proceed with the consideration of Senator Frist's Ed Flex bill today, just a scant hour after two of this century's most important Senate votes.

The Senate is currently engaged in the conduct of our most serious constitutional duty—the impeachment trial of the President. Rightfully, this undertaking has engaged all of our time and energy. Beyond our required attendance on the Senate floor, we have also each been engaged in party conferences, smaller group discussions with our colleagues and other meetings crucial to the Senate's consideration. Today, in particular, was a crucial moment in this proceeding, with two historic votes on continuing the trial. These votes necessitated further discussions and meetings in search of a consensus on how to proceed.

And yet, in the midst of this turmoil, the committee chose to go forward with this mark up. I believe this step was both inappropriate and unwise. Education and the other issues before our committee are too important to move forward without our full attention and involvement. We need the opportunity to thoughtfully examine Ed Flex and other proposals, consider changes and discuss these issues with each other and our staffs. Without this level of involvement, the chances for moving strong, bipartisan legislation with any hope of passage diminish significantly.

I recognize that putting these matters aside until the impeachment trial is a settled matter is particularly difficult when discussing education. We all care a great deal about education and improving our schools. And we all know, contrary to what we have all been doing since we got here in January, education is the work we were sent here to do by our constituents.

In addition, the measure before the committee today, the Education Flexibility Partnership bill, is one that we all spent a great deal of time on last year. I personally offered three amendments and worked cooperatively and extensively with Senator Frist to improve the underlying language of the bill throughout the committee's consideration. Ultimately, I voted for the bill, but had significant reservations, which I expressed in my additional views to the committee report.

Unfortunately, nothing in these intervening months has happened to allay my concerns. We have had no hearing on this demonstration program or this bill. There continues to be basically no data on gains in student achievement—the central goal of the Ed Flex program. We continue to consider this legislation outside of the context of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, where it rightly belongs. We have had two GAO reports raising fundamental issues about the Ed Flex program. We have yet to consider other significant proposals for reform in our schools. And, yet, in moving forward today, the committee is clearly intent on proceeding without addressing or considering these concerns.

Mr. Chairman, I remain convinced that you and Senator Frist are committed to working in a bipartisan fashion on this bill and in developing strong education policy generally. It is clear this is only path by which we can get things done. But bipartisanship is hard work that demands substantive engagement by members. In my view, there was clearly not the time or opportunity to do so, today, with the Senate so rightfully occupied with impeachment.