

health care system. It would also require the VA to provide assistance to veterans who wish to file absentee ballots. In addition, the bill would require facilities to allow access for non-partisan voter assistance organizations, subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. To ensure accountability and transparency, the bill also provides certain reporting requirements on the Department of Veteran Affairs. This legislation has the support of voting rights and veterans groups, including the Brennan Center for Justice and Veterans for Common Sense.

I believe it is essential for the Nation to do everything possible to honor our veterans. Ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as interventions across the globe, means more and more men and women are coming home as veterans. These brave men and women must know that the country will honor their sacrifice when they return. Recognizing their service not only means paying continual tribute through services on such holidays as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. It also means ensuring that our veterans in Vermont and across the country have the ability to fully participate in the democratic process. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue it is an American issue. We should all be able to agree that Americans who have ventured into harm's way to defend our values and spread democracy abroad must also have full enjoyment of those freedoms here at home.

The disabled veterans of the Nation have given extraordinary service to our country and have advanced democracy around the globe. Enactment of the Veterans Voting Support Act is the very least we owe our citizen soldiers for their many sacrifices on our behalf. I urge all Senators to support the Veterans Voting Support Act and help us to enact this critical measure into law before next November's midterm elections.

#### COMMENDING SENATOR COLEMAN

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my distinguished colleague from Minnesota, Senator Norm Coleman.

I worked with Senator Coleman since 2002 when he was elected U.S. Senator of Minnesota. Norm is a man of integrity and patriotism. He has dedicated most of his adult life to serve the people of Minnesota. While he served in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office for a large portion of his career and eventually became solicitor general, he is highly praised in the city of St. Paul for his successes as mayor. His vision and execution to revitalize the city of St. Paul became a benchmark for success in local governing. Because of his accomplishments as mayor, he gained higher approval ratings in Minnesota than most politicians in Washington ever receive in their entire careers.

During his tenure as U.S. Senator, Norm was a leader in strengthening our homeland security and national defense. He consistently supported and sponsored measures that provide our troops with the important tools they need to defend our freedoms overseas and fought to make sure they receive the proper care and services as they return home. Additionally, Norm remained a strong voice for alternative fuels and energy independence. The Commonwealth of Kentucky and I are thankful for his diligence in promoting clean energy.

He always fought for what he believes is best for Minnesotans and for America. While we are sad to see him go here in the Senate, we are grateful for his contributions. I am honored to know him and to have worked with him. I wish his wife Laurie, his children, Jake and Sarah, and him the best in all of their future endeavors.

#### 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.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 129. An act to authorize the conveyance of certain National Forest System lands in the Los Padres National Forest in California.

H.R. 409. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Nevada to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1018. An act to amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to improve the management and long-term health of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1442. An act to provide for the sale of the Federal Government's reversionary interest in approximately 60 acres of land in Salt Lake City, Utah, originally conveyed to the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association under the Act of January 23, 1909.

H.R. 2188. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct a Joint Venture Program to protect, restore, enhance, and manage migratory bird populations, their habitats, and the ecosystems they rely on, through voluntary actions on public and private lands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3170. An act making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3183. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

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

H. Con. Res. 156. Concurrent resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 129. An act to authorize the conveyance of certain National Forest System lands in the Los Padres National Forest in California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 409. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Nevada to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1018. An act to amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to improve the management and long-term health of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1442. An act to provide for the sale of the Federal Government's reversionary interest in approximately 60 acres of land in Salt Lake City, Utah, originally conveyed to the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association under the Act of January 23, 1909; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2188. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct a Joint Venture Program to protect, restore, enhance, and manage migratory bird populations, their habitats, and the ecosystems they rely on, through voluntary actions on public and private lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 156. Concurrent resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3170. An act making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3183. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted: