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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS.)

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord our Lord, the majesty of Your Name fills the Earth. You know every heart and mind, and You always do what is right. You give us peace even when the storms come. You save us from ourselves. You bring strength to our Nation and help keep it strong. Great and marvelous are Your words.

Today, give the Members of this body the wisdom to trust You. May they seek Your guidance for their decisions and lean upon Your loving favor. As they depend upon Your spirit, help them to possess Your truth in their minds, Your love in their hearts, and Your kindness on their lips. Make certain that each step they take is sure.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today, we will begin a period for the

transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour. At approximately 10:45 a.m., we will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. There are a number of pending amendments that were offered either on Friday or yesterday, and we expect to begin to schedule votes in relation to those amendments and any additional amendments that will be offered during today's session. Therefore, we expect rollcall votes throughout the day. We will complete work on the Defense bill either today or tomorrow.

This week, we will also consider any available appropriations conference reports that arrive from the House.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, is the Senator from Missouri seeking time in morning business?

Mr. BOND. Yes. If my colleague wants to make a brief statement, I will be happy to yield to him.

Mr. DURBIN. I have about a 10-minute statement. I will yield to the

Senator from Missouri, if he wishes, and then I will ask to go out of order and have it taken out of the Democratic time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is the Senator making a request?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after Senator BOND has spoken in Republican morning business, that I be recognized for up to 10 minutes and that the time be taken from the Democratic morning business period.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

### IRAQ

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to address the valiant efforts of our men and women serving overseas in Iraq. Their service for our country is very close to my heart because I, like thousands of other American parents across the United States, have a son who is fighting for the cause of freedom in Iraq.

Like every American, and especially for those of us with loved ones who are fighting overseas, I have carefully considered our actions in Iraq, and I am as committed to staying the course today as I was when I voted to authorize hostile action less than 3 years ago.

Today, we see the wreckage of roadside bombs plastered across our media screens. We are constantly bombarded by a daily media barrage of every hint of bad news in Iraq. The old adage, "If it bleeds, it leads," seems to be in full effect.

What about the good that is happening as a result of our efforts? I can tell you this is the greatest concern our men and women in Iraq have. They are doing good work, they are making progress, but they don't hear any of the good things that are going on. This is disheartening, as are some of the comments made by a few in the United

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



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