

Nagano. We witnessed the full panoply of the human spirit in the arena of athletic competition; we were reminded of all the hard work and sacrifice demanded of those who would become Olympians; and many of us drew inspiration from what we saw.

Mr. President, Wisconsin sent 29 men and women to the Games in Nagano. They competed in speedskating, hockey, curling and even snow sculpting. Some brought home medals, and all of them brought back indelible memories of competing on the world stage with the world's best athletes.

Best known among them is probably Chris Witty, of West Allis, who holds the world's record for the 1,000 meter speedskate and who added to her growing cache of honors with a silver medal in the 1,000 meter speedskating event and a bronze medal in the 1,500 meter event.

Another Wisconsinite, Karyn Bye, of River Falls, played forward on the historic gold-medal-winning women's hockey team and who, draped in the Stars and Stripes after she and her teammates triumphed, showed us what pure joy looks like.

Mr. President, athletes and athletics get a lot of attention in our society, sometimes for unpleasant reasons, but I believe there is something inherently good about people testing themselves, pushing themselves, working individually and together to do their best. That is the spirit that motivated these Olympians, and to them we offer our congratulations for their efforts, our thanks for their inspiration, and our best wishes for their future endeavors. No matter where they go from here, I hope they always remember their experiences in Nagano, and I hope they retain their capacity to push themselves as far as they can, and to encourage others to do the same.●

IN HONOR OF BILLY SULLIVAN

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and mourning a loss for Massachusetts, New England, and the professional sports community of this country. On Monday, February 23, 1998, William H. Sullivan, founder and former owner of the New England Patriots, passed away at his home in Florida. I join the rest of the Massachusetts delegation in extending to Mary Sullivan, his wife of 56 years, and their six children the condolences of millions of people who were affected by the vast and varied pursuits of Billy Sullivan. His leadership was instrumental in bringing a professional football team to New England, and by overseeing the merger of the American Football League and the National Football League he ushered the entire sport into a new era of cultural prominence.

While Billy Sullivan is predominantly identified with professional football and the New England Patriots, to summarize his life with just those references would do a great injustice to

a public career that spanned more than 60 years. Billy's pursuits combined the worlds of business, human service, community revitalization, and education. From Little League baseball to cancer research, sports broadcasting to entrepreneurship, Billy Sullivan brought an integrity and drive to any pursuit and collectively we are the better for his efforts.

After graduating from Boston College in 1937, he served as Publicity Director for that institution from 1938 to 1940. He briefly assisted the Director of Athletics at Notre Dame, then in 1942 answered the nation's call and served in the Aviation Training Division of the United States Navy throughout World War II.

Two years after the war he was back and involved in sports, taking part in two projects that would send both him and professional sports in new directions.

In 1948 he became Director of Public Relations for the Boston Braves, a position that sparked his abiding passion for New England and its teams. For his crowning achievement in that post, he produced the first package of highlights from the recently completed Braves season for media and industry distribution. This short compilation of clips revolutionized sports broadcasting and reporting, tapping into a market so strong that he established a company in 1952 to produce these segments for mass distribution. Use of these clips on television broadcasts resulted in the nightly sports segment that is a staple of virtually every news program throughout the country.

During that same year came the inspiration for the Jimmy Fund, now an internationally recognized cancer research foundation that provides millions of dollars for research and treatments. Under Billy Sullivan's guidance, The Jimmy Fund grew from an ambitious idea to an organization that now reaches out to thousands of families from all over this country and the world. With an eye towards increased community support and permanence of mission, he enlisted the sports teams and fans of New England in his fight against cancer. This masterful stroke of organizing skill leaves us an alliance whose effectiveness and dedication will allow his helping hand to extend long into the next century. He helped create the Hundred Club, a private organization that aids the families of police officers and firefighters hurt or killed in the line of duty. He also provided distinguished service as a member of the boards of the United Way, the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Stonehill College, the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Research Corporation and countless others. These are just a few of the dozens of community organizations that were the fortunate recipients of his time and energy.

For many New Englanders, though, William Sullivan is foremost the founder of the Patriots and one of the central players in the merger of the AFL and the NFL.

We applaud his life, his spirit and his many contributions to the millions whom he touched in one way or the other. We will miss you, Billy.●

JAMES FARMER AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, while this Congress was in recess, the President of the United States awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor, to James Farmer. The Medal was given to Mr. Farmer on January 15, 1998, the birthday of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., in a symbolic gesture that reminded us again of the value of freedom, and the debt we owe those who sacrificed greatly for racial equality in America.

Mr. President, James Farmer was one of the six major civil rights leaders of the civil rights era, joining A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, JOHN LEWIS and Martin Luther King, Jr. He helped establish, and later led, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He was the father of the famous Freedom Rides through the South. He organized and inspired. He placed himself in great personal danger again and again. Today, he teaches civil rights history to some very lucky students at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Last year, I was pleased to join Congressman JOHN LEWIS and others in asking that the President award the Medal of Freedom to James Farmer. Last month, Lynda and I were privileged to be at the White House when President Clinton officially presented the Medal to Mr. Farmer.

Before the White House ceremony, Congressman LEWIS and I prepared a tribute to James Farmer, which I ask be printed in the RECORD following my remarks today. In this tribute, we thank James Farmer for a lifetime of fighting for racial equality in America. We challenge our nation to continue to learn from this great American hero, to continue to reach for a truly color-blind society, to finally lay down the burden of race.

The tribute follows:

A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN FREEDOM FIGHTER

As one man who had the privilege to march and demonstrate alongside this dedicated pioneer during the Civil Rights Movement, and another who has long respected his courage and is proud to represent him in the United States Senate, we both have enormous respect and admiration for James Farmer. Now, all Americans are being given the opportunity both to learn more about this man and to appreciate his lifetime of contributions to our nation as a civil rights activist, community leader and teacher.

Yesterday, on the birth date of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., President Clinton presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor, to fifteen distinguished Americans. We are grateful that James Farmer, one of the "Big Six" leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and the father of the Freedom Rides, was among them.