

vision for the institution. He takes great pride in the success of the law school, and has done so since joining the faculty in 1985. I am hopeful that his career path keeps him here in Tuscaloosa for many years to come.

The education of our young people is critical to the success of our Nation, and the University of Alabama School of Law is committed to providing students with the tools necessary to succeed. I believe the dedication of Dean Randall, the administration, faculty, and alumni has created an environment that allows students to achieve their goals and exceed their own expectations.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the University of Alabama School of Law for its remarkable success and look forward to celebrating more achievements in the future.●

**NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK**

● Ms. LANDRIEU. In my State of Louisiana, 23,540 new cancer cases will be diagnosed this year and 9,700 members of my community will die from cancer. Children will lose mothers to breast cancer. Wives will lose husbands to prostate cancer. These tremendous losses are devastating to both families and communities. Despite all of the progress that has been made in the battle against cancer, some populations are disproportionately affected by the burden of this disease.

African Americans have the highest death rate for all cancers. Cancer is also the leading cause of death for Asian-American women. African-American, American-Indian, Alaska Native, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander men all have a lower 5-year survival rate than non-Hispanic white males. This disparity is partially attributed to the fact that preventive services are not as easily accessible for these populations. The consequences of inadequate access to preventive services and early detection are that diseases like cancer are more often diagnosed at later stages when the severity is likely to be greater and options for treatment and the odds of survival are decreased. The demographic changes expected over the next decade will only magnify the urgency of addressing these health disparities.

The future health of America as a whole will be influenced substantially by our success in improving the health of minority and other medically underserved populations. To address these disparities, Congress must provide adequate funding for screening, prevention, and treatment services for minority and underserved populations. We must continue to fund research through the National Cancer Institute that will help to provide better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer in all populations.

There are many organizations and individuals in my State of Louisiana working tirelessly to address these

health disparities and to improve the quality of life for all Americans. Because last week was National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, I would like to take this opportunity to commend these organizations and individuals for all of their efforts. Together with my colleagues in Congress, I am confident that one day we can reduce and ultimately eliminate the disparate burden of cancer and all other diseases on minority and medically underserved communities.●

**MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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

**EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED**

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

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

**MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR**

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2844. To require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 45 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances.

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME**

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2348. A bill to extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1910. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out an inventory and management program for forests derived from public domain land (Rept. No. 108-254).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

H.R. 620. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide supplemental funding and other services that are necessary to assist the State of California or local educational agencies in California in providing educational services for students attending schools located within the Park (Rept. No. 108-255).

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS**

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2346. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2347. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Access Act of 1999 to permanently authorize the public school and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2348. A bill to extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act; read the first time.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2349. A bill to modify the application of the antitrust laws to permit collective development and implementation of a standard contract form for playwrights for the licensing of their plays; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. DORGAN):

S.J. Res. 34. A joint resolution designating May 29, 2004, on the occasion of the dedication of the National World War II Memorial, as Remembrance of World War II Veterans Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS**

S. 737

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 737, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to increase the rate of imminent danger special pay and the amount of the family separation allowance.

S. 788

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 788, a bill to enable the United States to maintain its leadership in aeronautics and aviation.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 846, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for premiums on mortgage insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 874

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 874, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include primary and secondary preventative medical strategies for children and adults with Sickle Cell Disease as medical assistance under the medicaid program, and for other purposes.

S. 955

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 955, a bill to provide liability protection to nonprofit volunteer pilot organizations flying for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such organizations.