

The Cattlemen's Association voted to become the first mainstream agricultural organization in the Nation to form a land trust, which was officially incorporated in 1995 as the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust.

Jay worked diligently for land preservation as a founding member and past president of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust. Jay's community service record is also impressive, and includes serving on the boards of the Colorado Water Trust, the Colorado Environmental Coalition, the Steamboat Springs School District and Education Fund, the North Routt Fire Protection District, the Yampa Valley Medical Center, and as a founding member of the Community Agriculture Alliance.

He served on the Governor's Agriculture Land Conversion task force in 1995 and is a member of the Routt County Cattlemen and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. He also served as a regional representative in northwest Colorado for Senator Ken Salazar.

In 1997, Jay received the American Land Conservation Award, which recognizes outstanding volunteer leadership in land and water conservation. In April 2009, he received the William Funk Award for the Nonprofit Association of Colorado, which honors acknowledged leaders who can unify people and organizations around a common cause.

Over the years, Jay's insight and hard work for the land trust movement and conservation have proven invaluable. Jay has become a trusted resource for those considering conservation easements.

That experience—and his deep roots in the community and his dedication to service—lead Jay to twice run for a seat in the Colorado State Legislature. Jay applied the same work ethic—and integrity—to these races as he does to his land preservation work. These were very close races, and his loss has been our gain.

In March of this year, I asked Jay to join my office as field director for the issues and concerns of northwestern Colorado. I had no hesitation offering him the position, as he is a well-known and well-respected community member of this region of Colorado. He had performed similar great service to a former Senator from Colorado—and now Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar. He has been doing an exemplary job working with the communities and citizens in this area on issues regarding water, land, agriculture, outdoor recreation, rural health care and services, and federal public land management. Jay is an expert in all of these areas and has already proven himself as a valued member of my team.

Jay's dedication to the land and the need to keep it productive and preserved was recently highlighted in a book from Colorado's preeminent landscape photographer, John Fielder. The

book, called *Ranches of Colorado*, features glorious photographs of many Colorado ranches, including the Fetcher ranch. In the text of the section describing the Fetcher Ranch, former Denver Post reporter and author James Meadow had this to say about Jay when describing the Fetcher ranch family history:

[Jay] fell in love with the land and the cattle and stayed to learn their ways; remaining on the ranch year after year, until the years became decades, and the decades tumbled past a half-century, and there is still no end in sight to [Jay's] love of the land. You can see that love in his eyes [and] you can hear it in his voice. It is a soft voice, a voice that cites Mother Teresa and the intricacies of cattle genetics with the same kind of curiously easygoing gravitas.

This is a short but apt description of Jay—his story and passion for the land he has worked and loved.

I appreciate that Colorado Open Lands has also recognized Jay's great work and am pleased that they are honoring him with this prestigious award. My staff and I want to express our congratulations to Jay for all his great work. We will continue to expect many more great accomplishments from him in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE CANNELOS

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the leadership George Canelos demonstrated during his 4 years of public service as Federal Cochair of the Denali Commission. From 2005 to 2009, George effectively used his extensive experience in rural Alaska to improve the delivery of affordable, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure to scores of Alaska communities.

With his guidance, the partnership between the Denali Commission and the State of Alaska grew in significant ways and has become the cornerstone of the Commission's success and progress. His advancement of collaborative efforts helped find innovative solutions with a promptness for carrying out the Denali Commission's mission.

In his first year as Cochair, a transportation advisory committee was created, composed of rural Alaska leaders with broad experience. Its successful implementation made it a useful model for committees to come. In 2007, the Commission opened its first rural office, taking a new approach with a remote site workforce.

George has led the Commission with passion and dedication to using innovative strategies in rural Alaska. For 2 years in a row, the Denali Commission was recognized by the National Association of Development Organization for innovative program work.

His contributions have moved the Commission forward, leaving a positive outlook for upcoming years. His efforts will continue to do good work and play a critical role in the quality of life and

economic development of Alaska's most remote communities.

Mr. President and colleagues, please join me in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments and important work in improving the quality of life, infrastructure, housing, access to health care, and economic opportunity in rural Alaska. We thank him for his service and wish him luck as he begins the next chapter of his life. ●

RECOGNIZING GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

• Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, 40 years ago, just a few miles south of Chicago, a brand new public university first opened its doors to an incoming class of students. The school was designed to reflect the core values of higher education, but in an innovative, nontraditional way. To bring exceptional undergraduate and graduate-level academics to a diverse student body, and to extend the benefits of a quality education beyond the walls of the college classroom.

This week, as Governors State University observes its 40th anniversary, I am pleased to join the students, alumni, administration, and faculty in celebrating the continued success of their fine public institution.

Since its inception, the Governors State community has grown and developed into an educational and cultural center of Illinois. And even as the university looks back with pride on the last 40 years, they recognize that the best way to celebrate their past is by looking to the future.

