

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE FRIAS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Charlie Frias for his positive work in Nevada. For almost five decades Charlie and his wife Phyllis have worked to make Nevada a better place. Whether through their business endeavors or their philanthropy, the Friases have sought to improve their community and make life a little easier for their fellow Nevadans.

Charlie Frias was born in San Antonio, TX, in 1922. As a young man, he worked with his father and grandmother as a delivery boy in the family business. He graduated from Breckenridge High School and then joined the Navy. After being honorably discharged, he returned to San Antonio, TX, and married his wife Phyllis. In 1958, the couple moved to Las Vegas, NV, with little if any resources.

Upon arriving in Las Vegas, Charlie took a job as a taxicab driver with ABC Union Cab Company. He worked diligently for this company that he would come to own by 1962. Charlie quickly acquired three more cab companies and opened the first taxicab service in Mesquite, NV, the Virgin Valley Cab Company. He later went on to further expand into the limousine business by adding Airline Limousine and Las Vegas Limousine to his holdings. At the time of his passing in 2006, Charlie had enjoyed over 40 years of success in the transportation field as well as other business activities.

Mr. Frias's wife, Phyllis, has not played the role of spectator over the years. A constant partner in her husband's entrepreneurial efforts, Phyllis has recently displayed her own business talents through the completion of A Cowboy's Dream Bed and Breakfast in Alamo, NV. I have no doubt that Phyllis' luxury resort will help stimulate Nevada's economy during our period of recovery.

Over the years Charlie and Phyllis did not consign themselves to a profit-driven life. Rather, they have shown a humanitarian spirit and have displayed this by giving back to the people of Clark County and all Nevada. Mr. and Mrs. Frias have sent school bands to participate in events in Washington, DC, purchased buses for Virgin Valley High School, and provided apparel for local high school athletics. One of Charles and Phyllis Frias' greatest beliefs is for every child to have the opportunity to obtain a quality education. Over the years, the Friases established scholarships and funded other programs for students in the education

system, subsequently making it possible for many children to attend college. They established the Phyllis Frias Environmental Studies Scholarship at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. They have not limited their generosity to education, but have also donated to other cultural and community organizations such as the Mesquite Arts Council, Spring Valley Little League, American Lung Association, Las Vegas Rescue Mission, the Clark County Firefighters Christmas Fund, and many others.

The valiant Mother Teresa once said, "Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go." It is safe to say that Charlie and Phyllis Frias have displayed this ideal through their actions. They have devoted their time, energy, love and resources to helping Nevada's kids get a quality education and a better life. For me Charlie Frias stands for the independent spirit of Las Vegas and the west. He is in my Hall of Fame.

I know that A Cowboy's Dream Bed and Breakfast will have a future as bright as the neon Vegas Vic cowboy sign. I salute the Friases for their service to the people of our great State and I wish Phyllis the very best now that Charlie is gone.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT DALE R. GRIFFIN

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SGT Dale Russel Griffin from Terre Haute, IN. Dale was 29 years old when he lost his life on October 27, from injuries sustained during a roadside bomb attack in Arghandab Valley, Afghanistan. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis WA. Dale was serving as part of operation Enduring Freedom.

Today, I join Dale's family and friends in mourning his death. Dale will forever be remembered as a loving son, and friend to many. Dale is survived by his parents, Dona and Gene, and a host of other friends and relatives.

Prior to entering the service, Dale graduated from Terre Haute South Vigo High School in 1999 where he was an accomplished wrestler gaining All-State recognition. He would later lead the Virginia Military Institute to a fourth place finish in the All-Academy Wrestling Championships in 2000, in which he was named the Tournament's Outstanding Wrestler.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the example Dale set as both a soldier and son. Today and always, he will be remembered by family, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall

President Abraham Lincoln's words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as we can take some measure of solace in knowing that Dale's heroism and memory will outlive the record of the words here spoken.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Dale R. Griffin in the official record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. I pray that Dale's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Dale.

TRIBUTE TO JAY FETCHER

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to recognize a true champion of land protection who also happens to be a member of my staff, Mr. Jay Fetcher.

Jay, who owns a ranch near Steamboat Spring, CO, and who is my northwestern Colorado field director, has been selected by a land preservation group called Colorado Open Lands as the recipient of their 2009 George E. Cramner Award. Every year since 1992, Colorado Open Lands has bestowed this award on someone who has distinguished themselves in open space preservation. According to Colorado Open Lands, recipients of this award are individuals who have gone above and beyond what others have done to preserve and protect open spaces and often achieve these goals through determination and passion for the land. They leave behind a legacy that will be valued and enjoyed for generations. Jay is just such a person, and he is indeed deserving of this prestigious award.

As highlighted in the Colorado Open Lands newsletter announcing this award, Jay's ties to Colorado agriculture and conservation run deep. He grew up on the family ranch, and after receiving a degree in Animal Science from the University of Wyoming, he returned to his family's ranch to take over the operation. In 1980, he received a master's degree in genetics from Colorado State University.

In 1994, the Fetchers decided that they wanted their land near Steamboat Springs to be a ranch forever and to be able to pass it on to their children. After creating their ranch's conservation easement, Jay went to the board of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and suggested it start a land trust.

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 Fletcher ranch. In the text of the section describing the Fletcher Ranch, former Denver Post reporter and author James Meadow had this to say about Jay when describing the Fletcher 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 Canellos 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