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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today, we will be led in a prayer by our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein, of Congregation Beth El, South Orange, NJ.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, who shall stand in G-d's holy place? The Psalmist answers, "One who has clean hands and a pure heart who has not used G-d's name in false oaths." Almighty Legislator of our lives, our hopes, our dreams, as legislators, one may sometimes despair and say, "Who can stand in G-d's place?" After all, we are human, limited. What a vast distance between us and the Creator of the laws of the universe.

And yet, the Psalmist gives us hope. If you want our law to reflect ultimate law, "Start," says the Psalmist, "with clean hands and a pure heart." No worthy law has ever emanated from this place that was not first and foremost ethical.

And then the Psalmist asks us to remember our vow, a vow given to the Ultimate Legislator and to the American people, to hold fast to our vow no matter how great the pressure.

On this Tuesday in April 2005, may there be a sense of spring and renewal. Let us bridge the distance between the law of the human beings and the law of the Creator of the universe.

Rabbi Akivah taught, "The greatest of G-d's law is, 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.' (Leviticus 19:18)." May this Senate, may this Congress, may this people come ever closer through our laws to the ultimate law of love. May you be blessed in your work, and may that work make you, and through you, all of America, a home that reflects G-d's love on this Earth, and let us all say, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DAVID VITTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. VITTER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, following the 1 hour which is designated for morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1268, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. I anticipate amendments being offered over the course of the day. Therefore, Senators can expect rollcall votes throughout the day.

I again ask Members to contact their respective cloakrooms if they intend to offer an amendment or amendments to

the supplemental. This will allow Chairman COCHRAN and Senator BYRD to facilitate the amendment process.

Yesterday, I mentioned the importance and the timeliness of this legislation, and I hope Members will take that into consideration as they contemplate amendments. We would like to finish this bill which provides funding for our troops as quickly as we can.

Also, today we will have our respective policy luncheons and will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to accommodate those meetings.

Mr. President, at this juncture I will yield to my colleagues for their brief statements and recognition of our guest Chaplain today, and then I will have a brief opening statement.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey, Mr. LAUTENBERG, is recognized.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this is a very welcome moment for me because I have known Rabbi Orenstein personally for many years. Members of my family have worshiped at his synagogue, the Congregation Beth El in South Orange. I have worshiped with him for 35 years.

Rabbi Orenstein is going to be retiring from Congregation Beth El very shortly. He and his lovely wife Sylvia are going to be honored for their many years of service, and it is going to be done next month.

Rabbi Orenstein is a distinguished scholar. He has a master's degree in Judaica and was ordained as rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America where he also received a doctorate of divinity.

He has completed course work for a Ph.D. in linguistics at New York University. The rabbi has always inspired education and learning in his congregation and has held interesting meetings for the congregation over the years. He traveled to Russia on four separate occasions to meet and teach refuseniks.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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