I would like to commend Governors State University for its indelible contributions to the quality of higher education in Illinois, and its continuing leadership in this field. Their evolving vision continues to inspire thousands to enroll every year. Their commitment to excellence has touched the lives of generations of students.

And with the recent creation of a doctoral program in physical therapy, Governors State continues to expand its reach and broaden its horizons.

I am proud to join Governors State University in celebrating its first 40 years as a bastion of the Illinois educational community. And I have no doubt that as we look ahead to the next 40 years, this fine institution will continue to lead the way. ●

REMEMBERING SILVIANO ROMERO

• Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow that today I pay tribute to one of the finest men Northern New Mexico has ever known, Silviano Romero, or "Silver," as he was known to all who knew and loved him.

On Sunday, October 25, 2009, Silver passed away, 1 month shy of his 90th birthday, in the small Northern New Mexico town of Embudo where he was born on November 27, 1919. But for his service to our Nation in the Pacific

Theater and Phillipines during World War II, Embudo is where Silver lived his entire life with his extraordinary and beautiful wife and best friend of 67 years, Mary B. Romero, of Dixon. Together, after Silver returned from military service, they built the house in Embudo on County Road 0062 where their three sons, Alfonso, David, and Richard, grew up and where Silver lived and worked until his passing last week.

Silver was a pillar of his community. He was a man dedicated to others—to his family, his community, his country, and his God. Like so many others of his noble generation, he served his country in the military and continued to serve his community upon his return home. Not only did Silver work for Los Alamos County, the Española School District, and as the Rio Arriba County clerk, but he was also actively involved as a county school board member, a Jemez co-op board member, a member of the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District, and a lifelong active member of the Rio Arriba Democratic Party.

Yes, Silver was a pillar of the extended Embudo community, and he was something of an institution in Rio Arriba County. But it was on County Road 0062, at La Junta, and the confluence of the Rio Embudo and Rio Grande, that one could see and feel Silver's love for the people and world around him. The cats, dogs, and horses who came under Silver's care knew full well the enormity of Silver's heart. And one need look no further than see the joy on Silver's face as he drove his four-wheeler down the road to inspect what may or may not be a rattlesnake, wind whipping through his appropriately silver-colored hair, to understand his appreciation and love for life.

That Silver lived at the confluence of the little-known Rio Embudo and the Rio Grande, one of the largest rivers in the United States, is appropriate. The Rio Grande stretches almost 2,000 miles, providing water and sustenance to parts of this country where no one has heard of the little Rio Embudo. Yet without it, and other tributaries along the way, the Rio Grande would likely not be the force it is.

So, too, does a life like Silver's contribute to the world around him. Those of us who knew him and knew of his commitment to his community understand the contributions he made and the ways in which it improved the lives of many beyond Embudo, Rio Arriba County, and even New Mexico. But a life lived as Silver lived his touches even those who never had the honor and pleasure of knowing him. Quite simply, the world was a much better, kinder place with Silver in it.

While we are profoundly saddened by the passing of this humble yet extraordinary man, we can take great solace in the fact that he is survived by many deeply touched by him: his wife Mary; his brothers, Tom and Uvaldo Romero; his sister, Julia Montoya; his sons, Al-

fonso, David, and Richard; his grandchildren, Ann Williams, Amy Shelly, Dee Romero, David Romero, Jason Romero, Ryan Romero, Richard Romero, Jr., and Marquita Romero; his great-grandchildren, Taylor, Tyrell, Ashton, Saren, Katherine, Emma, Isla, Noah Silviano, Juan Diego, and Mark.

The spirit of Silviano "Silver" Romero lives on in all of them and will forever live in the Dixon and Embudo Valley, Rio Arriba County, and in all of the great State of New Mexico.●

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:36 a.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. 174. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region.

H.R. 1168. An act to amend chapter 42 of title 38, United States Code, to provide certain veterans with employment training assistance.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 509. An act to authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 6:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 475. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.

S. 509. An act to authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington, 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. 174. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cem-

etry for veterans in the southern Colorado region; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1168. An act to amend chapter 42 of title 38, United States Code, to provide certain veterans with employment training assistance; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3533. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Tomatoes From Souss-Massa-Draa, Morocco" (Docket No. APHIS-2008-0017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3534. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order" (Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0047; FV-08-702-FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3535. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onions Grown in South Texas; Change in Regulatory Period" (Docket No. AMS-FV-9-0012; FV09-959-1 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3536. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines and Tangelos Grown in Florida and Imported Grapefruit; Relaxation of Size Requirements for Grapefruit" (Docket No. AMS-FV-09-0002; FV09-905-1 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3537. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Almonds Grown in California; Revision of Outgoing Quality Control Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0045; FV08-981-2 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3538. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cotton Research and Promotion Program: Referendum Procedures" (Docket No. AMS-CN-09-0027; CN-08-003) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3539. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-