

It is also worth noting that even the vast expanse of the Western United States could not contain David. He even taught himself Spanish and published papers and books in that language, influencing water and natural resources legal developments in Central and South America.

I cannot help but feel that David was the living expression of the best of our ideals, a man of character and kindness, a modest but tireless achiever who preferred to be measured by his work, not by the accolades awarded by others. We were honored by his friendship and blessed by his many gifts.

At the heart of why I wanted to come to the floor today is that I think we know we can all learn from David's passion for giving back to whatever community in which he found himself. He led a life of service, and he also compiled an impressive academic record as well as serving as the dean of CU Law School. David cared about justice for disenfranchised communities just as strongly as he cared about the long-term health and sustainability of our natural resources. To David, these matters were intertwined. He was, at his core, committed to the future of his children, our children, our grandchildren, and his grandchildren, and he had a deep love for the Rocky Mountain Western way of life. He was an avid outdoorsman, he was fit, and he faced any and all physical challenges just like he faced intellectual and emotional challenges. As I said in the beginning of my remarks, he was a mentor to all of us, and he always had his eye on the future. I know, as painful as it is for all of us who knew him to lose him so suddenly, he would want us to be focused on the future.

David did this and much more for Colorado and our country, and I just want to close with this. We have lost a unique man and a towering Colorado figure.●

TRIBUTE TO JOEL MURRAY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a young man who is now one of our Nation's finest Olympians.

Joel Murray of West Monroe, LA, was recently invited to represent the United States of America at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. Joel is an eight time Louisiana State golf champion and a two time national gold medalist, and this year was the first time in his 13 years competing in the Special Olympics that he was invited to compete in the World Summer Games.

As a result of his dedication and commitment to the game he loves, Joel competed in Level V Stroke Play, the highest and most challenging level, and won a silver medal.

Joel is also a 2011 Louisiana Special Olympics gold medalist, was recognized as the Louisiana Special Olympics male athlete of the year and was inducted into the Louisiana Special Olympics Hall of Fame.

If his list of accolades wasn't long enough, in 2009, Joel set a 54-hole tournament record for the Special Olympics Golf National Invitational Tournament. And away from golf, Joel devotes his time to counseling young adults with disabilities at the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum.

Mr. President, I am proud to honor Joel Murray and applaud him on his remarkable accomplishments.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 2:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2354. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2354. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 2018. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to preserve the authority of each State to make determinations relating to the State's water quality standards, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 951, a bill to improve the provision of Federal transition, rehabilitation, vocational, and unemployment benefits to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-36).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 300. A bill to prevent abuse of Government charge cards (Rept. No. 112-37).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 49, a bill to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads (Rept. No. 112-38).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. AKAKA for the Committee on Indian Affairs.

*Barbara Jeanne Ells, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring October 18, 2016.

*Deborah Downing Goodman, of Oklahoma, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring October 18, 2014.

*Cynthia Chavez Lamar, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring May 19, 2016.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. ENZI (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1376. A bill to conform income calculations for purposes of eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan and for Medicaid to existing Federal low-income assistance programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS):

S. 1377. A bill to require the Corps of Engineers to take into account all available hydrologic data in conducting Missouri River basin operations; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 1378. A bill to ensure that Social Security and Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits are properly taken into account for purposes of determining eligibility for Medicaid and for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1379. A bill to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise certain administrative authorities of the District of Columbia courts, and to authorize the District of Columbia Public Defender Service to provide professional liability insurance for officers and employees of the Service for claims relating to services furnished within the scope of employment with the Service; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.