

from many of the company's skilled craftsmen.

Mr. Bancroft's desire to roll up his sleeves and his ability to understand the business from the ground up has earned him the respect of both his employees and customers alike. Before becoming president in 2002, he worked in a variety of capacities throughout the years, serving as a project manager, human resources manager, operations manager, and vice president of operations. It is this intricate knowledge of the business, along with his distinguished leadership, that has resulted in Bancroft's tremendous 19 percent growth over the last 3 years, defying the downward trend of too many firms during these difficult economic times.

Additionally, Mr. Bancroft serves on several boards of trustees and directors, including, the Paris Utility District, University of Maine Construction Management Technology Industrial Advisory Council, Associated General Contractors of America Education Foundation Trust, and Self Insured Workers Compensation Group Trust. And just last week, Mr. Bancroft was elected chair of the Associated General Contractors of Maine.

On a personal note, in the winter of 2008, Mr. Bancroft donated the use of a crane and several employees to the town of Bethel to help the community construct Olympia SnowWoman. This architectural feat is now in the "Guinness Book of World Records" as the largest snowwoman at 122 feet and 1 inch tall—and what a record to hold! I am proud that Mr. Bancroft played such an integral part in a project that brought a great sense of community pride to Bethel and to Maine.

It is my distinct honor to congratulate Mark Bancroft, an immensely deserving individual, as the SBA's 2009 Small Business Person of the Year in Maine, and I extend my best wishes to everyone at Bancroft Contracting for their continued success. ●

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 11:37 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 628. An act to establish a pilot program in certain United States district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges.

H.R. 955. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10355 Northeast Valley Road in Rollingbay, Washington, as the "John 'Bud' Hawk Post Office".

H.R. 1323. An act to require the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations regarding the use of information control designations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1429. An act to provide for an effective HIV/AIDS program in Federal prisons.

H.R. 1512. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, 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. 628. An act to establish a pilot program in certain United States district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 955. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10355 Northeast Valley Road in Rollingbay, Washington, as the "John 'Bud' Hawk Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1323. An act to require the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations regarding the use of information control designations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1429. An act to provide for an effective HIV AIDS program in Federal prisons; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Special Report entitled "History, Jurisdiction, and a Summary of Activities of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources During the 110th Congress" (Rept. No. 111-8).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 146. A bill to amend the Federal anti-trust 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. 111-9).

By Ms. MIKULSKI, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 277. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. BINGAMAN for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*David J. Hayes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

*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. KOHL:

S. 627. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and other dual enrollment programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. BROWNBAC, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 628. A bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 629. A bill to facilitate the part-time re-employment of annuitants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 630. A bill to make technical amendments to laws containing time periods affecting judicial proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BAYH):

S. 631. A bill to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 632. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 633. A bill to establish a program for tribal colleges and universities within the Department of Health and Human Services and to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to authorize the provision of grants and cooperative agreements to tribal colleges and universities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 634. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 635. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 636. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to conform the definition of renewable biomass to the definition given the term in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 637. A bill to authorize the construction of the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System in the State of Montana and a portion of McKenzie County, North Dakota, for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. Res. 76. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States and the People's Republic of China should work together to reduce or eliminate tariff and nontariff barriers to trade in clean energy and environmental goods and services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. Res. 77. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States and the People's Republic of China should negotiate a bilateral agreement on clean energy cooperation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 78. A resolution designating March 22, 2009, as "National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) were added as cosponsors of S. 144, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 180

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 180, a bill to establish the Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to establish the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area.

S. 184

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

184, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

S. 186

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 186, a bill to establish the South Park National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

S. 187

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 187, a bill to provide for the construction of the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado.

S. 188

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 188, a bill to provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, and for other purposes.

S. 189

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 189, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails in the System, and for other purposes.

S. 190

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 190, a bill to designate as wilderness certain land within the Rocky Mountain National Park and to adjust the boundaries of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and the Arapaho National Recreation Area of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado.

S. 191

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to amend the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000 to explain the purpose and provide for the administration of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge.

S. 243

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 243, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction and to exclude charitable mileage reimbursements for gross income.

S. 277

At the request of Mr. REED, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, supra.

At the request of Mr. BYRD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, supra.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, and for other purposes.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill 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. 484

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.